JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

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

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

Like many museums and galleries, the Zeitz MOCAA has been closed for most of 2020.

After seven long months without visitors, curators launched a unique exhibition to celebrate its reopening and to honour and welcome back guests – specifically, Capetonians. An open call was made for submissions of art 'made, owned and loved' by Capetonians.

Sheryl Schkolne with her ceramic vessels, **Cape Floral Kingdom** *(2014)*

The response was overwhelming, and the Museum received thousands of entries. Ultimately, more than 1600 artists submitted works of art and over 1800 pieces were included for *Home Is Where the Art Is*. Of the participating artists, more than 100 belong to the Cape Town Jewish Community which, while wonderful, unfortunately renders acknowledgement of each of them impossible in this piece.

Participants were given a five-day period in October during which they could drop off their pieces. Seven drop-off points around the city (comprising art centres, art schools, galleries and the like) were made available to make the process accessible for all.

For more from just some of the artists go to page 29

Impactful story of Progressive Jewry told in new SAJM exhibition

Rabbis Sherman and Weiler at the opening of Temple David, Durban in 1951

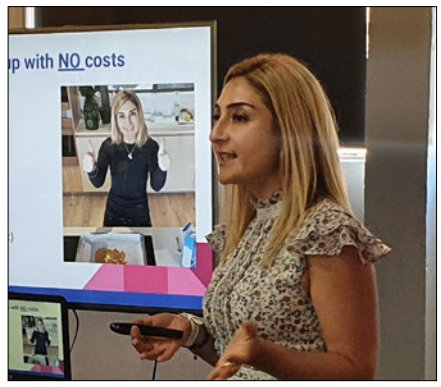
Ground Breakers: A History of Progressive Judaism in South Africa **will be on display at the SA Jewish Museum from 14 December.**

The exhibition is based on the research of Irwin Manoim, from the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at UCT, who has just published a book on the subject, *Mavericks Inside the Tent*.

For more see page 8

Shining a light in a time of crisis

COVID-19 shifted our world in a way no-one could have anticipated. Businesses closed, jobs were lost, people have had to dig deep to find their edge both personally and professionally.



Lee Jaffe — Gorgeous Gourmet

After a very challenging year, local entrepreneur Richard Goldstein approached Staffwise about shining a ray of light on our community. And so, *The Shining Light Award* came about, to spotlight businesses in our community who have managed to rise up and show, through resilience and out-of-the-box thinking, what they can achieve in a time of crisis. They adapted, evolved or made positive adjustments to keep their businesses afloat.

Staffwise and ORT Jet Cape Town jumped at the opportunity to collaborate and make it happen. Lisa Sandler from ORT Jet said: "After some reflection we thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to showcase innovation and opportunity with businesses from our community who have pivoted to get through the lockdown." Liat Beinart, Staffwise's Career Catalyst said it was an exciting opportunity for the two communal organisations "to complement and collaborate and let this initiative take shape".

Inspired by Goldstein's idea, generous donors from the community recognised the space for rewarding local businesses who took steps to stay afloat during COVID-19.

"Despite initial reservations to this award," says Caroline Kaimowitz, of Staffwise, "we had a fantastic response from the community". Initial reservations were about the sensitivity of rewarding and highlighting businesses when it was such a tough year fraught with personal and financial difficulties. "But this proved to be unfounded as we received so much positivity and the number of applications – almost 50 – was beyond our expectations", added Caroline.

Continues on page 37

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CAPE JEWISH CHRONICLE

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Lindy with a why

Why Chanukah is such a special time for me

By Lindy Diamond, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle

It's my 13th wedding anniversary in the second week of December and we were married on the 6th day of Chanukah, so this holiday of light and resilience and miracles is interwoven with our life story.

It took us five weeks after meeting to decide we wanted to get married, and 13 years to get to the point where we know each other well enough to decide which points are worth arguing vociferously and which are better left with an eye-roll and a deep breath. That's a very special place, and a massive energy-saver, I think.

The past 13 years have gifted us three incredible daughters, (ptu, ptu, ptu), two beautiful homes (one at a time) filled with a balance of quirky knickknacks, paintings of boats and traditional Judaica, and one motto to practice and teach our children. *Love and Light*. So, in honour of my anniversary, and Chanukah, I gift you the story my husband told our guests as part of his wedding speech 13 years ago, with a small tweak to the feminine, because I can.

The story goes that there was a king who had grown old and was looking to see which of his three daughters should take over the throne. The eldest daughter was a natural leader, strong and brave. The middle daughter was really smart and great at arguing a point and the youngest daughter was kind and gentle. Who would be the best suited to rule the kingdom?

The king decided that whichever of his daughters could fill a small room in the castle completely and utterly to capacity, would be worthy of ruling.

The oldest daughter went first. She chose to fill the room with rocks. She carried huge boulders and threw them into the room. She shoved pebbles in between and when there was almost no room left, she poured grains of sand into the cracks. When the king came to see his daughter's work, he was impressed. "You may yet take my throne," proclaimed the king and he ordered the room to be emptied for his second daughter.

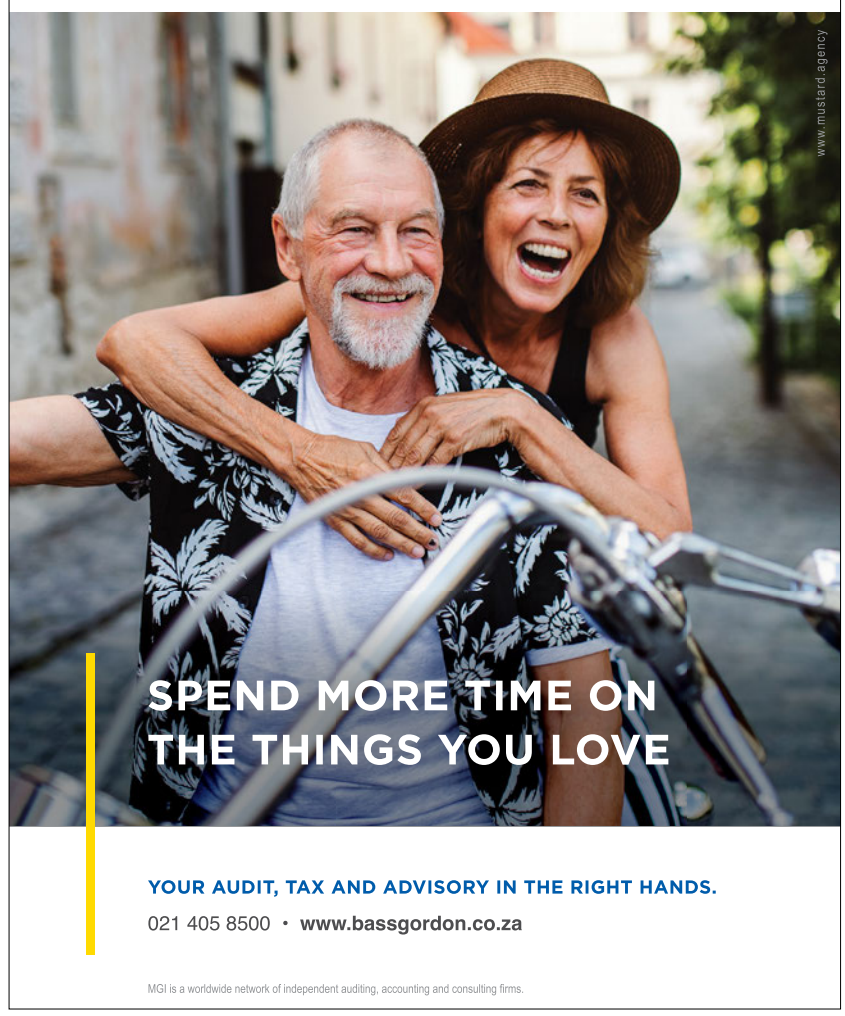
The middle daughter, who was smart and quick, decided to use paper. She found reams and reams of paper. And piled the room high. Then she crumpled sheets of paper into balls and pushed them into the spaces left behind. Tiny little scrunched up pieces of paper filled the gaps. When the king came to see his daughter's work he was doubly impressed. "Your sister still had little holes between the rocks she chose to fill the room — the paper you have used has filled the room far better — you may yet take my throne," and he ordered the room to be emptied for the third daughter.

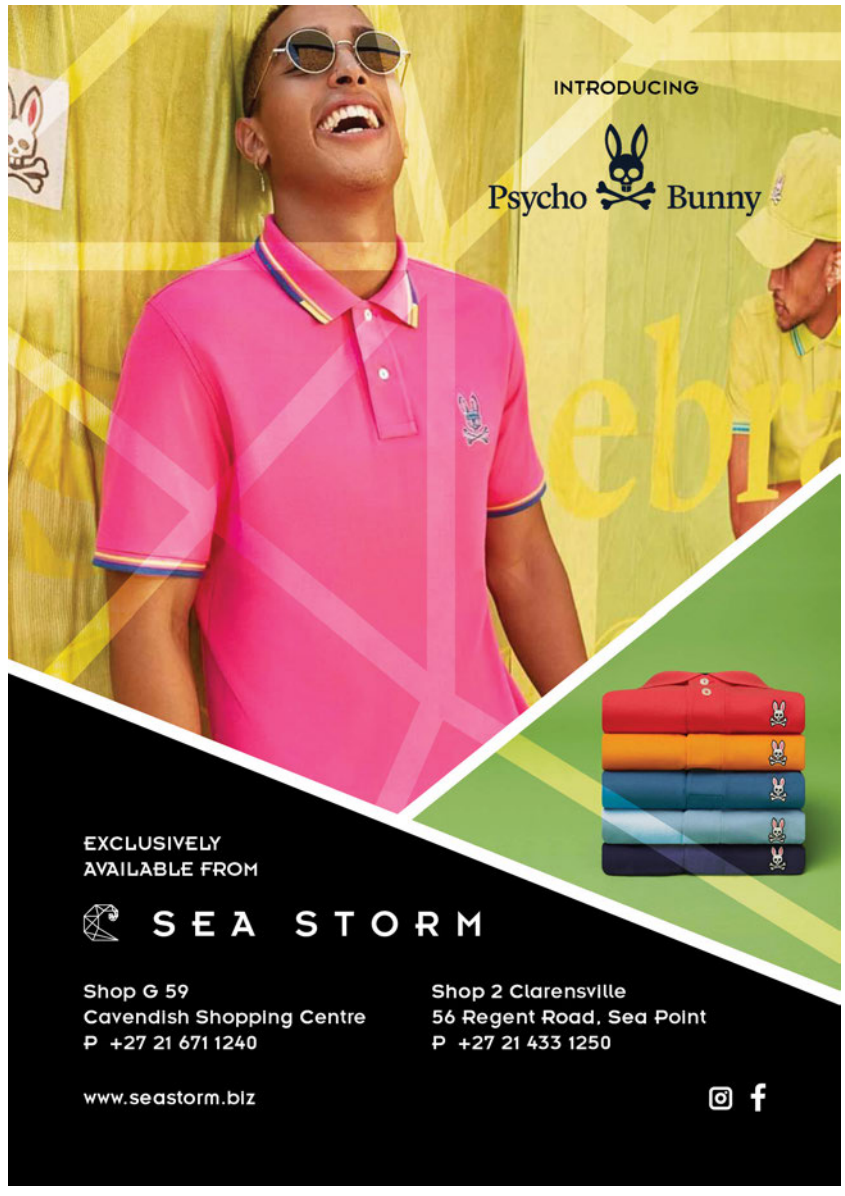
Being a gentle and kind person, the youngest daughter was unsure of how to proceed. She couldn't use rocks — that just wasn't her style and she couldn't use all that paper — that wasn't how she operated. The third daughter took a candle and lit it and flooded the room with light. The king, and even the older sisters, could not deny that the room was filled to capacity with warm, glowing candlelight, and the king had found his worthy successor.

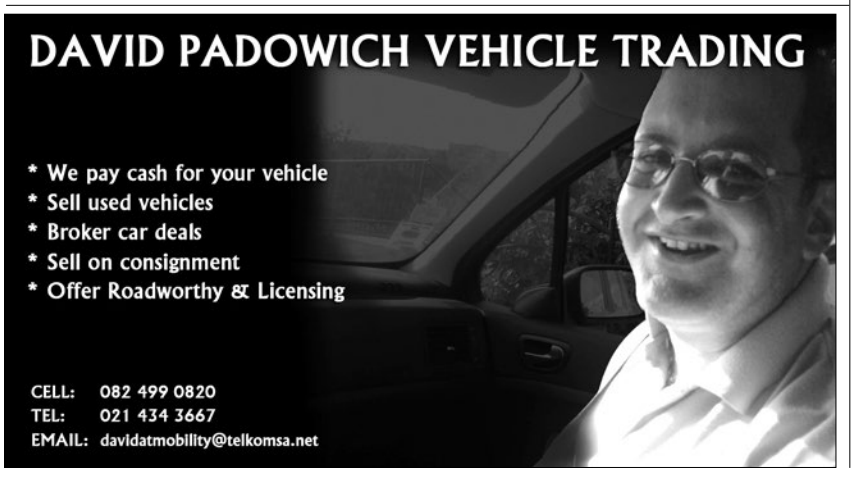
We have used the message of this story, that *Love and Light* is always the better choice, as a family motto and as a raison d'etre in our professional lives. This world, and our community, needs kindness and light far more than criticism, righteous indignation and loud shouty voices.

This is my message for a beautiful, peace-filled Chanukah and holiday season. Rocks and paper may feel like a good way to fill a room. But nothing does it quite as well, and as beautifully, as light.

Chag Urim Sameach!







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Date	*Portion*	*Candle lighting* Earliest	Latest	*Ends*
4 Dec/18 Kislev	Vayishlach	6.30pm	7.27pm	8.25pm
11 Dec/25 Kislev	Vayeshev*	6.30pm	7.33pm	8.30pm
18 Dec/3 Tevet	Mikketz	6.30pm	7.37pm	8.35pm
25 Dec/10 Tevet	Vayiggash	6.30pm	7.41pm	8.38pm
1 Jan/17 Tevet	Vaychi	6.45pm	7.15pm	8.40pm
8 Jan/24 Tevet	Shemot	6.45pm	7.15pm	8.40pm
15 Jan/2 Shevat	Vaera	6.45pm	7.15pm	8.38pm
22 Jan/9 Shevat	Bo	6.45pm	7.15pm	8.34pm
29 Jan/16 Shevat	Beshallach Shirah	6.45pm	7.145pm	8.29pm

*N.B. Please note that the times indicated are the earliest times for candle lighting. Please consult your Rabbi.*Light the Channukah candles before the Shabbat candles*

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A COVID-19 Financial Relief Fund

The Cape Town Jewish Emergency Relief Scheme (CTJERS)* is a loan scheme for members of the Western Cape Jewish Community who were sustainably employed up to the commencement of the COVID-19 lockdown in the Western Cape. The scheme has been designed to provide bridge interest-free loan funding for people whose monthly earnings have been significantly affected through the lockdown.

Should you wish to apply for support, simply send a mail to **admin@ctjers.com** and use your Name and Surname in the subject line. Include your contact number, email address and ID number in the mail. You will receive a confirmation of your application and documentation to complete. You may be contacted by our administration team if they require any additional information. Your application will be processed and evaluated, and you will be advised of the outcome.

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*An important principle of CTJERS funding is providing a mix of financial and non-financial assistance to assist affected people to get through the COVID-19 crisis. The scheme is open to persons who prior to the lockdown were earning more than R10 000 per month, whose earnings have been substantially diminished by the COVID-19 crisis and are now suffering financial hardship. Terms & Conditions will apply.

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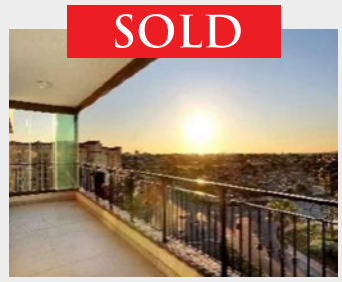

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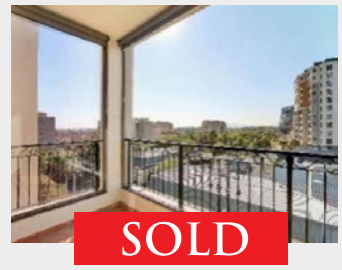

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My Aliyah story and an opportunity to give back

By Lili Goldberg

As the only child of a single mother, independence is my greatest aspiration.

I am not the typical South African Olah. For starters, I consider myself an entrepreneur. I was raised in a home with Jewish traditions by my non-Jewish mother. After realising that a BCom was not right for me, I decided on a gap year in Israel. With a dream to convert, my gap year would include learning in a midrasha and studying *giur*. It was my paternal grandfather, Solly Goldberg z"l, who introduced me to Telfed and the South African community in Israel. The support I received from Telfed motivated me to 'pay it forward'. Israel is my home and I want other young, single Olim to feel the same sense of "coming home" as I have experienced.

When I first arrived in Jerusalem, I had passed the age of eligibility for national service. As I couldn't serve, I decided to focus my efforts on those who could, by packing food parcels and hosting shabbat meals for Lone Soldiers. As COVID-19 hit, I decided to make a change and move to Tel Aviv. During this time, I was looking for new opportunities to volunteer and realised that young Olim who could not see their families in South Africa or Australia were in need of a strong social support system in Israel. Joining Telfed's Youth Committee for South African and Australian under 35s was just the opportunity I was looking for. I was elected as the Chairperson of the Youth Committee and am excited to be a part of a young, dynamic team of Olim. My 'team' includes young South African and Australian Olim with a shared love of Israel and an understanding that young Olim will have an easier *klita* (absorption) with a supportive network.

Telfed's Youth Committee delivered welcome baskets to young South African and Australian Olim who arrived in Israel in the summer

Our team recently delivered welcome baskets to new Olim who arrived during lockdowns, we will be hosting a rooftop braai and we have been assisting Telfed's Lone Soldier Committee with a project to send gifts to Lone Soldiers across Israel.

If you are prepared to work hard, Israel offers great opportunities. I knew academia was not for me but that I could make my mark with hard work. I am a strong believer in leading a healthy lifestyle and found many opportunities in this field. I am currently selling sports equipment and offering personal training for women. During lockdowns, interest in personal training spiked as gyms closed, and I am delighted to now have assistants supporting my business. I love that there are certain areas in Israel which seem underdeveloped, offering great opportunities for small business owners.

Israel is a country of miracles and I am constantly inspired by Israelis' determination to flourish. I am proud to be living in a country that is growing and prospering; a country that provides a sanctuary for Jews of all persuasions, a safe haven and a home. We invite young Olim to join us and to get involved in a unique community within Israel. You can follow the Youth Committee on Instagram – @telfedyouth.

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This past year has been extraordinary, indeed. Perhaps the most dramatic interruption to ordinary life in modern history! Through it all, your dedication and commitment to the Cape Town Jewish community is especially appreciated: donors, leadership and all organisational staff and volunteers - amidst the uncertainty and unprecedented challenge, you have dug deep to ensure we weather the storm. Because you have been there for us, we have been there for others - your kindness and generosity has been paid forward in ways you cannot imagine! As we head into 2021, we celebrate not just a New Year, but new possibilities – the potential for a better world and a better way of being.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY FUND SAVING LIVES

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

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

Thank you for your Emergency Response - every cent made a difference!

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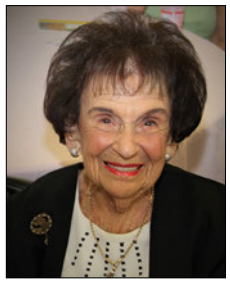
Cape Town legend Ettie Buch turns 100

By Jaime Uranovsky

The Jewish community in Sea Point would not be the same without one of its spunkiest and most memorable members, Ettie Buch, who celebrated her 100th birthday on 24 November.



Ettie, born in 1920 to Lithuanian parents, has always been passionate about assisting others and giving back, both to the Jewish community and beyond.

Her involvement in charity work is immense. She first began when she was at school by helping her mother to collect JNF blue boxes from the Jewish congregants in the Somerset West and Strand community. The women in their congregation then formed the Somerset West/Strand branch of the Ladies Zionist Society, and Ettie became their secretary. Ettie has also been very involved with the Union of Jewish Women and has been an active member of WIZO for 72 years. Indeed, Ettie refers to charities that support Israel as her "passion and priority".

In 1944, Ettie married Benjamin Buch and has two daughters, Lynette and Beverly. Today, she has six grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Before settling in Cape Town, Ettie and her family had a successful outfitting business in Strand for 35 years.

On turning 100, Ettie said, "Age comes to all. Life is not negotiable but, thank G-d, I have been blessed with the merit of living and with my memory". She believes that, "If we knew the span of life, if we only knew when, we would forget the foibles, the pain, the faribels, the nonsense; we would be more forgiving to people and also just look at the good in other people".

Ettie has been staying with her daughter, Lynette, in Johannesburg for most of the year, as she could not return to Cape Town because of the pandemic. However, she hopes to be back by November's end. While Ettie missed Sea Point and Marais Road Shul greatly, she relished being able to spend her birthday with one of her daughters, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and some friends.

Ettie is excited to return to her congregation, the weekly and holiday services of which she diligently attends. She says, "I feel that if one belongs to a community, one must be involved with the community".

Zac Abel selected as 2021 SACS and Partner Schools Rhodes Scholar Elect

By Jaime Uranovsky

Zac Abel, 23, of Cape Town has recently been awarded the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship for 2021 and plans to embark on his journey to Oxford in September next year, where he will be reading an MPhil in Economics.

After completing school at SACS in 2015, Zac obtained his undergraduate as well as his first-class honours degrees in economics at UCT, while simultaneously volunteering at the NSRI Bakoven Station. He is presently employed at the Boston Consulting Group which has taken him across Africa to gain experience. During his school career, Zac was also a skilled cyclist, cross country runner and oarsman.

The renowned scholarship, established in 1903, is awarded to 100 individuals around the world every year, with just a handful of those available to South African applicants. Zac was selected as the recipient for SACS and its Partner Schools.

On his initial reaction to hearing he had been selected as a Rhodes Scholar Elect, Zac says, "I was just overwhelmed, and I think fairly shocked. For it to happen, looking back, it was just the kind of sudden realisation of such a lifechanging experience knocking on the door".

Once he has earned his master's degree at Oxford, Zac hopes to return to the African continent and implement the skills he has learnt. He explains, "The big goal is to work on development in Africa. How exactly that happens and what shape and form that takes I'm not entirely sure of yet but I do have interests in health and green energy, and I think those are kind of things that I'd like to infuse the new knowledge with".

Zac is the son of Raella Abel and Chris Purcell, and is the grandson of Myrna Nel and David Abel.

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DAINIUS AMBRAZAITIS
Advocate/Partner
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Reinstating Lithuanian citizenship does not only require experience, it requires legal expertise.
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Applicants might encounter irremediable stumbling blocks in the collection of the legal documents required to justify the application, especially if they are attempting to do it on their own. Instead of taking several weeks if done with professional legal assistance, the process could take several years for inexperienced individuals, and the outcome might not necessarily be a positive one. Considering the fact that the majority of ancestors changed their names and dates of birth upon arrival in South Africa, the process might also involve challenges in recreating the original spelling of the names and surnames of your ancestors.

Furthermore, it is important to keep up with changes at the Migration Department. Initial assessment of eligibility might vary later in the process as the department makes amendments that aren't necessarily changes to legislation, but changes to interpretation of criteria for documentary proof. An experienced attorney will provide the additional evidence needed to keep the application on track.

In cases where the application is rejected, the applicant has the right to a court appeal, making it obligatory to hire an attorney. For my clients it is all included in the All Inclusive Success Fee, which is exactly as defined originally despite unexpected difficulties, requiring additional time and effort in achieving the results.

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"I was extremely pleased with the work that was done by INJURE law firm. It was extremely professional, I was able to communicate with Dainius every step of the way and he paid very strict attention to every detail. The completed application was accepted and my citizenship was restored in a timely manner. Looking back at the whole procedure and all the work that was done, I can say that if I had done it myself I would have made numerous errors. They guided me through the entire process, and made it easy."
- Mordecai, Canada

CLIENT REVIEWS https://www.lithuanianjews.com/testimonials/

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New SAJM exhibition highlights Progessive Judaism

The SA Jewish Museum will be hosting the first exhibition on Progressive Judaism, *Ground Breakers* from 14 December until March 2021.

In text, photographs and video, the exhibition demonstrates that no history of South African Jewry is complete without an understanding of how this minority community broke new ground and impacted upon the majority.

The exhibition tells the story of a charismatic young rabbi, Moses Weiler, who in 1933 defied expectations by building a movement under adverse conditions in a deeply conservative community, and then managed to spread it from Cape Town to Salisbury. He pioneered many firsts that we now take for granted; the first bat-mitzvah — held in near secrecy, the first Jewish outreach to African townships, the first women on shul executives and the first interfaith dialogues. And more recently, the movement has gone places Orthodoxy can't follow: women rabbis and same sex marriages.

Some interesting characters appear in the story: The movement's founder in South Africa was Professor Avram Zvi Idelsohn, widely regarded as the world's leading expert on Jewish liturgical music. He also happened to compose Hava Nagila. Rabbi David Sherman dominated the Cape Town progressive movement for half a century. So did his wife Bertha, the charming and vivacious 'front of house' to the movement, whom he married three months after hiring her as a Hebrew teacher.

Rabbi Andre Ungar spent his childhood hiding from the Nazis in Budapest. When he arrived in South Africa ten years later, he said he saw similar things happening here. For which the government promptly deported him.

The exhibition is based on the research of Irwin Manoim, from the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at UCT, who has just published a book on the subject, Mavericks Inside the Tent.

Ground Breakers: A History of Progressive Judaism in South Africa will be on display at the SA Jewish Museum from 14 December 2020. The book Mavericks Inside the Tent *is available from the museum gift shop. For more information please go to www.sajewishmuseum.co.za*

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CSO

PROTECTING JEWISH LIFE & THE JEWISH WAY OF LIFE, NOW MORE THAN EVER

CAPE TOWN

Over these past months, the CSO Cape Town has continued to respond to the significant increase in community medical calls while at the same time, dealing with periodic security and missing person's incidents. Likewise, security coverage of community schools, Shuls and installations continues to be a key task of the CSO.

The CSO Covid-19 Wellness Monitoring Programme, together with Hatzolah Medical Rescue in Johannesburg, was created to assist community members who have tested positive for Covid-19 or display symptoms of the virus. Daily tracking of temperature, heart rate and oxygen saturation together with a list of health checks was implemented to assist patients and their families.

CSO continues to work closely, wherever possible, with other community organisations to broaden and strengthen the response needed by community members.

414
SECURITY CALL-OUTS IN 2020 (AS AT 1 DEC)

974
MEDICAL CALL-OUTS IN 2020 (AS AT 1 DEC)

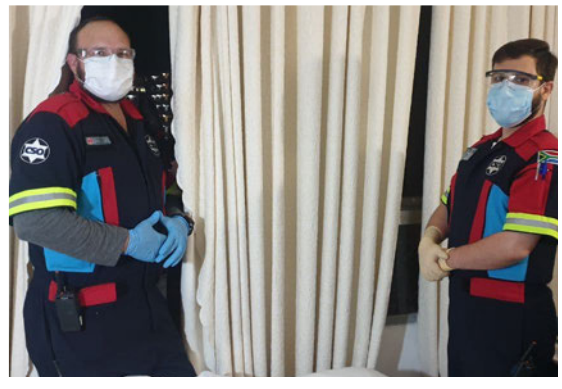
209
COMMUNITY MEMBERS MONITORED ON THE WELLNESS PROGRAMME (AS AT 1 DEC)

TOO MANY!
ZOOM MEETINGS AND WEBINARS ATTENDED

COVID-19 WELLNESS MONITORING PROGRAMME
CAPE TOWN

The community is reminded to **only register for the community Covid-19 Wellness Monitoring Programme once you have tested positive**, via WhatsApp or SMS to **072 037 8971**. Or go to **www.csocape.org.za/COVID-19** to fill in a registration form.

For serious life-threatening medical emergencies, continue to **call the 24-hour Control Centre on 086 18 911 18.**



WE WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO ALL THOSE WHO DONATED IN 2020, ENSURING THAT OUR VITAL WORK COULD CONTINUE.

www.csocape.org.za

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CAPE
SA JEWISH BOARD
OF DEPUTIES

KEEPING IT REAL

By Stuart Diamond, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

December is a reflective time of year in the Diamond household as we start to gear down towards our annual year-end break and we take stock of the year that was.

While my children judge their year on school reports, I reflect personally, professionally and communally, asking myself if I have played a role in making this community better. It is not lost on me that this time of reflection coincides with Chanukah; in fact, it reminds me to light my candles every day through the work that I do.

The start of 2020 saw the Jewish community responding in a collective voice to a global pandemic. It brought out the best of what the Cape Jewish community can be when we all align with a shared purpose. The challenge now is, how do we hold that shared purpose when the world throws divisive politics into the communal pot? Over the last few months, I have witnessed debates and discussions among our community members on social media platforms about a wide variety of difficult topics. Some of these discussions were constructive and engaging, and some turned divisive and ugly.

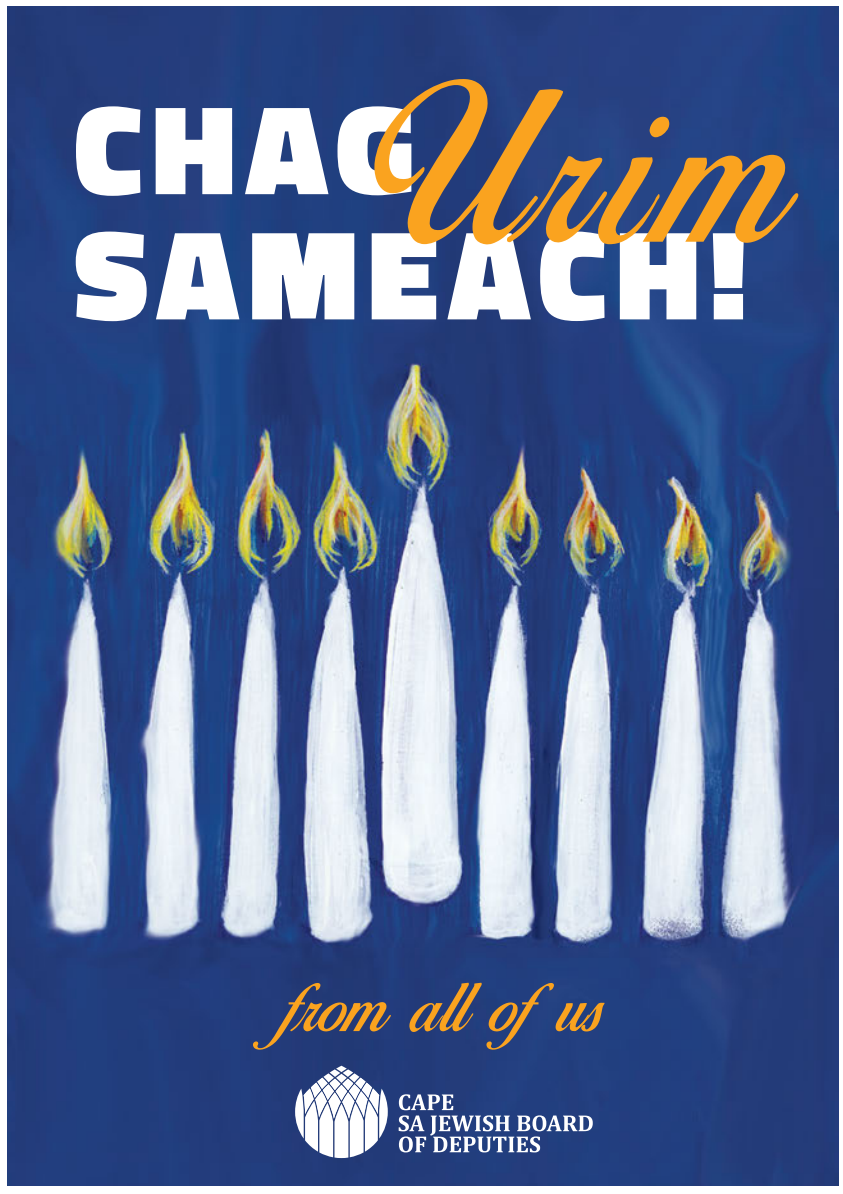
In 2020, I have seen cases of our community lifting each other higher than we ever thought possible, and tearing each other down to new depths. My message to our community stands firm. There is No Place for Hate and Words Matter.

Last year I wrote about how as Jews of Cape Town when we continue to choose to light our Chanukah candles in our daily lives we go a long way to fight back the divisive and hateful rhetoric that surrounds us. Ella Baker, one of the leading figures of the civil rights movement of the 50s and 60s in the United States, said, “Give light and people will find the way”. In my personal life, my mother-in-law says; “Stu, give them light and love.” What Ella knew, and my mom-in-law knows, is that even a single candle has the power to destroy the darkness. It is our responsibility as a community to stand up and light that candle, not to step back and accept the dark the world so often throws at us.

It is in this spirit that the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies will launch its #wordsmatter programme in 2021. It is a terrible waste of potential for us to divide ourselves when the sum of all our parts is what makes us what we are; a unique and special community.

I would also like to shine some light on the Cape Council. To my professional team; Jodi, Gwynne, Tyla and Mathilde, I am deeply thankful for your commitment to ensuring that we at the Cape SAJBD continue to serve our community with innovation, care and passion.

May this be a year that we all light our candles and work harder to illuminate a positive future for our community.



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

By Tzvi Brivik

At Simchat Torah, we celebrate a full cycle of the reading of the Torah from the very first parsha.

On completing the reading, we start again — a fresh start and at each reading, an opportunity to learn something further, to expand our knowledge, to get a better understanding of what drove our forefathers to do what they had and what we can learn from their actions.

In Parshat Vayera we read about Avraham. Avraham faced two major conflicts, first with his nephew Lot about how their respective employees the shepherds should carry out their work. To resolve this dispute, Avraham first sought points of commonality. The second dispute was when Avraham was told that the city of Sodom would be destroyed. He then appealed on behalf of the inhabitants of the city on the basis of their humanity.

There are lessons to be learned from Avraham and his reactions — seeking first to determine that which makes us the same, what views we share, what values we hold in common, and then using that as a springboard to resolve disputes. The second lesson provides a more high-level or broad approach.

I mention this as I intend over the next couple of months to elucidate on the work which the Cape SAJBD does, part of which includes ensuring harmonious relations both within our community and on behalf of our community facing out. That work continues all the time both behind the scenes and visibly through our various campaigns.

By creating an opportunity for parties to discuss openly — free of any concern of recrimination or judgement — their commonalities we hope the differences become resolved.

Promoting discussions and dialogues with outside bodies and political bodies secures our community against antisemitism and hateful speech, and is essential in fulfilling our primary mandate.

We are fortunate in South Africa and particularly in the Cape to be able to practice our religion freely in the manner that we choose and in a manner that expresses our Judaism openly and publicly. To ensure that freedom, there is an open dialogue between ourselves as a representative body and political institutions and civil institutions — which include not-for-profit organisations and think-tanks both in the Cape and around the world.

I have mentioned these two objectives of the Cape SAJBD, namely human relations and protection against antisemitism, in one breath as we do not see these as distinct and separate. Hateful speech and words create space for opportunistic antisemitism and for more hate to seep in and poison debate and relations, and the two cannot, and should not, be separated.

CAPE
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The year that taught us to invent what we need

By Mathilde Myburgh

You don't have to work in communications to know that this year flipped the script as far as 'the typical' parts of a job like mine are concerned. Since joining the board's professional team in January, the title on my email signature —writer and content developer— has become a mere fraction of what working from home, going digital and managing this organisation's communication strategy and its execution has required of me.

Firstly, we now do everything online. I haven't printed a single piece of information on paper since 15 March (conservatively speaking, likely earlier for this eco-warrior). While that's pleasing, it does mean that our largely paper-based operation in the office was suddenly made unavailable in March.

We can't refer to the past and thus have to invent the future based on current feelings and needs. While we work at home, we've learned to store our data in the cloud, and we'll be faced with the mammoth task of archiving All. That. Paper. when we're back in office.

Secondly, we had to publish a not-nearly-ready website, and fast.

Truthfully, we were in the midst of a website redesign project when the office was closed, and suddenly, having some digital real estate that could host all our content and information was our topmost priority, entrusted to this newcomer. I had to invent the tools my colleagues and the board members needed and develop new skills. Today, www.capesajbd.org is much more reflective of our work than it's ever been, and I know this investment will continue to serve us well beyond COVID-19.

Thirdly, 'media relations' has been its own contronym in 2020. Working at your dining room table as part of the communal COVID-19 response team, then becoming the media link for Highlands House, then hosting an election has meant we couldn't abide various print standards and deadlines (for the most part). Our digital presence was where we said it first, and I believe this is a forever change — a new normal.

That said, we'll always be here in the Chronicle, and we're strategising further print presence for 2021.

Encountering antisemitism in the 21st Century

By Tyla Dallas

In the final year of my LLB at Stellenbosch University, rushing to the local Spar to cure my hunger, I see a middle-aged man holding a full-length banner, with the words "Heil Hitler!" and a swastika on the front.

My first thought is "I hope he can't tell." At 24, with a full understanding of my fundamental human rights —after 2 years of studying our Constitution— my response to this blatant act of antisemitism was to hope that this man couldn't tell I was a Jew. Not to tell him to stop, or that he was infringing on my right to equality, or that his belief was wrong. Worse yet, I'm unsure of who to report it to.

The local authorities who had driven past and said nothing 15 minutes prior proved apathetic, and the manager of the Spar was unwilling to deal with a matter occurring in a public area. I left it alone. I moved on. I did nothing.

UCT Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research conducted a survey in 2019 on the Cape Town Jewish community, recording nearly 60% of respondents saying they believed antisemitism had increased over the last five years. Nearly 30% of respondents avoid wearing Jewish apparel in public for fear of their safety, and around 40% avoid wearing Zionist apparel for the same reason.

So many of us —whether it be in a classroom, the workplace or a local shopping mall — feel compelled to hide or minimise our Jewish identity and pride, as evidenced by the Kaplan Centre report, for fear of being victimised.

I am telling you my story because I want you to know that when you experience an act of antisemitism, or another form of discrimination, or witness such an act — you are not alone, and the Cape SAJBD is here for you!

The Cape SAJBD will step in to address the incident with the perpetrator, with the help of the Community Security Organisation (CSO), relevant authorities and our legal team. All you need to do is report the incident to us on capesajbd.org/focus-areas/anti, by completing our form at https://cutt.ly/antisemitism and remember to always take photos and record notes of what occurred.

An update on country communities: Uniondale

By Gwynne Robins

The Jewish community was well established in Uniondale during the late 1800s.

Israel Shear, who had emigrated from Russia with his large family, was a storekeeper, bottle store owner and farmer. He was the leader of the local community and was mainly responsible for founding the congregation and building the synagogue.

Although fairly plain on the outside, the interior is exquisite, with cast iron broekie lace pillars and a dramatic painted ceiling.

As Uniondale's fortunes declined and the Jewish people left, the building was given to the town on condition that it not be used as a place of worship. The property was donated by Louis Linde. Today it is the property of the local branch of Lions Club International, who have restored the interior as a project among members.

The building is an asset to the social life of the community, used for exercise classes and functions.

Growing minyans and respect for religious freedom at UCT

By Grant Norrie

As Jewish students on the UCT campus, we are very fortunate to have our Jewish rights protected by an organisation like SAUJS and by extension, the Cape SAJBD.

Over the last couple of years, we have seen a burgeoning weekly minyan in one of the main buildings on the campus grow into a daily minyan in the Kaplan Centre's conference room. We have been blessed to turn it into a shul with an Ark, a Torah, Taleisim. We get to hand out hamantaschen and listen to Megilat Ester on campus in celebration of Purim. We get to shake Lulav and Esrog on Sukkot, as well as sit in a sukkah on campus and enjoy some kosher food for lunch at Jean's Kitchen.

During my university career, I have had tests moved and assignments pushed because they happen to fall on a Jewish holiday. Sometimes, these solutions require more than a single email but — in the end — our religious freedoms are always respected. To a Jewish student, UCT offers so much in terms of opportunities to grow one's Judaism with continued respect for our practices and beliefs.

SAUJS is the prime organisation to join if you'd like to have these experiences on campus, or if you want to ensure the current vibe at UCT continues.

If you're new to campus life next year, get in touch with saujscape@ctjc.co.za

CAPE SA JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

Subcommittees share a vision for 2021

By Mathilde Myburgh

Advocacy

Chaired by Dawn Nathan-Jones

The Advocacy Subcommittee is guided by the following board objectives;

- Acting on behalf of the Western Cape Jewish community in all matters affecting its relationship with the government and provincial, local and other authorities (whether statutory or non-governmental)
- Promoting harmonious relations between the Western Cape Jewish community and all sections of the population in the Western Cape
- Maintaining fraternal relations with Jewish communities and institutions internationally
- Furthering respect for and application of fundamental human rights for all sections of the South African population

Each member of the subcommittee choose a portfolio to champion (e.g. minority rights, political relations, economic empowerment, media relations) and may submit potential projects that attempt to address relevant issues.

Advocacy demands creative input and operational participation from its members and has historically meant fortnightly. This subcommittee has a huge scope for volunteerism if the appropriate platforms are created. Our 'advocates' serve as ambassadors to the community, requiring professionalism and a familiarity with the board position on a spectrum of issues.

Antisemitism & Legal

Chaired by Simone Sulcas

The antisemitism and legal subcommittee is the bastion of the Board's constitution. Its mandate is to combat antisemitism and take a firm stance against any threat to the religious and civil rights of the community. This will be achieved by a variety of methods including legal action, education, political lobbying and media activism. In addition, the members are skilled legal professionals who are able to weigh in and advise the board on a variety of legal and compliance matters affecting the community. The 2021 vision is for this committee is to be both reactive and proactive within a legal and ethical framework whilst honouring the principles of justice and equality.

Country Communities

Chaired by David King

If you're reading this, you likely have easy access to a wholesome Jewish Way of Life. Rabbonim, kosher food and medical support are just some of the resources easily accessible if you're in Cape Town. Further outside the city, Jews have over years established livelihoods in the greater Western Cape. For them, access to these same resources and ways to connect to Jewish affairs is restricted.

The Cape SAJBD continually works to connect all Cape Jews in our community and maintain contact. Western Cape Jewish country communities comprise:

- 6 communities with operational shuls that act as central hubs for community engagement
- 12 communities of 10 or fewer Jews
- 22 communities with some Jewish presence (museums, cemeteries, etc.)

Before COVID-19, the Cape SAJBD visited some of these communities to engage lay leadership with fellow Jews, keep abreast of communal issues and discuss challenges faced. It has uplifted us to see solid bonds and neighbourly love in these communities. Yiddishkeit is very much alive!

Due to COVID-19, these shuls (engagement hubs) closed. We had to innovate and facilitate information sharing and conversation with community leadership via WhatsApp. We ran a Cape Country Communities ZOOM webinar and were joined by expats who grew up in the country.

We will continue to foster communication with leadership in these communities. A key focus remains cemetery maintenance and upkeep. Unfortunately, many cemeteries have recently been vandalised and desecrated. We're actively assisting with restoration and protection efforts as well. In time, we hope to set up a fund to ensure continued maintenance is no longer a problem. In our work, Stuart Diamond's 'Let's Do This' attitude has stood us in good stead — Thank you!

Generation Next

Chaired by Justin Asher

The Generation Next Subcommittee is setting out to reshape the interaction between the Cape SAJBD and the Jewish young adults and youth community. Through our work over the coming year, we aim to connect, engage and empower young adults across the spectrum of diverse, existing and previously unengaged organisations, and to ensure that young adult leadership voices are heard and contributions to our community are valued. We have a multifaceted approach, catering to unique core needs and issues across the different age-group categories and segments of the young adult spectrum.

So, what does the year ahead entail? It's hard to tell, given the uncertainty posed by COVID-19. A lot of what we might want to do in-person will have to happen online if the situation doesn't improve, and that could pose some critical challenges due to how reliant we are on engaging face-to-face rather than virtually. While the virtual space offers major opportunities to reach community members whom we may not come across along our typical paths, it can also become overdone and lose its exciting lure as a unique approach.

All things considered, we hope that over the forthcoming year we will be able to emphasise the work done by the Cape SAJBD, engage the various youth and young adult organisations and unaffiliated members of our community, and become known as a space for the Jewish community (Generation Y & Z) through which one can tap into the resources we provide to ensure they feel a part of the community and the future it holds.

Interfaith & Intercommunity

Chaired by Ann Harris

As we represent less than 0.4% of the Cape Town community, the chances are great that most Capetonians have never met a Jew. One way to counter antisemitism is to get to know "the other" so that they can learn to see us as individuals, people like them, like ordinary people. By removing ignorance, we help to remove prejudice. The Interfaith and Intercommunity Subcommittee would like to develop opportunities to meet with people from other faiths and cultures, as friends and equals sharing common concerns, and not at a distance as the rich handing out charity to the poor.

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Relearning how to be neighbourly

By Glen Heneck

Take any serious moral or political quandary, and think about it for a minute or two.

Do it alone and try your best to be as rational, thorough and dispassionate as possible. Maybe write down the arguments for and against — the pros and cons, the costs and benefits — attempting, in so doing, to honour truth and honesty above loyalty and prejudice.

The place you end up will, inevitably, be shaped by your presuppositions, your habits of thought, your view of the world — but here's the challenge: Are you willing to allow that the matter is complicated? Are you able to accept, on the basis of your assessment, that there are respectable counter-arguments and that it would be easily understandable were another person with a different vantage point to reach the opposite conclusion to yours?

Now it goes without saying that some choices really are 'beyond the pale' and that virtually every thinking person would recoil from going along with them. Hence the addition of the word 'serious' as a qualifier. What is so extraordinary about the current moment, however, and so frightening, is how pervasive the divisions are, and how extreme. There have always been zealots, and always will be, but it feels as though the greater majority of pundits, internationally, are now in that category. Which doesn't augur well for any of us.

Politicians have never been renowned for high levels of thoughtfulness and common decency, but what is different today is that the supposed guardians of the public good have also fallen prey to hyperbole and hysteria.

Objectivity and fair-mindedness are no longer hallmarks of either the media industry or, more disconcertingly, of academia. Partisanship appears to be the order of the day - ethnic and religious on the right and ideological on the left — and the situation is greatly exacerbated by the rise in (entirely unconstrained) social media.

The Board will be hosting public debates on a range of important topics over the course of 2021. Israel, homelessness, minority rights, taxation policy; we'll find the best advocates and encourage them to air their views as robustly and expertly as they can.

This is the milieu in which we are all living, and it's unsurprising that what goes in the macrocosm applies also in the microcosm that is our community. There are only 14 000 Jews in Cape Town (and maybe 15 000 in the Western Cape) but we are divided by:

- religious affiliation
- class (in the Marxist sense)
- political opinions (notably regarding Israeli politics)
- socio-cultural preferences

There is no obvious reason why we shouldn't be able to discuss all these issues respectfully and "for the sake of heaven". As things stand though, there is a far greater likelihood that we'll end up in debates that are intemperate and acrimonious, and that produces a lot more heat than light (as the saying goes). Everyone acknowledges the importance of tolerance, in our globalised but much-fractured world — but when it comes to real-life situations, we too readily betray this commitment and get on our (various) high horses.

We call what we're doing "defence of principle" or "holding the moral line" or some variation on that theme, but all too often what we're really doing is simple solidarity signalling. "I'm with Israel," "I'm for the poor," "I'm against Trump," etc.

Again, there's nothing wrong with taking sides. Our genes predispose us to do so, and so do our circumstances, often. What we need to learn to do though, or maybe re-learn, is how to express this reflex in a neighbourly way. How to practice Ubuntu. How to be a mensch. Just that. We're all entitled to our beliefs, and preferences, but what we've got to stop doing is expressing contempt, or hostility, towards those who don't share them.

The Board will be hosting public debates on a range of important topics over the course of 2021. Israel, homelessness, minority rights, taxation policy; we'll find the best advocates and encourage them to air their views as robustly and expertly as they can.

Our frame of reference though — and no, this is not a fig-leaf for defending the status quo — is that these sessions should be pursued in a way that is conducive to increased understanding, tolerance and thoughtful compromise.

As for how one gets to move from supporter to crusader, from partial to fervent, from considered adherent to blind fanatic, that's a matter for another day.

WORDS MATTER

Over the last few months, the board has witnessed engaged debates and discussions among our community — about COVID-19 and what we should do about it, about PPE, about schools and shuls, about devastating economic realities, and, well, just about people. We've seen our people lift each other up and tear each other down, and recent developments lead us to believe it is time to make a clear statement: **There's No Place for Hate, and Words Matter.**

Section 16 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa gives every person the right to freedom of expression. This right is fundamental to any democratic society, as it enables citizens to engage in healthy debates on issues of public importance, exchanging different ideas and information and promoting tolerance for one another. This right is not absolute and must be balanced against other fundamental human rights- such as our right to human dignity, equality, and freedom of religion, belief and opinion. This "free speech" right is never a justification for the use of derogatory or hateful words, and where it incites harm or propagates hatred, it will amount to hate speech.

We align with the following values, which guide our activities and strategy: **integrity** in our every action and interaction; **accountability** to our Western Cape Jewish community; **inclusivity** of all members in our diverse Western Cape Jewish community; a collective **responsibility** for the continued advancement of the Western Cape Jewish community; and **justice** for all. We recognise there are often times where our community fundamentally disagree on issues, and that the only way to foster understanding is through public debate and engagement. We implore each and every member of our community, when engaging in such debates, to remember these values, and that words can hurt and have a lasting impact on a person's life and livelihood, long after the debate has ended.

When a small community doesn't have a kind word for one another, there's nothing to be proud of. Community disappears, and forums for change along with it.

We at the Cape SAJBD put forward the idea that our Cape Jewish community take up the challenge of becoming practitioners of careful, thoughtful and deliberate positive communication. That we don't fall for the ease of speaking without thinking. That we practice engaged listening and connect with one another meaningfully despite our differences.

If what you want to talk about seems untraversable, talk to us. We've championed the webinar space of late, and we'd be delighted to engage on your topic with volunteer speakers in a spirited and respectful debate hosted as an open forum.

Get in touch at stuart@ctjc.co.za

#WordsMatter
#NoPlaceForHate

CAPE SA JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

NO PLACE FOR HATE

CAPE SA JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES

A history of the Malmesbury Jewish community

By Gwynne Robins

Malmesbury is situated in an area known as the Swartland in the heart of the country's wheat farmland.

According to the Beth Hatsfutsoth book on South African Country Communities, Malmesbury held its first minyan in 1895, meaning that it already had ten observant Jewish men living there. One was Israel Resnick, who moved to Malmesbury in 1896 — a speculator and dairy farmer. During the South African War, at least 15 Jewish members of the Western Province Mounted Rifles attended services in Malmesbury. Other early settlers were Dr R Rosenzweig, who arrived in 1900, as did Kleiman Horwitz, a general dealer, Tuvye Kretzmar who arrived in 1903, a general dealer on the Main Road, and Abraham Beyer, a produce buyer.

The former Malmesbury shul, now the site of the Malmesbury Museum

The first Malmesbury Hebrew Congregation appears to have started around 1900, and by 1904 there were 246 Jews in Malmesbury, of whom 114 were members of the congregation. It was reorganised on 26 September 1904 — kol HaMoed Sukkot — as Ohel Jacob Hebrew Congregation with B Krafchik, president of the Malmesbury Zionist Association (established the year before, in 1903) as its president and Kretzmar as its honorary treasurer. Krafchik represented both organisations in the delegation to petition against the 1903 Immigration Bill and was a delegate on 4 September 1904 at the inaugural meeting of the Jewish Board of Deputies, under Morris Alexander, and Krafchik was elected a member of the Board in 1906.

In 1906, they decided to build a synagogue of their own and the following year, a Talmud Torah was founded. An illustrated booklet titled Floods and Storms; a Pictorial Record of the Memorable Storms in the Cape Colony issued by the Cape Times Limited, Cape Town in September 1905 (price 6d) describes unprecedented heavy rainfall in the South West Cape on 28 September, when a tornado struck the village of Malmesbury removing the roofs of over 75 buildings followed by floods that overflowed its banks, causing widespread destruction. It included a photo of the ruins in the Main Street, and another showing that almost all the buildings in the Main Street, where the Jews had their shops, had their roofs blown off.

It was not until 11 November 1911 that the foundation stone of the beautiful Ohel Jacob Synagogue was laid by A Katz and B Alswang. It was designed and built by Max Goldman. 'How goodly are thy tents O Jacob' can still be seen inscribed in Hebrew on its entrance archway. It was opened by the Rev A P Bender of the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation on 16 May 1912, and the gilt key presented to him on the occasion is now on display at the Cape SAJBD.

With a Jewish population of about 50 families in the 1920s, they could enjoy a stable and rich Jewish life. A mikvah was built behind the synagogue in the 1920s, and in 1922, through the generosity of local farmer Piet van der Westhuizen, land was acquired for a cemetery. He donated land on his farm Rozenberg with a servitude stating that "this land is always to remain for the Jews." He also paid towards the cost of the Taharah house and the wall around the cemetery and was a generous donor of cash and cattle to the Zionist bazaars. An illuminated address of thanks and appreciation was presented to him by the community which he proudly hung in the entrance to his farmhouse.

The town was the regional centre for Jewish life and provided kosher food to the surrounding areas, including Piketberg. For the High Holy Days, the congregation would be augmented by Jews who travelled in from nearby villages such as Mamre, Darling, Kalabaskraal and Piketberg. All Jewish businesses closed for the Holy Days. Malmesbury had a Jewish Burial Society, a Jewish Helping Hand Society, a Zionist Association, a Women's Zionist Society, a Jewish Ladies Benevolent Society, a Union of Jewish Women, a Junior Maccabean Society, a Maccabean Association which "fostered the aims of Judaism and Zionism", and an Orphan Aid Society to support Oranjia.

Zionist bazaars were held in the Town Hall. *Die Joodse Basaar* with the unusual *Joodse kos* and delicatessen was well patronised by the gentile inhabitants. They sent five delegates to attend the 1926 Zionist Congress in Cape Town. In 1931, they opened a Talmud Torah with 28 pupils and in 1935, board chairperson Morris Alexander laid the foundation stone for a Talmud Torah hall that could seat 400 people with a stage. The hall was opened by Cape Town mayor Louis Gradner.

The Malmesbury Jewish Cemetery

Antisemitism did not leave Malmesbury alone and Weichard and his Greyshirts held meetings there in 1935, attracting 400 people on at least three occasions in 1936, attracting 600 people at the last one. Dr Donges (later state president) and Dr Verwoerd (later Prime Minister) spoke against Jewish immigration at a protest meeting. In a 1943 election speech, National Party candidate for Malmesbury, M S Loubser, harangued about strangers from overseas who were making huge profits and buying up fixed properties while Afrikaner blood was flowing up north.

However, by then Malmesbury was caught up in the exodus of Jewish families from country communities, and by 1940, there was only one pupil in the cheder. The following year it was still possible to get a minyan for chagim and, as realists, the Talmud Torah hall was sold to Mr Bloch. Even as late as 1977, arrangements were being made for their children to be taught, but when there were only four families left in 1971, the synagogue was closed, being bought by Dr Goldman, the son of the original builder. The Malmesbury Hebrew Congregation was dissolved, its assets were taken over by the Jewish Board of Deputies and the contents of the synagogue —including the bimah, four Sifrei Torah, Aron Kodesh, pulpit and benches— were transferred to Herzlia School's synagogue Minyan Yosef through the efforts of Bennie Resnick.

On 29 April 1974, the Malmesbury synagogue was deconsecrated and transferred to the local municipality. Since 1991, the Ohel Jacob Synagogue at 1 Prospect Street, Malmesbury, has been used as the town museum and Tuvye's son, Julius, who was then retired and living in Cape Town, was called in to help the curator with the history of the Jewish community. The Malmesbury Museum has been a heritage site since 1994 and has been cared for and well maintained. The Museum contains a leaflet documenting the history of the Jews of the town and an explanation of various items, ceremonies and festivals. It includes the story of Tobias Kretzmar and his shop in Main Street.

By 1994, the Talmud Torah hall had become a supermarket and the cemetery was badly vandalised. Some of the money from the sale of the Talmud Torah was used to restore the cemetery, repair sixty graves and the Taharah house. The cemetery was rededicated and descendants of Piet van der Westhuizen attended the ceremony and offered to maintain the cemetery which was on their farm.

By 1996, there was only one Jewish family left in Malmesbury.

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

Hannukah Sameach

May this Joyous Season bring you peace, health and happiness throughout the coming year.

LEAVE YOUR MARK ON LIFE

The Children's Hospital Trust is an independent non-profit organisation established in 1994 to raise funds to support specific projects to help advance child healthcare through the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital – the first stand-alone tertiary hospital, exclusively for children, in sub-Saharan Africa.

To find out more visit: **www.childrenshospitaltrust.org.za**

WhatsApp: 071 22 44 777
Call: 021 686 7860
Email: cht@chtrust.org.za

The Children's Hospital Trust
In support of
Red Cross Children's Hospital
Healing is in Your Hands

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A tribute to Julie Berman

By Jonathan Silke, Hon Life President, SA Zionist Federation

Julie Berman, executive director of the Cape Council of the South African Zionist Federation, retired from her position at the end of November after twenty-three years of devoted service to the federation in order to fulfil her longstanding wish to make Aliyah.

When she joined the federation in 1997 she became the personal assistant to the then director, Izzy Wolman, who was, as she describes him, 'a scholar and a gentleman' who taught her profound lessons including the 3 'P's', Prepare Pal, Prepare!

After occupying various positions in the federation Julie became the executive director and top official in 2008. She was not only the face of the organisation in the community but was known as the passionate spokesperson for Zionism.

She recalls with much affection and respect the late Leon Wilder and Eliot Osrin, who both played such a dominant role in communal affairs in those days. Eliot was one of her mentors who inspired her and taught her how to raise money and to show compassion for others and, in her words, he 'was a genuine, honest, inspirational loving soul whom I admired.'

She worked with many of the prominent Zionist leaders in South Africa including the late Mendel Kaplan who 'seldom wrote a contract as he was so respected and trusted and his word was his bond.' In Cape Town she always greatly valued her relationship with the UJC and learnt much from Philip Krawitz and Ronnie Stein, amongst others.

Julie was involved in every facet of Zionist endeavour and never knew the meaning of the phrase '9 to 5', as she was often seen in her office late into the evening holding meetings and planning sessions.

Julie was involved in every facet of Zionist endeavour and never knew the meaning of the phrase '9 to 5'.

She was always an outstanding hands-on administrator with a flair for initiating and planning existing and new projects. She planned the major community Yom Ha'atzmaut functions at Ratanga Junction over many years where thousands attended and celebrated.

Julie loved working with our youth movements, Bnei Akiva, Habonim and Netzer and communicated very effectively with people of all ages and from all walks of life. She also assisted SAUJS in dealing effectively with IAW events on the campuses of our universities.

She chose to become a member of the CSO and did all her training and weekends away as she felt it was her duty to show that no one was above serving the community.

Projects that were close to her heart included Diller, SAFI and the various pastors tours to Israel.

She nurtured our friendship and collaboration with Christian Zionists which started off in Cape Town in the late 1970s when Izzy Wolman formed a friendship with Basil Jacobs and others including Frans Klopper and Johan Greeff who belonged to Christian Action for Israel. This became the International Christian Embassy and today embraces Bridges for Peace's Chris and Cecilia Eden who, together with the SAZF, took three high ranking pastors tours to Israel from all over South Africa.

Julie describes her involvement with Diller as being 'an eye-opener for me into the mind of our youth and into the new methods of education.' In this regard she travelled to the USA to conferences and learnt much from her American counterparts.

SAFI, South African Friends of Israel, was established by the SAZF to develop liaison with Christian Zionist

supporters throughout the country and a branch was established in Cape Town.

Julie loved working with all our *shlichim* in the Israel Centre and, as she says, 'threw myself into it lock stock and barrel.' Similarly, her close ties with Herzlia school were crucial for Zionist education.

Julie concludes on lessons learnt in her career: 'The terminology 'young and dynamic' that is bantered around at every opportunity is dangerous. I know that we have to have succession planning, but you have to have an even distribution of young and older.'

We wish Julie every success and happiness in her new life in Israel.

Yaakov Hagoel elected head of World Zionist Organisation

The 38th World Zionist Congress was held online for the first time ever from 20-22 October.

"A lot more people were able to participate because of the virtual platform," said Herbert Block, spokesman for the American Zionist Movement. "However, opportunities for direct interaction were limited because of all the people and the different time zones. You missed the in-person relationship building."

The congress was composed of 524 delegates: 199 from Israel, 152 from the United States and 173 from the rest of the Jewish diaspora.

The main themes of this year's congress were Aliyah, the effect of COVID-19 on Jewish communities around the world and the battle against growing antisemitism.

The Congress was opened with greetings from both the President of the State of Israel, Mr. Reuven Rivlin and the Prime Minister of the State of Israel, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu. The greetings were then followed by a beautiful opening video clip: 'The World Zionist Organisation in the Inter-Congress Period'. The main theme of the first day was 'Mutual Responsibility and Aliyah', while on the second day of the congress there were two symposiums on the topic 'From Crisis to Opportunity' which were then followed by a 'Security Overview and the IDF and the Coronavirus Challenges'.

The WZC is the only democratically elected global Jewish forum and is the direct continuation of The First Zionist Congress, convened by Theodor Herzl in 1897. Today, the WZC, which now meets every five years, is the overall supreme ideological and policy-making body of the Zionist movement. The delegates and the bodies they form at the WZC determine the leadership and influence the policies of Israel's National Institutions: the World Zionist Organization (WZO), the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), Jewish National Fund-Keren Kayemet LeIsrael (JNF) and Keren Hayesod.

The closing session of the congress was addressed by Mr. Yaakov Hagoel, the elected chairman of the World Zionist Organization. In his speech Mr. Hagoel said that when Menachem Begin was asked how he will run the government in 1977 when he was elected prime minister, he said, "In a fine Jewish tradition".

"I am not Menachem Begin" said Mr. Hagoel, "but I will try to lead the World Zionist Organisation in a fine Jewish tradition".

Hila Zetler

South African Zionist Federation (Cape Council) Biennial Conference

The theme of our Conference this year was *Winds of Change in The Middle East*.

The recent normalisation deals between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain, as well as just recently between Israel and Sudan, mark a watershed moment in the region and beyond. The Abraham Accords have seen us enter the dawn of a new Middle East and these exciting and hopeful developments provided us with a most fascinating theme for our Conference.

We were treated to a stimulating panel discussion that encompassed various themes and ideas, providing all with a great deal of food for thought from the various insights that the panelists shared.

The SAZF Cape Council was delighted to present four very special awards as part of the Conference. These presentations were made beforehand and filmed so videos of each presentation could be shared during our virtual Conference.

A special surprise video was played for outgoing Executive Director, Julie Berman. It was an opportunity to applaud, acknowledge and honour a very special lady in our community who has invested 23 years into the work of the SAZF Cape Council.

During our Conference we highlighted the plight of two Israeli citizens who have been held captive by Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Both have a history of mental health problems. Avera Mengistu has been in captivity since 2014 and Hisham al-Sayed since 2015. Hamas has not complied with the rule of law and has never provided any sign of life for either of these civilians. The SAZF fully endorses the aims and objectives of the Free Avera and Hisham campaign and stands in solidarity with the families of the hostages.

Esta Levitas pre-recorded her Chairperson's Report and it was remarkable to hear how active and effective the organization has been, particularly during the difficult months of lockdown. Tribute was paid to Esta Levitas for her outstanding term as Chairperson. Her support, guidance and commitment has been of tremendous benefit to the work of the SAZF CC and we commend her for all she has given.

Voting took place during the Conference to decide on the new Management Committee (Mancom) for the 2020-2022 term. Mazel Tov to those who will be serving on our Mancom!

The message of hope and a future emerging from the Middle East is a message that encourages us to keep working towards the great prize of peace and prosperity for Israel, and for the region as a whole.

Thank you to all the delegates and observers for joining us today. We look forward to working with you as we advocate for Israel in South Africa and work to build strong support and love for the Land and State of Israel.

Thank you to the following sponsors whose generosity made our Conference possible — The George Elkin Charity Trust, The Cohen Charitable Trust, World Zionist Organization and the Israel Centre South Africa.

The conference offered an array of engaging speakers

Dr. Glen Segell, from the Ezri Centre for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies at Haifa University, is an expert on the Persian Gulf and the Arab world. He has researched and written about several themes including regional and international security and geo-politics, and gave a strategic Israeli perspective on the Abraham Accords.

Prof. Hussein Solomon is the Senior Professor at the Department of Political Science at the University of the Free State. He gave an academic perspective on the current events unfolding in the Middle East.

Steven Gruzd is the Programme Head at the South African Institute of International Affairs. He provided local context and relevance by way of presenting a South African Foreign relations perspective.

Ross Kriel is the President of the Jewish Council of the Emirates. He gave a personal perspective from the UAE about the recent normalization deals and changes in the region.

Eyal Biram is the CEO and founder of an organization called ISRAEL-is. His organization works to build bridges by connecting young Israelis with millennials from around the world in order to communicate about Israel and fight antisemitism. Eyal shared a personal Israeli perspective on the changes occurring in the Middle East.

Moderator – Nastassia Arendse is a television anchor at the SABC. She has been in broadcasting for 11 years covering the world of business and finance. She is an experienced reporter and we were privileged to have her as our moderator for the panel discussion.

The SAZF took the opportunity to recognise outstanding work done in the community

Abe Buchman Award

This award is for a young adult in the Jewish community who has strong Jewish and Zionist values. Julie Berman presented this award to Martine Kawalsky, the Cape Town Diller coordinator. Martine rose to the challenge of working through a pandemic and showed strong leadership skills, inspiring and motivating the members of her cohort.

Jerusalem Award

This award is part of a longstanding tradition in which the World Zionist Organization's Department for Diaspora Activities selects a local figure who is constantly active and committed to empowering the local Jewish community, strengthening the connection with the State of Israel and its capital Jerusalem.

Gusti Yehoshua Braverman (World Zionist Organisation) presented this award posthumously to Pat Rolleston for his action and legacy and for his commitment and his heart of service and love to Israel and the Jewish people. The award was accepted by his wife Elaine.

SAFI Moses Moyo Award

Julie Berman presented this award to Pierre de Jager who has spent the last 13 years standing outside Parliament each week with placards and Israeli flags showing his support for Israel and the Jewish people.

Herzl Award

This award is designated for a Jewish person who has contributed significantly to the local Jewish community and has strengthened its connection with the State of Israel. It is a prestigious award given by the World Zionist Organisation for dedication and exemplary service. Adv. Jonathan Silke presented this award to Julie Berman.

Each of these awards carry much kavod and each recipient is most deserving of the honour.

SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL

FREE AVERA & HISHAM!

DID YOU KNOW

Jewish law speaks about the **REDEMPTION OF CAPTIVES** with the Talmud praising this redemption as a great mitzvah.

What happened to Avera and Hisham?

Both men wandered into the Gaza Strip - Avera in 2014 and Hisham in 2015. They were both captured by Hamas and have been held captive ever since.

Who is Avera Mengistu?

Avera Mengistu is an Israeli citizen from Ashkelon who immigrated to Israel with his family from Ethiopa. He developed severe schizophrenia following the death of his older brother. Due to his mental instability, Avera spent some time in a mental hospital.

What does the Geneva Convention say about this?

Common Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Convention states that the taking of hostages is and shall remain prohibited at any time and in any place whatsoever.

Who is Hisham al-Sayed?

Hisham is an Israeli-Bedouin from the southern town of Hura. He has a history of mental illness.

YEARS 6

YEARS 5

2020 MARKS 6 YEARS SINCE AVERA WAS KIDNAPPED AND 5 YEARS SINCE HISHAM WAS KIDNAPPED

What does International Humanitarian Law say?

- ☒ Kidnapping an innocent civilian is an egregious human rights violation.
- ☒ The Interrnational Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) must be granted access to captives.
- ☒ The Third and Fourth Geneva Conventions stipulate that ICRC members must be allowed to interview detainees with no restriction on frequency or duration of visits.

HAMAS HAS NOT COMPLIED WITH THESE OBLIGATIONS

To date, Hamas has refused to release any information about Mengistu or al-Sayed, nor has the terrorist organization granted permission to rights groups to visit them in order to determine their respective conditions.

!!! CALL TO ACTION

The families of the hostages have been conducting a campaign globally to try and secure their international human rights and their release. Now, the South African Zionist Federation is joining this international campaign by supporting the work of its local chapter.

As the South African Jewish community, we have a special responsibility to work for the release of Hisham and Avera. This is not just a religious issue, it's not just an Israeli issue, it is an **international human rights violation** being perpetrated by a terrorist organisation.

The SAZF fully endorses the aims and objectives of the Free Avera and Hisham campaign, and stands in solidarity with the families of the hostages.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

You can play your part in helping to secure the release of these innocent civilians!

- ☑ Please sign the following petition and be their voice - https://www.change.org/o/free_avera_and_hisham_south_africa_2
- ☑ Create awareness on social media
- ☑ Pray for their safety and release
- ☑ Host activities to put the plight of the captives on the national agenda

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SAFI COVID relief continues to touch lives

By Trystan Tregenza Hall

The COVID-19 response may now be Level One, but the economic pain continues to bite.

Trystan meets Mama Micky from Mama Micky's Yiza Ekhaya Soup Kitchen in Khayelitsha

Through the work of South African Friends of Israel (SAFI) Cape Council, we are continuing our outreach to the wider community here in the Western Cape, giving something back to our friends who find themselves in the grip of desperate needs. Thanks to your generosity and that of Angel Network, many families have received food vouchers in recent weeks. The vouchers represent an evolution of the food parcels previously distributed; restoring dignity to the recipients. Although use of the vouchers is restricted to food products in participating stores, the vouchers give the recipients the choice to buy those items they actually need. The vouchers have been distributed not only to families but to soup kitchens and churches, targeting the aid to the neediest. These simple vouchers are helping to engender an outpouring of gratitude towards the Jewish community.

In October, representatives of SAFI visited Mama Micky's Yiza Ekhaya Soup Kitchen in Khayelitsha. During the lockdown, Mama Micky (aged 65) was feeding around 450 impoverished local residents daily, many of whom were children and elderly widows, and is attempting to grow some of her own vegetables to cope with demand. At another Khayelitsha outreach also supported by SAFI, Pastor Aaron Makili has been establishing a community vegetable garden to both feed the needy, as well as to provide a space for improving self-esteem through meaningful volunteering. The means of the community in Khayelitsha are pitifully meagre. However, through your continued assistance, SAFI is working to deliver gardening equipment to Mama Micky and Pastor Makili in order to help the community to help themselves.

Together, we are making an impact. One of SAFI's donors recently told us of how she decided to challenge her employer to match her contribution – which they did. These acts of generosity are making an incredible difference in many lives, helping to restore both strength and hope.

Talking SA-ISRAEL ventures with Israeli Trade Officer Amit Lev

By Galya Tregenza Hall

Hagai Golan, Brent Stein, Amit Lev, Chaya Singer, Karen Marsden and Leora Hessen

The newly elected South Africa Zionist Federation Cape Council (SAZF CC) Executive hosted an engaging and uplifting meeting with Amit Lev, the Israeli Embassy's Trade and Investment Officer, on 20 November.

Mr Lev addressed the new SAZF CC Management Committee and community leaders and highlighted the importance of engaging with Jewish leadership about Israeli and South African trade ventures.

During the meeting, Mr Lev elaborated on several key points to do with SA-Israel trade, his recent trade talks with the UAE Ambassador to SA, SA-Israel Chamber of Commerce, the Parmalat deal and the effects of BDS.

He spoke about connecting South African businesses to Israel and expounded on the various opportunities and options in this regard. It was also exciting to hear about different success stories highlighting the positive impact that Israeli businesses have had here in South Africa.

Attendees were able to hear first-hand from Mr Lev about the latest developments and current trends taking place and were also able to open up a discussion about how the SAZF CC and the Jewish community can play a role in facilitating business, innovation and international developmental cooperation.

The event marked a significant strategic direction for the SAZF CC as the new Management seek to prioritise the involvement of the Jewish business community in developing and maximising the trade relationship between South Africa and Israel. Israel is at the forefront of cutting-edge innovation and technology, making a positive global impact, and has much to offer South Africa and Africa as a whole in the area of international development. The SAZF CC is committed to encouraging more local business involvement that will give South Africa access to Israel's ground-breaking technology.

Welcome to the new and dynamic SAZF CC Executive Committee

The South African Zionist Federation (Cape Council) elected its new Executive Committee and a note of welcome and congratulations is extended to the following people:

Executive Director: Chaya Singer
Chairperson: Karen Marsden Sank
Vice Chairs: Leora Hessen and Daniel Levitt
Treasurers: Hagai Golan and Brent Stein
Immediate Past Chair: Esta Levitas
Honorary Life President: Adv. Jonathan Silke

Incoming Executive Director of the SAZF CC, Chaya Singer, said of the new Executive, 'I am excited to work with our dynamic new leadership to create a forward thinking agenda that enhances the relationship between South Africa and Israel and a strategic vision that will add value to our community'.

Diller announces sixth Cape Town cohort

With a record number of applicants, Diller Teen Fellows is proud to announce the members of its sixth Cape Town cohort.

The application and interview process were comprehensive, and we were blown away by the outstanding leadership potential within our community.

Twenty selected fellows will embark on a once-in-a-lifetime journey exploring their Jewish identity, and solidifying their personal value system through participating in social action. Diller Teen Fellows is creating the next generation of committed Jewish leaders, and we are very honoured to have twenty fellows representing the program for 2020/2021.

As we navigate inevitable challenges throughout the year, we look forward to following out the program with this group of dedicated and dynamic teens.

Program Coordinator: Martine Kawalsky

Junior Counsellors: Julia Kaimowitz and Rachel Rod

Cohort 6 fellowship (in alphabetical order): Aaron Schwartz, Adam Selikowitz, Benjamin Vogelman, Darren Greenspan, Doron Zinman, Elle Franck, Ilan Meltz, Jade Rubin, Jared Daitsh, Jonah Schwartz, Katya Golan, Lilla Fleischmann, Michaela Perkel, Olivia Diamond, Rachel Castle, Ruby Kurgan, Sabrina Brivik, Silvie Richards, Yonatan Kuti-Alexander and Zoe Kaplan.

Innovation was the key to connecting in 2020

As the end of the year approaches, so a new year approaches too.

I think we can we can all agree it's been a very unique and interesting year, where we all had to adjust from our regular lives to our lives within the era of COVID-19. However, with change comes new opportunities.

Though 2020 was, as most would agree, a difficult year, Bnei Akiva South Africa found new and innovative ways to ensure education on Judaism and Zionism for the Jewish youth of South Africa. Whether it be a Webinar, Kahoot!, online quizzes, or social distanced events, we managed to stick to our roots and educate the youth.

And though there is no Machaneh happening in 2020, we would like to wish all our chanichim an amazing December/January holiday!

We hope to see you all back at schools and events at the beginning of next year.

Hayden Norrie, CT Chairman

Join Habo for their December day camps

Habonim Dror Southern Africa is gearing up to give our channichim the best time at our day camps that are taking place this month!

While we are sad that we cannot come together at our beautiful site in Onrus, we are making sure that our chaverim have an incredible December. We have been working tirelessly to make sure that our environment will be safe whilst simultaneously giving our channichim an amazing experience.

Once our day camps end, we will be hitting the ground running to kick off 2021 in a memorable way and we'll be ready to get back to our regular programming. Whether it be in person or online, HDSA will make sure there is plenty to keep our chaverim entertained throughout the year.

Shomrim Channichim at Machaneh'19

Finding new ways to engage communities

2020 has been a challenging year for us all.

We at Netzer really learnt a lot about expanding and growing our skills as a movement and we are still finding new ways to bring Progressive Jewish Kef and Chinuch [fun and education] to our Global, National and local Netzer communities.

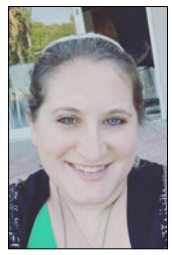
We are so proud of all of our leadership for adapting the way that they did in the time that they had.

Below is a snapshot of some of our highlights from the year.

La'asok Betzorchei Tzibur!
To engaging in the needs of our community!

TEMPLE ISRAEL
CAPE TOWN PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CONGREGATION
בית ישראל
75 years

Consider This



By Rabbi Emma Gottlieb

At the beginning of the pandemic, when we first went into lockdown; when there was still so much we didn't know about the virus; when there was so much fear and anxiety; when we feared our medical systems would be over-run and that bodies would pile up — back in those early days, Rabbis had to ask morbid questions and try to prepare ourselves for what was coming.

Were we heading into a year of far-too-many funerals? Would we even be able to hold funerals? How would funeral-directors and cemetery-staff and rabbis protect themselves?

And then, once we knew we could have funerals, we had to adapt them – which rituals and prayers would be unchanged? Would we want to introduce new rituals? What does a funeral look like on Zoom – and a shiva? I remember webinars where Progressive Rabbis discussed these questions together.

Just before lockdown, we had received guidelines for clergy who qualified for the necessary paperwork to prove we were allowed out of our homes in order to officiate at funerals, and my colleagues and I all had to add a trip to the police station to our lists of pre-lockdown preparations so that we could get our official letters stamped with official stamps.

I was the first one from our team to officiate during lockdown. I drove through very empty streets, through a very quiet city. I counted the cars I passed. There were less than 30 on my drive from Constantia to Pinelands, and on the way I checked my glove compartment at least three times to make sure my documentation was there if I got stopped at a check-point. The funeral was quiet and sad – more sad and more quiet than funerals from 'before'. I apologised that we couldn't stand closer together. That we couldn't hug. That they couldn't see my face. Afterward, I drove straight home. Took a scalding hot shower. Cried.

Now, we're used to it. Our communities have adapted quickly. We have gotten used to having limited numbers at the cemetery, to wearing masks and gloves. We sadly remind one another that we can't hug. We try to figure out who is behind each mask, and to convey with our eyes what we used to have a whole range of facial expressions to convey. Our team at Temple Israel has the Zoom-funeral and shiva down to a fine art — we have one rabbi in the cemetery and one in Zoom. We have someone at the cemetery with a phone, streaming to Zoom. We've adapted. As rabbis and synagogue communities, we have adapted.

This past week my great-uncle Monte passed away at the impressive age of 98. As a mourner, I have not adapted. I am not used to not being able to go home and be with my family. I am not used to watching my grandmother on a screen as she mourns her brother instead of being at her side, holding her hand, as I did at my grandfather's funeral, and at my uncle's. I am not used to not being able to see my father as he gives his beautiful eulogies; Not being able to hug him afterward. I am not used to knowing all my cousins are there, in the inter-web somewhere, watching along with me, but not being able to see their faces, since this service was broadcast one-way and not in zoom, which, for the record, I really don't recommend. It didn't feel like we were together. It felt lonely and disconnected.

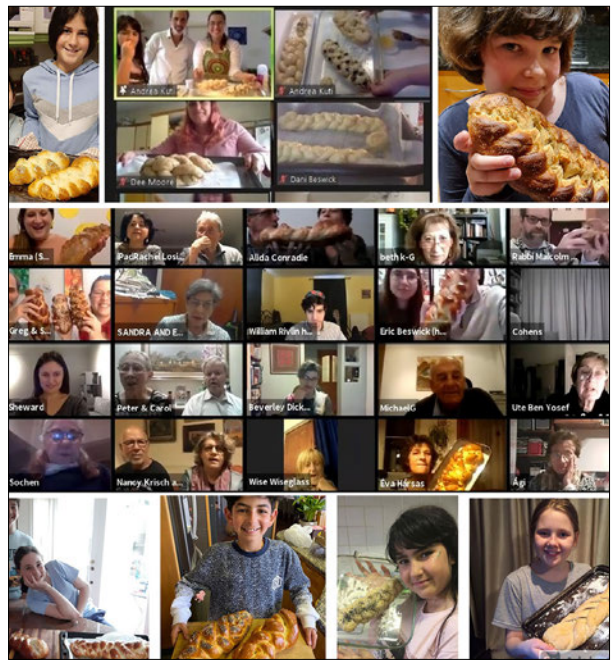
I am grateful that the video and sound quality were excellent. That I could see my grandmother clearly. My mother and I watched together on Facetime and played a game of trying to guess who was who behind the masks. I am grateful that my father was able to give his eulogy over the phone, via a blue-tooth speaker held up to the microphone and that we could all hear him as clearly as if we were standing there, together. I am grateful, but I have not adapted. I do not want to adapt. We should not have to adapt.

As a rabbi, I innovate. As a member of a clergy team, I am proud of how we evolve as we must. As a Jew, I am in awe of how we can bring ancient rituals and modern technologies together to keep our traditions alive. But as a mourner – as a mourner I am sad and I am angry and I am bereft. I don't want us to evolve and adapt. I want to get on a plane and wrap my arms around my loved ones and comfort them and be comforted.

As a rabbi, I don't know how to fix this for those who are mourning loved ones from afar. I only know how to pray that this is temporary.

Sherman Shabbat Challah Bake

This year our giant egalitarian challah bake had to go online.



How do you translate the *ruach* (spirit-energy) that used to fill our shul hall every year into a Zoom bake? Student Rabbi Andrea Kuti stepped up to bring the power of our famous event to the online congregation. Please G-d, next year we will be back in shul.

High Holy Days online — in your words

When we debated how to go online for the High Holy Days, one of the biggest fears was whether people would want to spend hours of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur in front of a screen. Would they come? Would they stay? Would anyone find it meaningful? The answer was yes to all — they came, they stayed and we all were astounded by how powerful the services turned out to be.

Here is a taste of some of the feedback we got from you:

"Thank you for the amazing services — they were inspiring, caring and keeping a community together during this time." (JA, Constantia)

"Something good has come from the disastrous Covid Pandemic" (ES, Observatory)

"Thank you so much — although we weren't 'in' the shul, we certainly felt part of the community." (RS, Wynberg)

One of the blessings of Zoom and Facebook was how families who usually could not come to shul together could:

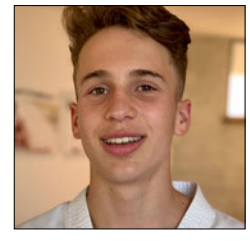
"Even though we were all physically separated, the Ruach was definitely present throughout. Thank you so much again from my Mom and I. Truly special... I'm so proud of being a Jew and being part of Temple Israel." (KJ, Noordhoek)

For more quotes, visit the Chronicle website and read our full article online.

Mazaltov to those who celebrated Bnei Mitzvah with us

Lupemba Fisher
14 November

Ryan Barenblatt
28 November



Benjamin Lazarus
5 December

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2020? Phew! What a year!

We can all agree that this has been a year of unprecedented global suffering and increased poverty — that continues to jeopardize the lives and livelihoods of so many across South Africa.

And yet with all this despair, Mensch has seen the unbelievable tenacity and acts of generosity that our community has afforded to those who have been hardest hit. We applaud and thank you all!

Our COVID-19 response

What we did in the first 90 days

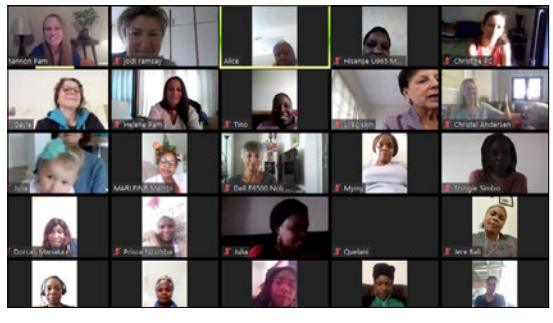
This was a time of immense insecurity; we were in lockdown — the future, unknown. To help our members gain an element of stability, we ran workshops focusing on resilience, well-being, health, and personal and professional goalsetting.

In line with our vision of supporting our Jewish community drive transformation, we hosted thought leadership webinars to explore solutions for relief and recovery; and created the 'Mensch Circle of Support' WhatsApp Group for members to reach out to one another sharing advice, needs and gives. Through a series of social media and emailer campaigns we brought awareness to the work of Jewish led NGOs responding to COVID-19.

International Connections

We hosted trainings with our international network of change-makers to share, with our local members, their expert knowledge in adaptive leadership, communications and storytelling.

Mensch was invited to join OLAM's annual Focal Point gathering, an exclusive conference for Jews engaged in global service, development, and relief work — to network, exchange ideas and best practices. We joined an esteemed line up of practitioners, Jewish communal leaders, rabbis, and CEOs from IsraAID, CARE USA, World Jewish Relief UK, American Jewish World Service (AJWS), amongst others.



Our Work Now

Out of the chaos of the first few months, reflecting on our learnings, we formalised our efforts into the Mensch powered SA Jewish Response to COVID-19 and Beyond Campaign — a platform aimed at raising awareness, educating our community and raising much needed money for relief efforts. The campaign aims to guide the Jewish community response to areas of most need, based on the knowledge of our Network Member's grassroots work. Initially these areas have been: Food Relief, Health and Shelter.

We have initiated two fun, interactive online fundraisers in support of food relief and health:

The first, in July, our International Mandela Day Cook-Along raised R140,000 from Jewish South Africans both local and abroad — with proceeds supporting the food relief efforts of H18 Foundation (refugees), Souper Troopers (the homeless), UJW (children) and Envirochild (the elderly and disabled). And in November, the Mind, Body and Soul HEALTH Webinar raising R40 000 for Masks for Medics (PPE) and The Counselling Hub (mental health).

In the area of Shelter, we ran online appeals and made direct requests to donors for support to help communities living informally impacted by the elements at this difficult time during Covid. R138,000 has been raised enabling the re-building of 23 homes destroyed by fire in Atlantis and Gugulethu and an ECD center in Philippi severely damaged in a spring storm. These funds were donated to Mensch's technical partner on our joint initiative Project Bayit — Ikhayalami — who did the building.

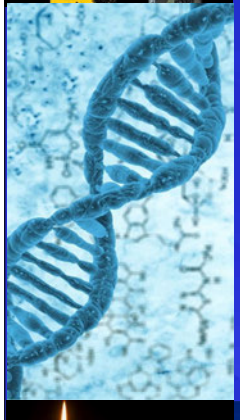
Mensch has worked with several other Mensch Network member's and their organisations, raising collectively over R180,000, plus several in-kind donations for:

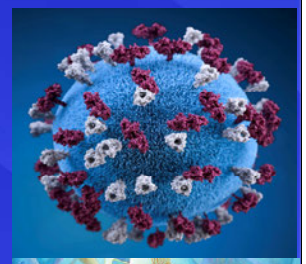
Anna Shevel's The Good Food Network and the #OneLoveSA campaign, Dr Andrea Mendelsohn's employer The Retreat Community Clinic, Olivia Krok's initiatives CoronaCare and LivCurious, Jason Woolf's SidebySide Township Development, the Scalabrini Centre for Refugees and more.

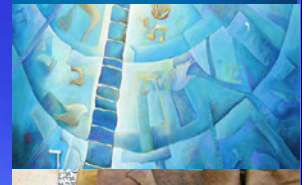
As we move Beyond 2020 and continue to work with Jewish led NGOs in 2021 — we invite you to join this important journey with us.

MELTON 2020 VISION

At the outbreak of Covid 19, Melton went online.
We thank you all for your continued support and wish you all well.
Our bumper year of local & international Melton & Midrasha courses included:
Two 30 week **Melton Core** courses: Jewish Life Cycle & Philosophy (Yr 1); Jewish Ethics & History (Yr 2)
Graduate courses: Holocaust Reflected through Diaries and Memoirs; Star and the Crescent; Jewish Mysticism; Jewish Medical Ethics; Cairo Genizah; Bereshit 1; Yesod 2.0 (Jewish Leadership); Teens Ethics
Midrasha home-grown courses: History of Text; Jews on Film; Oasis courses through the year; 3 public events for a wide audience.





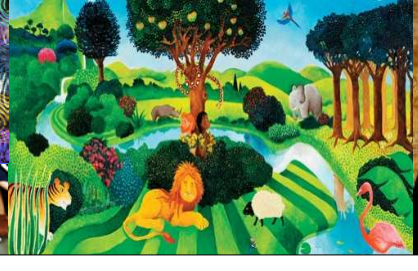


REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR 2021 COURSES:

Feast on Jewish thought the Melton way. Courses will include versions of Year 1&2 Core; Social Justice; Beyond Borders (The Arab-Israeli Conflict); SA Jewish History, and much more!

For more info: Lauren Snitcher lsnitcher@iafrica.com 0828802257
Viv Anstey, Director vivanst@iafrica.com 0828095414

www.meltoncapetown.org



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#HERZLIA80

Celebrating our Matric Class of 2020

The High School Valedictory took place via zoom on Thursday night 25 October. Like everything this year, our milestone events have had to be virtual. Marc Falconer delivered his principal's address, Sarah Stein, our Head Student spoke and Matthew Gruzd, our chairman, said a few words as did Executive Director Andries van Renssen. Below is an edited excerpt from Marc Falconer's address:

Finally then, you will never forget your matric year. It will not fade and its memory will not pale. And you will never forget that you rose to this occasion. That, wounded as some of us have been, you have made it to the final hurdle. And you will be successful. You will prevail. This is no small thing because it is not the case that everyone is in the same situation and that all others have managed.

You, the 2020 group, have been somewhat ironically blindsided by the universe. But you have learned some valuable things – other than ghosting behind Google Meet icons and how to manufacture a faulty connection when it all just got too much.

You have learned that you can. You have learned that your world can change in a heartbeat, that change is certain, unpredictable and often sudden. You have learned that you have the strength to meet that challenge. Adversity can be used to your advantage.

You have learned that fellowship and a sense of community, of common purpose, are not concepts on a strategic plan somewhere but are essential for survival. I would argue that these are definitions of your experience at Herzlia. Hold on to that because it is precious and rare: your community, your comrades and your formative forging.

I wish you all joy in your lives, a deep and profound joy. This is not something that happens to you – it is not a product of accolades and applause. Joy is also found in anonymity and stillness. It is a journey and it is creating your own narrative. It is finding the sweet spring inside yourselves – even in the aridity of the desert – and it is paying attention to and treasuring poetic moments.

Usually I give some kind of farewell 'blessing' at the end of Valedictory. This is obviously not happening this year. Usually you walk out of the hall – you take off your shoes to donate to those who have little and less than you in your privileged state. This tradition is for you to remember that privilege is not a right. That you have an obligation, from this school and in this world to make things better. You are strong beyond what you imagine: Here are my final words;

May your life become a garden of opportunities for joy. Use your tears (and there will be some) to water tolerance, use your losses to train patience, use your mistakes to sculpt serenity and your pain to splint strength. Use obstacles to open windows of intelligence. And never give up...never give up on people who love you and never give up on joy because life is an extraordinary opportunity. Shalom and B'hatzlacha.

Excerpt from UHS Chair, Matt Gruzd's, speech:

Herzlia's Board of Governors and I are immensely proud of you all and wish you all a huge mazaltov on reaching this milestone in your lives. Its been a cruel year to you all too, and this needs to be acknowledged as it has forced very real sacrifice on us all, but especially you. The good news is, that you've all made it and are almost certainly stronger for it.

I'm a keen runner, sometimes I even get to run marathons. One of the biggest events in world running was Kenyan Eluid Kipchoge's breaking of the 2 hour marathon in 2019. This was a barrier that many thought was unbreakable, despite a few runners having come agonizingly close. Just over a year ago, on a cool and misty day in Vienna, this barrier was shattered – in 1:59:40, 20 with seconds to spare.

Although Kipchoge is credited with this amazing result, it was a team effort. His pacemakers, wearing black jerseys and stern expressions, formed a protective, aerodynamic pocket around him, five of them running in front in an open-V formation and two more at the back. They knew exactly where to run thanks to a pattern of thick, green laser beams projected onto the street by a timing car. A team member on a bicycle periodically pedalled into the pack to deliver Kipchoge a carbohydrate-heavy cocktail of gels and fluids. At predetermined times, the seven pacemakers would make way for another group of seven to slide in and take over – Kipchoge was the constant. You will appreciate that Kipchoge's 2019 success was years in the making. There are several parallels with this amazing feat and you all listening tonight. Your school careers, culminating in matric are a team effort, many years in the making. Herzlia's teaching staff and your parents have obsessed over every detail. Its now your time, each and every one of you to go out there and break your barriers, no matter how seemingly difficult they may seem. Your blazer breasts carry Theodore Hertzl's immortalised words *"Im tirtzu, ein zo agadah", If you will it, it is no dream.*

When you matriculate, you won't leave Herzlia behind you, it will always be a part of you and you a part of Herzlia. It was here that you learned the songs that Jewish people all around the world have been singing at seders for thousands of years, it was here you learned prayer, it was here you heard the shofar being blasted as it has since biblical times. Remember Herzlia when you sing along at a seder, remember Herzlia when you daven in shul anywhere in the world, remember Herzlia when you say Kiddush and light the candles on Shabbat night and remember Herzlia when you find success. Go out and be proud of your school, your heritage, your values, your religion and your beliefs. Mazeltov to you all and to your families. Go out there and break barriers!

Rossouw van Zyl Memorial Award Winners: Eva Maraney, Sarah Stein, Gia Hasson and Samantha Levetan.

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Excerpt from Head Student, Sarah Stein's, speech:

So this is it, then. The end of 12 years of school! My job right now, I guess, is to try to put into words what many of us are thinking and feeling at this major milestone.

I will start in classic Mr Falconer style, with an excerpt from a piece of literature that sums up my *untesta shora. "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."* A tale of two cities. Very cringy, yes. But also very appropriate. Growing up at Herzlia could be difficult. At times, it could have brought feelings of sadness and perhaps even resentment. But growing up at Herzlia was superb. Growing up at Herzlia was joy, it was passion, it was a real education. It was here that we made our friends – friends for now and friends for life. It was here that we were challenged – intellectually, athletically, and ideologically. It was here that we achieved. It was here that we found expression. It was right here.

When you look back at your Herzlia experience what comes to mind? Many of us look back fondly, some of us - not so much. And I think the same goes for this Covid-19 year. Some of us may look back on this year and remember the days spent laughing with friends and family. But for many this year has been the same day over and over, with the best that school has to offer, missed.

In short, today, and this time is bittersweet. The great 12-year trek has finally come to an end, meaning that we are free while simultaneously we have to say our goodbyes to what's familiar and comfortable. Some are focused on the sadness of leaving, while others, like me, are focused on the excitement of moving on and getting out of here! (no offence meant...) I would like to propose that both perspectives are perfectly appropriate and understandable. Today is a mark of how far we have travelled, as well as a new road of possibility.

One remarkable thing about being a Herzlian is that, like being a Jew, you can't escape it. I plan to package up my Herzlia experience and store it somewhere safe, and at the same time take its lessons with me as I move forward into my next journey. This is consistent with the Jewish approach to remembering the past; we use these memories to instruct us, to remind us of where we come from, and what we need to do next.

With that in mind, on behalf of Grade 12, I would like to say a tremendous thank you to the teachers who led us here. You have given us so much, you have empowered us and moulded us.

To my fellow matrics – firstly, well done to us all! Who knew we would make it this far!? As I said at the beginning of the year, if you can make it through Herzlia, you can make it through anything. I think we all deserve a phat jol! Secondly, I would like to say thank you for your friendships that we have all formed over the past 12 years. The class of 2020 is intertwined with comradery and love and strength. Finally, I would like to wish you all good luck. Whatever path you take, I hope it brings you joy and success. I sincerely hope we stay in touch as we go forwards. See you soon!

Mazaltov to our Premier Award Winners

THE ACHVAH AWARD for best exemplifying the Menschlichkeit for which Herzlia stands, by showing exceptional generosity of spirit and awareness of human connections while at the High School.

LORI GOLD
SARAH KATZ
EMMA KIBEL

THE PRINCIPALS AWARD for outstanding commitment and service to Herzlia High School.

SASHA RODENACKER

THE UNION OF ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUES CAPE COUNCIL AWARD for significant contribution to the Judaic life of Herzlia High School over the past three years.

SARAH KATZ

THE ROSSOUW VAN ZYL MEMORIAL AWARD in recognition of having attained an average of 90% or more in the preliminary exams of 2020.

RUBY EPSTEIN
GIA HASSON
DANIEL JACOBSON
SARAH KATZ
SAMANTHA LEVETAN
ARIEL LEVY
EVA MARANEY
CHAD PRIBUT
SASHA RODENACKER
DANIEL RUBIN
SARAH STEIN
ASHLEIGH WINGERIN

THE LATE MICHAEL COHEN AWARD for dedication to helping others; for a passionate commitment to addressing social injustices; for displaying significant skills in many fields and for moral excellence.

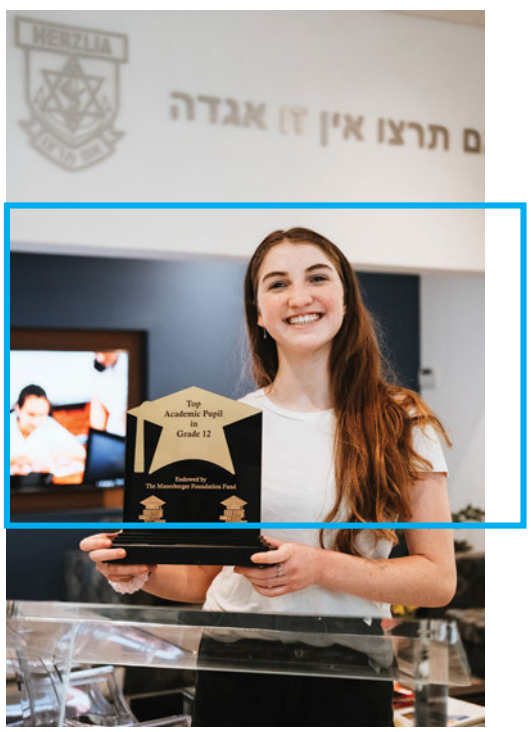
SASHA RODENACKER

TOP ACADEMIC PUPIL FOR GRADE 12

SARAH KATZ
SARAH STEIN

ZALMAN AVIN MEMORIAL AWARD for Best All-rounder in Grade 12.

SARAH KATZ
JETHRO KLITZNER



TOP ACADEMIC PUPIL – Sarah Stein.

THE ACHVAH AWARD – Emma Kibel.

ZALMAN AVIN AWARD – Jethro Klitzner.

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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

2020: The year of developing resilience

Resilience is the 'rubber ball' factor: the ability to bounce back in the event of adversity.

It's the ability to cope with and rise to the inevitable challenges, problems and set-backs and come out stronger than before.

Resilience relies on different skills and draws on various sources of help, including rational thinking skills, physical and mental health, and your relationships with those around you. It is not necessarily about overcoming huge challenges; each of us faces plenty of challenges on a daily basis for which we must draw on our reserves of resilience. Nor does it eliminate stress or erase life's difficulties.

People who possess this resilience don't see life through rose-coloured lenses. They understand that setbacks happen and that sometimes life is hard and painful. They still experience the emotional pain, grief, and sense of loss that comes after a tragedy, but their mental outlook allows them to work through such feelings and recover. Resilience gives people the strength to tackle problems head-on, overcome adversity, and move on with their lives.

During the past seven months we have had to cope with isolation, lockdown and a variety of personal disappointments caused by the restrictions placed on the community by COVID-19.

The organisations under the Jewish Care Cape umbrella all work closely together to ensure that everyone in our Cape Town community has access to assistance and advice when and whenever needed. During the past seven months this has been even more evident and by working together we have shown that we are a cohesive community.

There are four basic ingredients for resilience:

- Reaching out — how we call upon others to help us meet the challenges that we face? Because resilience is also about knowing when to ask for help
- Self-awareness — noticing what is going on around you and inside your head
- Mindfulness — being able to interpret the events that are going on in a rational way
- Self-care — our mental and physical ability to cope with the challenges without becoming ill

CJSA Southern Suburbs and Bo-Kaap Ladies knitting for our outreach programme in February

No man is an island, entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent, as part of the main.

John Donne (English poet).

Being resilient through adversity

Every individual handles adversity in different ways and different approaches and strategies have been learned and shaped by the culture, society and family systems we grew up in and are a part of.

Some common skills and attitudes emerge across the board:

- Being connected to others. Relationships, both in and outside of the family that offer love, encouragement and assurance can build and support and care are one of the primary factors in resilience.
- Being flexible in your thinking and actions — try something new, showing emotional adjustment and maturity.
- Making realistic plans and take actions to carry them out. Part of this skill is being able to see what is, rather than what you would like. Being proactive is a component of this skill — take a courses such as CPR or First aid.
- Being able to communicate well with others. Taking care to be or become a good communicator, listen and problem solving skills while working as a team member within the community.
- Being able to manage strong feelings — clear thinking and action is needed without being impulsive. If you are angry or hurt, think before action takes place. Imagine the worst and let your imagination run riot. What could have gone wrong and what might have happened. Then think about the best possible outcomes and good it can get. Finally, think about the most likely outcomes — probably somewhere between the two and make a plan how you would respond to that.
- Being self-confident and having a positive self-image is critical if a person is able to confront and manage fear and anxiety in his or her life, such as by helping someone else.
- Finding purpose and meaning by making sense out of what is happening . Spiritual and religious practices are often a component of this factor, including acting on one's values.
- Being able to see the big picture. Optimists in general are better able to see the bigger picture than pessimists, both good and bad events occurring in their life being temporary rather than permanent.
- Being able to appreciate and use humour appropriately.
- Being able to take care of yourself — diet, exercise and also being able to take care of others physically and emotionally can also build resilience.

We are all capable of being resilient and 2020 is a year that has tried each one of us to the fullest with many of us surprising not only ourselves, but those around us with the ways in which we have coped. Hopefully this document will assist those of you having difficulty to adjust and make the most of every day.

Special mention of our knitting ladies who have continued to produce wonderful beanies and knitted articles throughout lockdown which have been donated to the less fortunate during the cold winter months. Thank you ladies. Anyone is welcome to join this group of committed knitters.

CJSA will be holding a special AGM via Zoom on 3 December. All interested parties are invited to attend. Please contact our office on admin@cjsa.org.za for details of logging onto the Zoom link.

Diana Sochen.

Social and Personal

Births
Judy Dadon — grandson
Ruth Katzeff — great granddaughter
Barbara Kahn — grandson

Barmitzvah/ Batmitzvah
Harry and Simone Friedland — granddaughter
Prof Cyril and Jenny Karabus — grandson
Gavin and Sarah Morris — son
Mervyn and Arona Shrand — grandson

Special Birthdays and Anniversary
Maureen Helman — 80th Birthday
Collette and Barry Levin — Golden Wedding Anniversary

Engagement
Dennis and Nesta Shorkend — granddaughter

Deaths
Our condolences to those members who have lost loved ones during the past month

Judy Galansky — mother, Dorothy Sam Goronovsky — sister, Janey Casper
Zelda Harris — mother
Joyce and Lionel Hessen — daughter
Bess Lonstein — sister, Janey Casper
Hillary Murcia — mother
Lilian Sheldon — partner, Dodi Davis

Our condolences to family members of CJSA members who have passed away during the last month

Janey Casper, Dodi Davis, Lisa Lerer, and Erica O'Riordan

TIKVAH FOOD BANK.

SUPPORTED BY **JCS** CAPE TOWN

Be the Light
Eight Day Challenge

Across the eight nights of Chanukah, families will celebrate this special time by enjoying dozens of sufganiyot, sharing gifts and lighting the Chanukiah. Help us spread the light this year by signing up for **IGNITE - our Eight Day Challenge.** Take on a challenge for each one of the nights of Chanukah and help those less fortunate in our community.

1. BE THE SHAMASH
IGNITE our Chanukah Challenge - sign up for your monthly contribution and bring light to those in need.

2. PROVIDE THE LIGHT
JOIN our community WhatsApp group and stay in touch with the needs of our community.

3. SHARE THE LIGHT
DONATE towards providing a Shabbat meal to families who are in need.

4. BRING THE LIGHT
PROVIDE a snack pack to the aged who have no family in Cape Town.

5. SHINE THE LIGHT
FOCUS on sharing the traditions of Chanukah and fulfillling mitzvot of chesed and tzedakah by sharing latkes and doughnuts.

6. CREATE THE LIGHT
VOLUNTEER to assist The Tikvah Foodbank with the distribution of food hampers to our recipients in your area.

7. PASS THE LIGHT
EXPERIENCE the reality of our community and book a vist to The Tikvah Foodbank. Call us on **021 462 5520** or email **lauren@jcs.org.za**

8. KEEP THE LIGHT BURNING
COMMIT to being involved in your community and sign up to receive JCS communication.

Find Out More
To find out more, click any of the challenges above, email **info@jcs.org.za** or call **021 462 5520.**

DID YOU KNOW?

Our numbers have increased by **75%** since the beginning of COVID-19.

We rely on **38** volunteers to distribute our food hampers.

We deliver **630** food hampers every month.

3708 food hampers have been distributed to members of the Cape Town Jewish Community since COVID-19 hit in March 2020.

Sign up to our IGNITE Eight Day Challenge
https://forms.gle/FjfJNaExGoxt7CEC8

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Israeli single malt now in South Africa

M&H (Milk & Honey) Distillery is Israel's first whisky distillery producing one-of-a-kind whisky and spirits within the unique climate and atmosphere of Tel Aviv.

Launched globally earlier this year, M&H's Classic Single Malt Whisky is the world's first commercial Israeli single malt whisky and has already received accolades from the industry winning Gold medals at The International Spirits Challenge 2020 and Frankfurt International Trophy 2020.

M&H was started by a group of Israel's tech-savvy, innovative thinkers who embarked into a new realm of world-class whisky dilation. Since its establishment in 2012, M&H Distillery has entered the circle of distilleries experimenting with whisky production in hot climates.

M&H Distillery was developed under the mentorship of late whisky legend Dr Jim Swan to ensure top quality and cutting-edge innovation. Working within Scottish whisky guidelines, M&H Distillery has been as experimental as one can, pushing the boundaries within a once traditional industry.

The label continues to innovate by testing new flavours and properties. One such experiment has brought M&H Distillery to produce special spirits in different climate zones across Israel, including the Dead Sea and Negev Desert.

M&H's Classic Single Malt Whisky is 100% kosher and has been matured in the finest ex-bourbon and special red-wine STR casks, giving it a light and balanced character with notes of vanilla and light oak, alongside subtle notes of black pepper.

The Classic Edition of M&H Distillery can be purchased in South Africa here.

ORT SA CAPE EDUCATION

Changing lives through education
www.ortsacape.org.za

2020 in review

788
ECD teachers trained via blended online and onsite learning

25,375
children impacted

460
teachers attended 4 online webinars

180
youth placed on ECD internships

577
Lego Playboxes &
7,740
sets of Lego Six Bricks distributed to schools, ECD centres & parents

190
learners attended Robotic workshops

35,000
meals provided to
140
families every week

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 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.

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.

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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From page 1

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

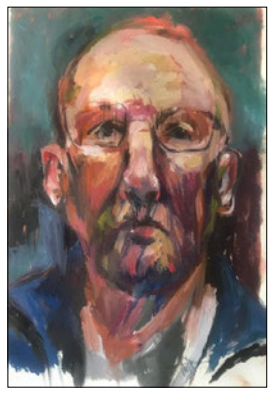
By Jaime Uranovsky

For some, the experience of dropping off pieces was one of the most meaningful parts of exhibiting.

Janet Kriseman, who chose to drop off her painting *Christine* at the Zeitz itself, explained that the process took around two and a half hours with the line of contributors winding right around the museum. Each artwork was inspected and insured in front of the entrant with a lot of care. Janet described how the contributor in front of her began crying upon being told by a Zeitz attendant that her piece (which included detachable elements) may not have been able to be assembled in the way the artist had intended. However, after seeing the woman's distress, the attendant sprang into action and fetched a curator who assured the artist, after listening, that her piece would be presented as she had envisioned. Janet explains, "To me it showed, firstly, how incredibly precious and important these pieces were to the people who were bringing them and how important it was that they be displayed properly. It makes you think about what everybody's got at home in their hearts that they care so much about; and secondly, the level of care that the Zeitz has brought to this thing. The way they went the extra mile to find a way to accommodate what this woman wanted and needed".

What follows is just a taste, in the form of comments from some of the many Jewish contributors, of what awaits viewers at the exhibition:

Patsy Groll: *Neill* (2020) "I submitted my painting of my friend Neill Snape. He and his wife, Jos, have been friends of mine since long before I met my husband, Allan. We met in about 1977 and have been friends ever since. Their children have been good friends with our children and they are my son's godparents and chose his Hebrew name. Neil is a wonderful, exuberant character and I'm hoping my painting shows that I didn't plan to submit this when I painted it. I just painted it and then decided to submit it. It is oil on paper, which has a sense of freedom without the boundaries of canvas for me".

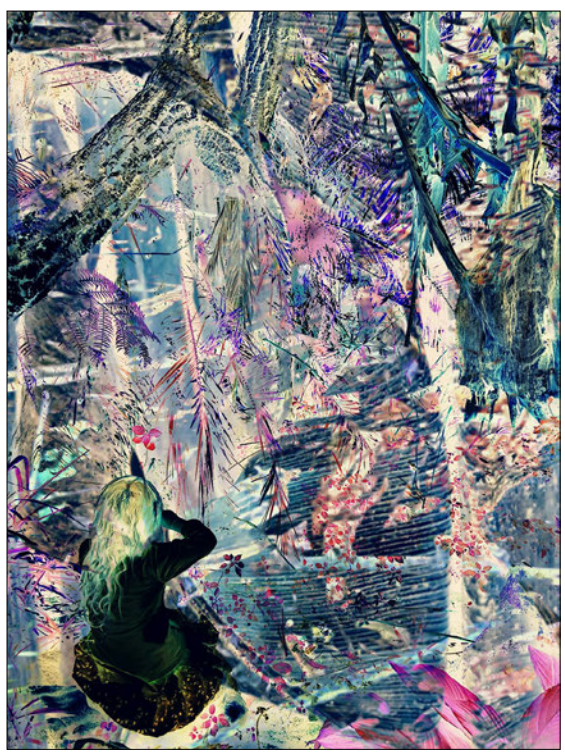


Neill, ***Patsy Groll (2020)***

Janet Kriseman: *Christine* (1964) "I painted Christine when I was four years old in nursery school. It was of my then nanny.... You can see from the outfit it's fully '60s with the afro, the bell-bottoms, the vest and the colours. Christine actually stayed with our family for the next 30-plus years and she was a very important person to me. I had an aunt, Hilda Kriseman, who lived in London. She came to visit South Africa, and she loved the painting and asked to have it and she took it back with her to England. She died about five or six years ago and it came back here. So we've had this child's painting for 56 years in the family".

Deborah Lazarus: *By The Waterfall* (2017); *From The Forest* (2017); *Changeling* (2017). "My daughter, Mila Jade Lazarus, eight years, submitted *By The Waterfall* to the exhibition as it is one of her favourite artworks created by me. This artwork usually hangs in our dining room – so we spent much of lockdown looking at it! *By The Waterfall* is inspired by time spent with my daughter in the forests and gardens of Cape Town. The image draws on magical and peaceful times we have spent with family and friends exploring Newlands Forest and surrounds. It is wonderful to be a part of this incredible inclusive exhibition being hosted by Zeitz MOCAA".

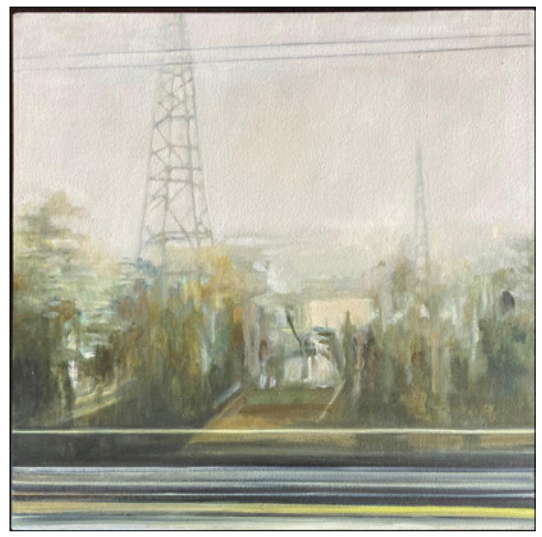
Christine, ***Janet Kriseman (1964)***



By The Waterfall, ***Deborah Lazarus (2017)***

Shirley Musikanth-Zacks on behalf of herself, **Bernice Musikanth**, **Kyle Zacks**, **Gareth Zacks**, **Maxine Zacks** and **Dylan Zacks**: *Connect* (2018); *Proteas in Pastels* (2020); *Hermanus Tree* (2015); *Blue Bay* (2019); *Sunrise* (2020); *Dreams* (2015). "Art is, in our family, a passion and appreciation which started with my late Grandmother, Ida Atlas… and continued through my mother, Bernice Musikanth… From an early age, I always loved being creative and immersed in the world of Art and studied at Michaelis. I decided to submit a wall-hanging ceramic piece, consisting of three discs with contemporary and vintage 2-D and 3-D sculptured elements, reflecting and commenting on our connection and communication with one another and how it is changing. The works I submitted on behalf of my children are all different, from photographic (Kyle Zacks) to a water colour boat (Gareth Zacks), to a sunset acrylic (Maxine Zacks) and oil pastels (Dylan Zacks). My mom, Bernice Musikanth, submitted a recent oil painting on canvas, titled *Proteas in Pastels*".

Connect, *Shirley Musikanth-Zacks*



View from a train, *Desrae Saacks (2017)*

Desrae Saacks: *View from a train* (2017) is from a series of paintings I made, inspired by train travel. I chose this painting for its simplicity and containment, and the way that the paint expresses the mood and atmosphere of the moment, and the gesture of the brush. It is oil on canvas".

Sheryl Schkolne: *Cape Floral Kingdom* (2014) "I'm a graduate of Michaelis, and I majored in painting but I've been doing ceramics for probably over 20 years. The two ceramic vessels that are included in the exhibition are part of a group of 11 that I did on the theme of South African flowers, fynbos and indigenous flowers, together with quotes that talked to me, that I worked on for quite a long time".

The exhibition opened on 22 October and runs until 10 January 2021, on Thursday to Sundays. Tickets can be purchased online, and are valid for multiple entries for the duration of the exhibition.

The art has been categorised as follows:

- 'Homemade Gems': For those who view their art as a hobby;
- 'Young Artist in Residence': Art created by children;
- 'Professional Practise' Reserved for full-time artists for whom art is a career;
- 'With Love from Gogo': Art received as a present from friends, family and loved ones;
- 'Local Loves': For artists from around the African continent.

Cape Floral Kingdom, *Sheryl Schkolne (2014)*

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Cape Town Torah High is thinking out the box about 2021

By Mrs. Daniella Conibear, General Studies Principal

Thank you to everyone who played a part in the Cape Town Torah High annual Charidy fundraiser this year. Despite the immense challenges that this year has posed, with the support of the local and international community, we surpassed our goal.

Thank you for joining us in thinking out the box about the future for Cape Town Torah High! Your generosity will help us continue to find new heights of what is possible for Jewish high school students and for the Cape Town Jewish Community.

We could never have done it without you.

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What a waste!

Volunteering at Leket Israel Logistics Center. Photo credit Leket Israel Archive

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Leket have released the Fifth Annual Food Waste and Rescue Report for Israel.

The report, which was written and edited by BDO, presents a detailed model estimating the environmental impact and the environmental costs of food waste, as well as the effect on the Israeli economy. It also shows how Israel compares to other countries around the world on this issue.

"Food waste has cost Israel's economy NIS 20.3 billion (ZAR 93 billion) in 2019, on top of an environmental cost of NIS 3.2 billion (ZAR 14.7 billion). This money could have financed one-fifth of the State's COVID-19 aid budget. The financial and environmental costs of food loss along the entire value chain end up being paid directly out of the pockets of Israeli consumers and taxpayers, and negatively affect the cost of living. Specifically, this year, considering the COVID-19 pandemic, it is of paramount importance to formulate a national plan for food rescue" explains Chen Herzog, Chief Economist, BDO.

Food waste is responsible for 6% of greenhouse gas emissions in Israel, which is equivalent to GHG emissions from 1.6 million cars per year – about half the number of cars in Israel. Minimising the extent of food waste in Israel will significantly help the national effort to meet the greenhouse gas emissions reduction target to which the Israeli government committed in the Paris Agreement, signed at the UN Climate Change Conference in December 2015.

Food waste accounts for about one-third of all household waste in Israel. The total direct external economic cost for treating garbage originating from food waste in Israel in 2019 was approximately NIS 1.2 billion (ZAR 5.5 billion).

Findings from the report reveal that an average Israeli family throws away NIS 3,300 (ZAR 15 000) worth of food per year, equivalent to a month and a half of household food expenditures. Food waste at the consumption stage is responsible for about 55% of the total environmental costs of food waste.

The effects of food waste at all stages of the value chain increases food prices by 11%, and the loss of food impairs productivity in the economy due to production and labour loss.

According to BDO estimates, COVID-19 will cause an additional 145 000 people to become food insecure. The crisis will also exacerbate food insecurity for the 1.87 million people who were already suffering before the pandemic. This emphasises the urgency of food rescue, which can help minimise the economic damage from the crisis and decrease the environmental costs imposed on the Israeli economy as a consequence of food produced, but not consumed.

About Leket Israel: Serving as Israel's largest food rescue organisation, in 2019, Leket Israel rescued 2.2 million cooked meals from IDF army bases, hotels catering companies, and restaurants and 15.7 thousand tons of agricultural produce worth NIS 209 million (US $61 million). All this rescued food was redistributed to 175 000+ needy people weekly through Leket Israel's network of 200 non-profit agency partners throughout Israel. For more information, please visit: www.leket.org/en.

For a local perspective, in South Africa, 10 million tonnes of food goes to waste every year. That's a third of the 31 million tonnes produced annually in South Africa. The wasted embedded water would fill over 600 000 Olympic swimming pools — a massive waste for SA, the 30th driest country on the planet. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has valued this loss at R61.5 billion.

Training to resume early 2021

It has been a challenging year for all and as an organisation we have had to adapt with the times and make big decisions.

Maccabi were inactive from March until September, with numerous trials being postponed due to the pandemic. The majority of our sports are still on hold, however we have resumed non contact training with the U16 Futsal team. This has taken place every Sunday at the urban park and has been a great learning experience for myself and our coaches, having to adjust to the COVID-19 protocols.

We aim to resume normal training from the beginning of 2021 across all our sports and step up our preparations for the Maccabi Games in 2022.

We will overcome this virus and as an organization we will continue to put our players health first. We look forward to what 2021 holds and we wish everyone well over the new year.

Saul Jackson
WP Maccabi Sports Director

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Creating responsive and responsible leaders for the future

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (Z"L) has left us a profound treasure of Torah scholarship and a rich legacy of insights on Jewish leadership. His 7 leadership principles below reflect the vision of EOLI for a leadership pipeline, framed by his quote:

"Leaders see the destination, begin the journey, and leave behind them those who will continue it. That is enough to endow a life with immortality."

Principle 1: Leadership begins with taking responsibility: @EOLI we value leaders who step up with self-activation and perseverance.

Principle 2: No one can lead alone: @EOLI leaders work in teams, unlocking talent of lay and professionals as partners.

Principle 3: Leadership is about the future: @EOLI we invest in leaders for continuity of community.

Principle 4: Leaders learn: @EOLI expert faculty curate immersive learning, framed by context, current theory and practice.

Principle 5: Leadership means believing in the people you lead: @ EOLI leadership is about deep compassion, respect and hope.

Principle 6: Leadership involves a sense of timing and pace: @EOLI the journey of leaders starts now and evolves and adapts.

Principle 7: Leadership is stressful and emotionally demanding: @EOLI we understand complexity of community and organisations, so we reach out to build resilience, containment and collaborations.

Viv Anstey, EOLI Director

EOLI plays a pivotal role in empowering and upskilling lay and professional community leaders.
We invite you to join us in 2021 to embark on and/or strengthen your communal leadership path.
OPT IN: Please connect with us to include you on our database:
info@osrinleadership.org

As Project Manager and part of the EOLI team, I have an insider's understanding of the intense planning and attention to detail that goes into customising and crafting the leadership development programme. As a participant of the programme, I am now privleged to also have an outsider's perspective of the significant value of each module and what each faculty member brings in building the layers of our Cohort's emerging leadership journey.

Each module arms us with a theoretical framework as well as practical application. We are immersed in both a personal and communal think tank in which we are supported and encouraged to question, research, think out of the box and take action. Moving online as a result of Covid, has had its drawbacks in terms of our bonding as a Cohort but, it has also presented us with an opportunity to embrace change in practice and to continue to step up to the plate in our commitment to community succession.

Over the past year, our Cohort has become acutely aware of the magnitude of the needs within our community as well as the immeasurable work that is being done daily to meet these needs and to envision and plan for the future in order to thrive and evolve in a continuously changing world. The programme is just the beginning of our involvement in the community. We all have a role to play and immense value to add in building and shaping our community for our children and all future generations of Cape Town Jewry.

Melissa Zolty,
EOLI Project Manager & 2020 LDP Cohort Member

Israel Embassy provides a safe center for women and children

The Embassy of Israel in South Africa is sharing joint cooperation with Fight Back SA, a non-profit organisation focused on the empowerment of young women and children by providing free self-defense classes to individuals living in high risk and crime-ridden areas.

In honor of International Day of Eliminating Violence against Women, and the start of the United Nations 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in November, The Embassy donated towards the establishment of a Safe Center for Women and Children in Lavender Hill with Fight Back SA, which provided a secure and permanent space for Fight Back SA self-defense classes. Ambassador Lior Keinan said, "The Embassy is committed to continue and empower women across SA, first for their own safety, and to increase their participation at all decision-making levels, national and international alike. We are happy our donation will create a positive impact in the lives of so many women and children in South Africa."

The Embassy's donation allowed the existence of over 25 workshops, providing thousands of women across the Western Cape (UCT, Lavender Hill, Cape Flats, Drakenstein District, Blue Downs, Smitsville, Blackheath, Bishop Lavis, and more) with vital tools to defend themselves, disarm and immobilise an attacker. The type of training provided is based on the principles of the Israeli combat self-defense style of KravMaga.

Founding Director of Fight Back SA, Nicole Mirkin said, "Over the last two months, Fight Back SA has been able to reach more women than ever before, due to the help and funding we have received from the Embassy of Israel in South Africa. The Embassy's generous donation towards the safe center will ensure the best care of victims of GBV, and will serve as a safe space in which Fight Back SA can operate, to deliver permanent free self-defense classes to women living in the Cape Flats."

This project is a continuation of various women empowerment projects provided by the Embassy such as our sanitary towel initiative that has reach most provinces across South Africa. The Embassy values the importance of promoting gender-based projects and youth empowerment projects to communities across South Africa.

For more information, please email pr@pretoria.mfa.gov.il

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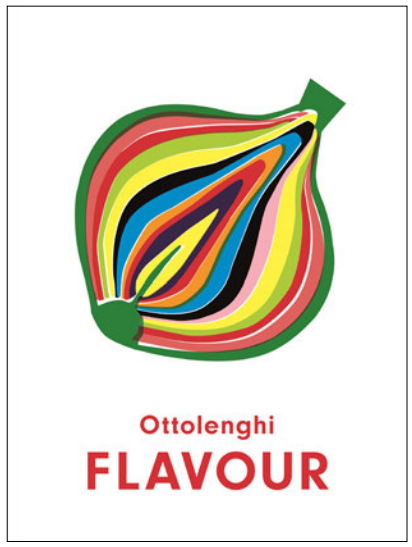
A celebration of everything vegetarian

The third installment in Yotam's bestselling and multi-award-winning *Plenty* series (over 2 million copies sold). *Flavour* celebrates the limitless potential of vegetables and reveals how to transform them into magical dishes.



Flavour-forward, vegetable-based recipes are at the heart of Yotam Ottolenghi's food. In this stunning cookbook Yotam and co-writer Ixta Belfrage break down the three factors that create flavour; Process, Pairing and Produce. They offer innovative vegetable dishes that deliver brand-new ingredient combinations to excite and inspire. Process explains cooking methods that elevate veg to great heights; Pairing identifies four basic pairings that are fundamental to great flavour; Produce offers impactful vegetables that do the work for you.

The book combines simple weeknight recipes with low-effort high-impact dishes and standout meals for the relaxed cook.

With surefire hits, such as Aubergine Dumplings alla Parmigiana, Hasselback Beetroot with Lime Leaf Butter, Miso Butter Onions, Spicy Mushroom Lasagne and Romano Pepper Schnitzels, plus mouthwatering photographs of nearly every one of the more than 100 recipes, Ottolenghi Flavour is the impactful, next-level approach to vegetable cooking that Ottolenghi fans and vegetable lovers everywhere have been craving.

Packed with signature colourful photography, *Flavour* not only inspires us with what to cook, but how flavour can be dialled up and why it works.

Flavour is available at leading bookstores and online.

ISBN 9781785038938 Published September 2020.

18+

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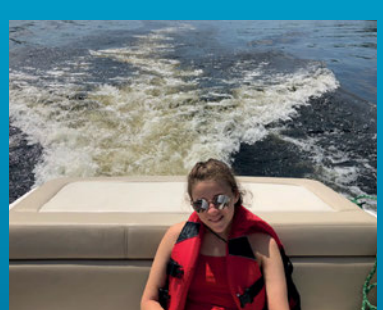

WWW.JEWISHCAMPSUSA.COM
INFO@JEWISHCAMPSUSA.COM

PHYLLIS JOWELL JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

LOCKDOWN 2020

Phyllis Jowell School has flown above the tumultuous waves of 2020. Mr Theodore Thomas, who started his tenure as principal of Phyllis Jowell in January, has proven to be the calm leader we needed to succeed during a chaotic year. Together with Rabbi Gavi Ziegler and the committed Staff, they have ensured that Phyllis Jowell students have been able to engage every school day with Torah and General Studies. Phyllis Jowell School followed an adapted timetable for face to face lessons on Google Meet, with extra time set aside for one on one check-ins with each student. Following the hard lockdown most students returned to a safe and loving school environment, with a few students still learning remotely.

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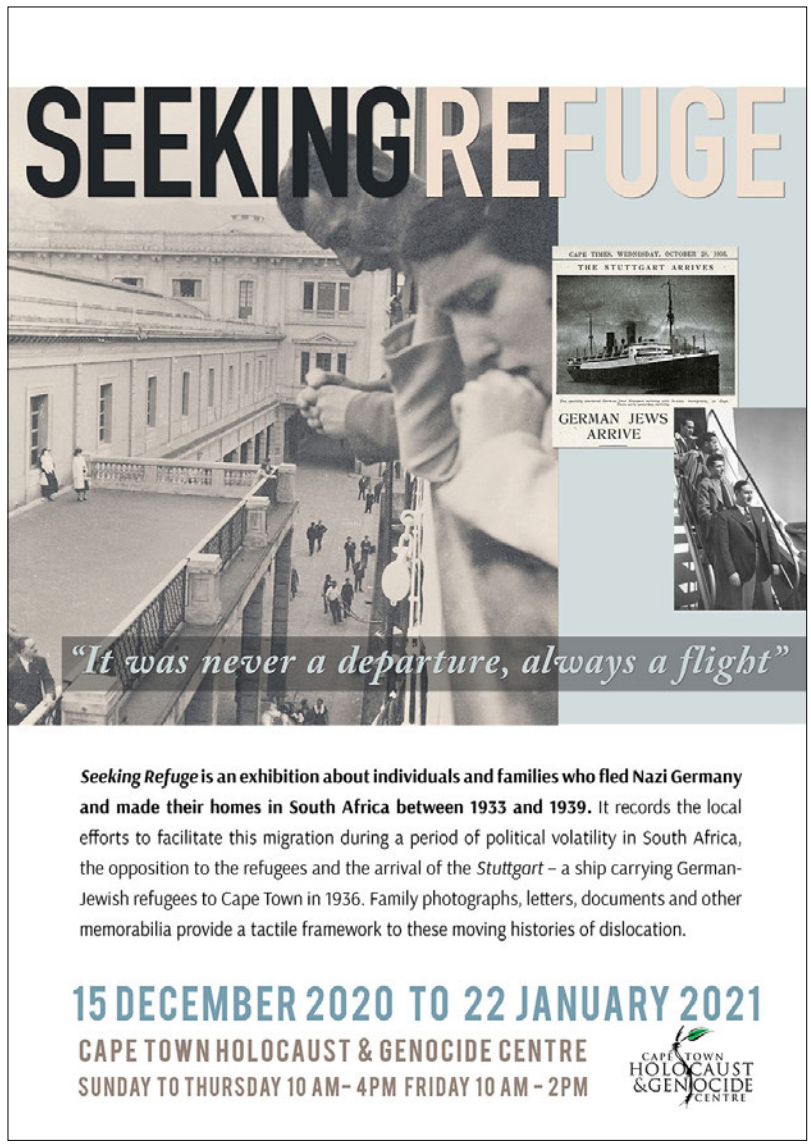
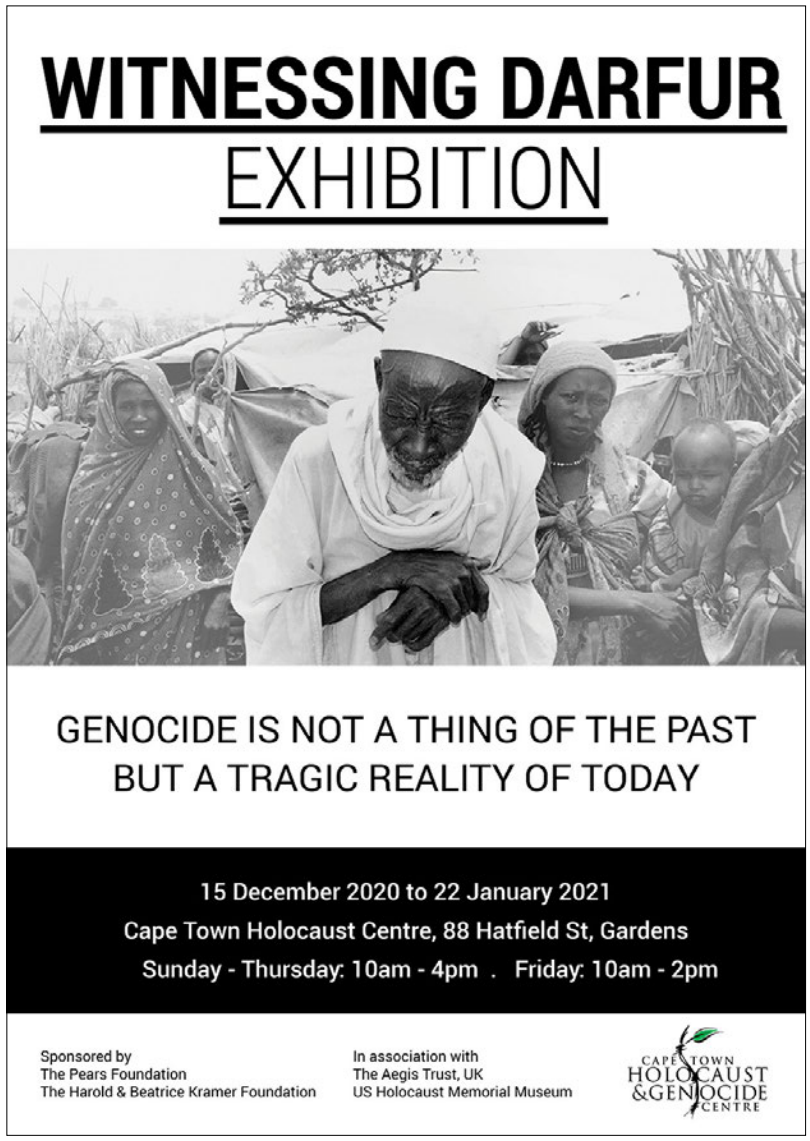
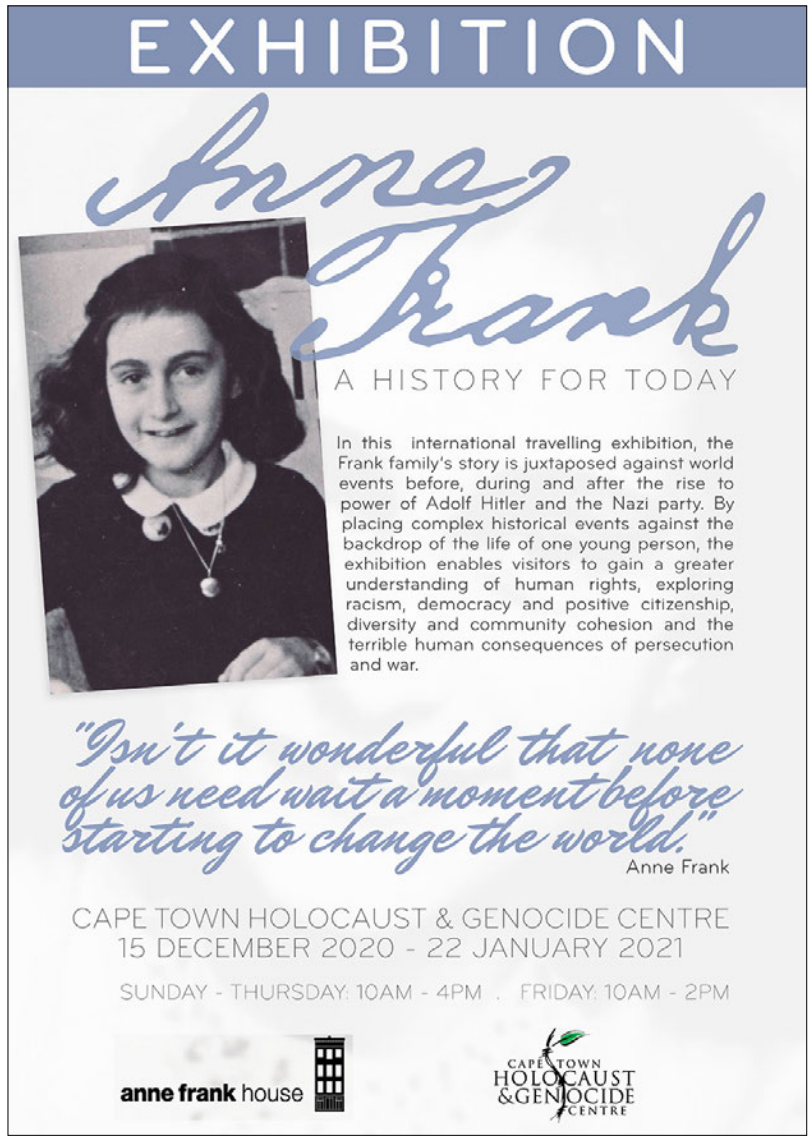
An opportunity to engage with four dynamic exhibitions in one space







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A VIEW FROM THE BAR

Looking at Jewish judges in the courts

By Anton Katz

At the end of 2020 Judge Dennis Davis, who has been the Judge President of the Competition Appeal Court and a judge of the High Court in Cape Town since the late 1990s will be retiring.

The end of his distinguished judicial career brings to an and, at least for a time, a Jewish judge in Cape Town. It is worth recalling that the first Constitutional Court of South Africa appointed by President Mandela in 1994 included three Jewish justices among its eleven members.

Arthur Chaskalson was the President of the Constitutional Court, and the other two were Richard Goldstone and Albie Sachs. They are the only Jewish justices in the twenty-six years of the Constitutional Court's existence.

The three's relationship with Judaism, their Jewish identities and their broad responses to Israel and Zionism may and probably had an important impact on how they decided cases. Reading biographies and memoirs by and about them gives interesting and important insights into the role Judaism played in their judicial lives. Interestingly the Constitutional Court regularly relied on judgments from courts around the world.

One of the first and important quotes from a foreign court is that of Brandeis J, the first Jewish justice of the United States Supreme Court, where he stated: "In a government of laws, existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe the law scrupulously… Government is the potent, omnipresent teacher. For good or for ill, it teaches the whole people by its example… If the government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for the law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy." Turning to the US Supreme Court: it was established 231 years ago in March 1789. Of the 114 justices who have served on the bench 108 have been white men, 6 of whom were Jewish. Two of four women US justices were/are Jewish.

In a wonderful 2017 book Jewish Justices of the Supreme Court, historian and rabbi David Dalin examines the lives, legal careers and legacies of the eight Jewish men and women who have served or who currently serve as justices of the United States Supreme Court: Louis D. Brandeis, Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter, Arthur Goldberg, Abe Fortas, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen G. Breyer and Elena Kagan.

He analyses the relationship that they had with the Presidents who appointed them, and given the judges' Jewish background, investigates the anti-Semitism some of the justices encountered in their ascent within the legal profession before their appointment. Rabbi Dalin in some detail considers the role that anti-Semitism played in the political debates and Senate confirmation battles. Other topics and themes include the changing role of Jews within the American legal profession and the views and judicial opinions of each of the justices on freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the death penalty, the right to privacy, gender equality and the rights of criminal defendants.

In 1916 President Woodrow Wilson nominated Louis Brandeis as the first Jewish justice. Brandeis' nomination was bitterly contested and denounced by conservative Republicans, including former President William Howard Taft; further opposition came from members of the legal profession, including former Attorney General George W. Wickersham and former presidents of the American Bar Association, such as former Senator and Secretary of State Elihu Root of New York, who claimed Brandeis was "unfit" to serve on the Supreme Court According to legal historian Scott Powe, much of the opposition to Brandeis's appointment stemmed from "blatant anti-semitism." Taft would accuse Brandeis of using his Judaism to curry political favour, and Wickersham would refer to Brandeis's supporters and Taft's critics as "a bunch of Hebrew uplifters." Senator Henry Cabot Lodge privately complained, "If it were not that Brandeis is a Jew, and a German Jew, he would never have been appointed."

What is interesting is that for about a century before Brandeis's appointment the groundwork had been laid. US presidents had appointed Jews to diplomatic posts. For his first 50 years Justice Brandeis was highly assimilated and celebrated Christmas, did not practice Judaism and had almost nothing to do with organised Jewish life. In 'midlife' Brandeis showed an interest in Zionism, and just prior to his appointment as a Supreme Court Justice assumed the leadership of the American Zionist movement.

Before Brandeis's nomination by President Wilson the Senate appointed the nominated person almost by simply rubber stamping the President's choice. Brandeis was different. The confirmation battle in the Senate was unequaled until the 1987 Robert Bork saga. The confirmation wars are now part of the process in a divisive US. Think of President Trump's nominations of Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barret.

Reading Rabbi Dalin's book several things struck me.

First, the path to appointing the first Jewish justice was constructed over a long period. It was built brick by brick by many and more and more senior Jewish appointments in the US administration and judiciary generally. That slow building lesson applied to the appointment of the first black (Thurgood Marshall) and then first woman (Sandra day O'Connor) appointments. Secondly, once the barrier of a Jewish justice had been broken it became the norm that at least one of the 9 justices would be Jewish; indeed, at some point 3 of the 9 were Jewish. Thirdly, the Jewish Justices judicial contributions were a mixed bag. What would be considered outrageous conduct today was regarded as fine at times. So, some of the Justices while sitting as a judge would advise and assist the President, with whom they were close, on a policy issue and then sit in judgment on challenges to that very policy.

That would be unthinkable today. What is fascinating is how the justices would swap votes on particular issues across cases. So, one justice would agree to set aside a death penalty and in return the other justice would agree to rule in a particular manner on a copyright or labour case. Fourthly, the wide ranging and different relationships each of the eight justices had to Judaism and Zionism. And how those relationships developed and morphed over the years.

As one reflects over the development of Jewish justices in the US and Dennis Davis's career as a judge and those of the three founding Constitutional Court justices interesting ideas of when will another Jewish judge and/or judge president and/or justice of the Constitutional Court be appointed in South Africa.

The ever-dwindling Jewish community and the emphasis on new and different career (not law) paths suggest that Jewish judging in South Africa will at least for some time be less prominent than in the recent past.

NAVIGATING THE NEXT NORMAL

Agile Workforce

Definition:
(n) A workforce that mixes full-time, part-time and independent consultant workers, along with other flexible strategies that encourage workers to be constantly engaged with their company. Employees possess mindsets that allow them to view change positively.

In a sentence:
Having an **agile workforce** enabled Staffwise to transition successfully during the COVID-19 crisis; our doors remained open while we worked remotely, connecting with candidates, clients and collaborating with other organisations.

WFH

Definition:
(v), (abv.) **Work from home**, is a concept where the employee can do their job outside of the office; generally referring to work done from home.

In a sentence:
The Staffwise team was well set up to **WFH**, making the restrictions that lockdown presented manageable: seeing job-seekers online, managing the database and website, presenting and attending workshops.

Pivot

Definition:
(n) A buzzword currently being used to refer to significant business change, ranging from mild to dramatic. A pivot is usually intended to help a business recover from a tough period.

In a sentence:
To rise above the challenges that Covid-19 presented, Staffwise **pivoted** to shift their focus and embrace new partnerships and projects to increase their impact on community continuity.

STAFFWISE
EMPLOYMENT · CONNECTIVITY · CONTINUITY
www.staffwise.org

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KOSHER CAPE TOWN

Information correct as of December 2020

Meat — All meat is Glatt **Milchik — Not Chalav Yisrael**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions some establishments may not be open or may be operating in a limited fashion. It is advisable to phone the individual establishments directly

SUPERMARKETS AND SHOPS WITH KOSHER FACILITIES

SEA POINT

CHECKERS The Point, 76 Regent Road 021 430 4680
Kosher Bakery: All bakery goods sold over the counter are Parev and Patt Yisrael
NB: Bakery goods on the shelves in the bakery area or anywhere in the store MUST have BD sign, as non-kosher bakery goods are also brought in from other bakeries
Chickens: Frozen; Fresh; Grilled (grilled must have signed BD sticker)
Kosher Deli: Meat and Parev
Kosher Meat: Prepacked fresh meat with BD sign. (orders accepted)
Fish: Fresh; Minced; Fried fish
Kosher wines and grape juice
Section of imported kosher products

GOLDIES DELI 176 Main Road, Sea Point. 021 434 1116
Bakery: Parev and Patt Yisrael
Deli: Meat and Parev
Chickens: Roasted

PICK n PAY Artem Centre 127 Main Road Sea Point. 021 434 8987/8
Kosher Bakery: All bakery goods sold over the counter are Parev (NOT Patt Yisrael)
NB: Bakery goods on the shelves in the bakery area or anywhere in the store MUST have BD sign, as non-kosher bakery goods are also brought in from other bakeries
Chickens: Frozen; Grilled (grilled must have signed BD sticker)
Kosher Deli: Meat and Parev (there is also a non-kosher deli — look for the BD sign)
Kosher Meat: Prepacked fresh meat (with BD sign) Meat orders accepted
Fish: Fresh; Minced; Fried
Kosher wines and grape juice
Section of imported kosher products

SUPER SPAR 94 Regent Road, Sea Point. 021 439 0913/4
Kosher Bakery: (2 bakeries in shop — look for kosher bakery) Parev and Patt Yisrael
Chickens: Frozen; Fresh free-range; Roasted. MUST have BD sign
Kosher Deli: Meat and Parev
Kosher Meat: Prepacked fresh meat (with BD sign); frozen meat (with BD sign)
Fish: fresh and minced at general fish counter. Fried fish at Kosher Deli
Kosher wines and grape juice
Section of imported kosher products

SHOPRITE 365 Main Road, Sea Point. 021 430 3360
Berkies baked goods: taiglach, kichel, meringues etc
Deli items: Small selection of prepacked fresh meat, cold meats, fish cakes, schmaltz, chrain etc.

SOUTHERN SUBURBS

CHECKERS MEADOWRIDGE Park 'n Shop Centre, Cnr Firgrove and Howard Drive Meadowridge 021 710 5160
Berkies taigelach and chocolates
Kosher Meat: Prepacked fresh meat (with BD sign), cold meats, fresh chicken packs
Prepared foods: Norries prepared meals, pizzas and biscuits

PICK 'n PAY CLAREMONT Cnr Main and Campground Roads, Claremont (The Kosher shop is at the back of the store) Kosher Butchery 087 750 6052, Kosher Bakery 087 750 6051, Kosher Deli 087 750 6053
Kosher Bakery: Parev and Patt Yisrael (there are 2 bakeries in shop — kosher bakery in kosher shop at back of store) Chickens: Frozen, Roasted; Grilled (grilled must have signed BD sticker)
Kosher Deli: Meat and Parev
Kosher Meat: Fresh meat (orders accepted), prepacked fresh meat (with BD sign)
Fish: fresh and minced at general fish counter. Fried fish at kosher deli
Kosher wines and grape juice
Section of imported and local kosher products
Coffee shop (in front of store): hot drinks — coffee; tea; hot chocolate — must use disposable cups

PICK n PAY CONSTANTIA The Constantia Village Cnr Constantia Main and Spaanschemat River Rd, Constantia. 021 794 5031
Chickens: Frozen
Kosher Meat: Fresh meat (orders accepted). Prepacked fresh meat (with BD sign)
Kosher fridge: cold meats, schmaltz, chrain etc, (cheeses at regular cheese counter)
Kosher wines and grape juice

PICK 'n PAY FAMILY STORE PLUMSTEAD 29 Gabriel Rd, Plumstead 021 762 1124
Chickens: Frozen
Fish: Fresh; Minced
Kosher wines and grape juice
Bakery Goods (from Pick 'n Pay Claremont Kosher Store — Parev and Patt Yisrael — must have BD sign): Challahs, challah rolls and bagels received Fridays and pre Yom Tov. Other bakery goods brought on request. Kosher bakery goods are in a trolley on Fridays outside the office up until 5pm.
Berkie's sponge cakes

SEA HARVEST FISH SHOP Access Park Kenilworth Tel: 021 060 0602
Fresh fish. (Check UOS website for list of kosher frozen fish)

NORTHERN SUBURBS

NORRIES BUTCHERY to order: www.norriesbutchery.co.za 021 510 5882

PICK 'n PAY CENTRE POINT Cnr Koeberg Rd and Loxton Rd, Milnerton. 021 552 2057
Kosher Bakery — Parev (NOT Patt Yisrael)
Chickens — frozen and grilled (grilled must have signed BD sticker)
Kosher Deli — Meat: (there is also a non-kosher deli — look for the BD sign)
Kosher Meat — Fresh prepacked meat and cold meats — at back of shop. Must have BD sign
Fish — fresh and minced — Parev. (Kosher fried fish only at salad bar)
Salad bar — Parev
Kosher wines and grape juice
Section of imported kosher products at back of shop

SHOPRITE MILNERTON Cnr Koeberg Rd and De Grendel Roads, Milnerton 021 528 1680
Bakery Goods (from Checkers Sea Point — order by Tuesday): challahs, challah rolls and babkes received Fridays and pre Yom Tov. Parev and Patt Yisrael (Must have BD sign) Berkies taigelach etc
Kosher fridge: Selection of kosher prepacked goods including prepacked meats (fresh and cold), prepacked fish etc. (Must have BD sign)
Kosher grape juice

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KOSHER CAPE TOWN

Information correct as of December 2020

Meat — All meat is Glatt **Milchik — Not Chalav Yisrael**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions some establishments may not be open or may be operating in a limited fashion. It is advisable to phone the individual establishments directly

BREAD *Beth Din certified, NOT Patt Yisrael*

Albany: All bread (including sliced) MUST have BD sign. Parev
Anat: Pita range. Parev. MUST have BD sign 021 552 8649
Cape Point Bakery 9 Atlantic Road, Muizenberg Tel: 021 780 1339 Artisan and sourdough breads
(Available also at Goldies Deli in Sea Point) NOT Patt Yisrael
Duens: All bread (including sliced). Parev
Sasko: All bread (including sliced) and rolls. Parev
Woolworths: Bread and rolls. MUST have BD sign. Parev

RESTAURANTS Under Beth Din supervision

AVRON'S PLACE 267 Main Road, Sea Point) 082 577 4890 Restaurant and take-aways. Meat and Parev. avronsplace@mweb.co.za
CAFÉ B'TAYAVON @HIGHLANDS HOUSE 9 Gorge Rd, Highlands Estate 021 461 1100 Snacks and Light Meals. Milchik.
CAFÉ RITEVE 88 Hatfield Street, Gardens 021 465 1594 / 078 801 9057
Restaurant and take-aways Milchik.
riteve@norriecaterers.co.za
wwwcaferiteve.co.za
COFFEE TIME 20 Breda Street, Gardens 021 461 8414 Breakfast, teas and light lunches Milchik. coffeetime@jsec.org.za
Functions: Steven Miller
JEAN'S KITCHEN @THE KAPLAN CENTRE, University of Cape Town 021 650 3064 Tea, coffee, sandwiches, gourmet salads, falafel etc. Milchik. info@jeanskitchen.co.za
THE PRESS BAR AND GRILL 176 Main Rd, Sea Point 021 434 7724 Restaurant and Bar. Meat. david@thepresscpt.co.za

This is the South African Beth Din Kosher mark

For a complete list of Beth Din certified kosher products produced in South Africa, consult the UOS website www.uos.co.za
For more information:
KASHRUT DEPARTMENT
Cape Beth Din 021 461 6310
kashrut@uoscape.co.za
KOCOSA Cape Kosher Consumers
Kelly (office hours) 021 461 6310;
Esther Maizels 021 439 4430
Email: kocosa@uoscape.co.za

CATERERS/ TAKE-AWAYS Under Beth Din supervision

AVRON'S PLACE: Meat and Parev 082 577 4890
BERKIES: Meat and Parev 082 854 1865
CAFÉ RITEVE: Milk 021 465 1594
CAROLYN'S CATERING: Milk and Meat 021 461 9900
CLAREMONT WYNBERG SHUL: Milk and Parev 021 671 9007
COFFEERIGHT Mobile coffee bar: Milk and Parev 082 859 2960 / 021 439 3862
COFFEETIME@ASTRA: Milk 021 461 8414
GOLDIES DELI: Meat and Parev 021 434 1116
HADASSAH FRIEDMAN: Milk and Parev 083 346 1795
MERLE RUBIN: Meat, Milk and Parev 021 439 1322
NORRIE CATERERS: Milk, Meat and Parev 021 510 5882
PREMIER HOTEL: Groups (by arrangement) and functions, Meat, Milk and Parev 021 430 3400
SUIKERBOSSIE: Functions only Meat and Parev 021 790 1450
THE PRESS BAR AND GRILL: Meat 021 434 7724
YUM YALLA Pizza truck: Wood fired artisan pizzas, Mac and cheese, chips etc. Milk (Chalav Yisrael). To order 072 529 7999 Available for events and functions

OTHER OUTLETS Under Beth Din supervision

COFFEERIGHT DRIVE-THRU 345 Main Road, Sea Point (old Total garage) Milchik. The following products ONLY are kosher: Coffee; hot chocolate; chai latte; red cappuccino; iced coffee and baked goods with BD logo ONLY
CRUMBS AND CREAM 16 Regent Rd, Sea Point. 081 343 2761
All products sold in the shop are kosher, including tea, coffee, waffles etc
Biscuits and ice creams — Milchik; vegan ice cream and vegan biscuits — Parev
GOLDIES DELI 176 Main Road, Sea Point 021 434 1116 Take-aways Meat and Parev. goldiesdeli@gmail.com
SUN LIFE JUICERY (formerly trading as THE DAILY PRESS) Shop 2, Ocean Breeze, Cnr St Johns and Regent Rds, Sea Point Cold and fresh pressed juices, herb elixirs — Parev; Smoothies — Milchik

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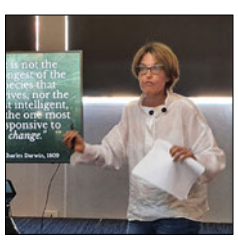
Shining a light in a time of crisis

Mandi Dicks — AJay Apparel

After reviewing all the inspiring entries, the top 10 were selected: Ajay Apparel, Coffeeright, Gorgeous Gourmet, Health Island, Noapop, Petals Group, Platinum Promotions, Repatriation Flight Specialists — We get you there, Ruby Accessories cc, and Sisters Act, and invited to attended a 'Pitch-to-Win session' coached by well-known entrepreneur, coach and TV personality Justin Cohen.

Tamsyn Dixon and Monique Bermeister — Noapop

On making it into the top 10, Sisters Act, said: "Thank you so much for the amazing news — we are just honoured to have made the top 10 and are grateful for the opportunity we have been given to be a part of this great competition."



Sarit Werb — Sisters Act

Platinum Promotions said: "Thank you. I'm overwhelmed and honoured. It feels incredible to be acknowledged and to truly allow me to see the Shining Light. Even if I don't make it further than the top 10, this has facilitated me to finally ask for help."

The build-up to the final awards ceremony was thrilling. It began with the top-10 pitching in front of a live panel of judges including social and business entrepreneurs, Lara Rosmarin, Richard Goldstein, Avi Levy and Dawn Nathan-Jones. The finals took place at the end of November at an intimate, yet buzzing event. All top 10 were given a final opportunity to showcase their businesses to a live Zoom audience and face a question by the judges. At the time of finalising the Chronicle, the winners had not yet been announced, therefore to find out who won this incredible award visit www.cjc.org.za

Both organisations agree that COVID-19 presented a unique opportunity for this award to take off. "There is definitely opportunity to create something similar going forward to shine the light on entrepreneurial businesses" said Liat. "In fact, in a conversation with our panel of judges, this was discussed. This could be the seed for many future initiatives", added ORT Jet's Brenna Frankel.

With Chanukah just around the corner, honouring the hard-fought victory of the Maccabees over the bigger Syrian army, it is fitting that *The Shining Light Award* honours these businesses in our community and celebrates their courage, resilience and success, in what's otherwise been a very challenging year.

Philip Rubin — Health Island, Terri Frankental — Platinum Promotions, and Ilana Kahn — Coffeeright

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School's out for summer!

By Craig Nudelman

And then it was over! On a Friday afternoon in the middle of November, I held a bag of my possessions and I left Herzlia's campus as a teacher.

It was a strange feeling. I was really happy that the retrenchment process (which I ironically oversaw, due to my chairmanship of the Teachers' Union) was over. However, I felt a sense of unease; would I know what to do come Monday, when I would start my new career at the Valenture Institute? Instead of going to school to make the morning staff briefing at 7:45, walking/running to my classes, and having a cup of tea every now and then, I was going to have to keep my own hours and work remotely. It's interesting how you can become so comfortable in your position and that a shift can be so discombobulating. But I don't want to speak about change. I actually want to reflect on what it is like to be a teacher/educator/facilitator in the many facets of my life.

Being a teacher is fascinating and should be the subject of a sociological thesis. Most people think that teachers just stand in front of the class lecturing their pupils in the same fashion that they were taught in school or later in university. However, it is so much more than that. Teachers are there to be facilitators. Using the theoretical pedagogical concepts from experts in education, teachers are there to scaffold learning and assist pupils in gaining information themselves. It is no longer 'chalk and talk' (although that is necessary from time to time). Rather, teachers allow pupils to learn from each other and use other amazing tools to gain all the information that they can. However, being a teacher comes with issues, whether it is from the way subjects are viewed, the attitude of pupils, and the attitude of parents (which is the most difficult to manage!).

I taught History and Life Skills/Life Orientation. Now History is seen as a key subject; people hold it in high regard. Some think it is a subject where you just memorise dates off by heart, but it is so much more than that. History teaches you critical thinking skills, comprehension, and, more importantly, empathy. When you see what slavery was like, what colonialism created, and how the Holocaust was not just the mass killing of six million Jewish lives, but also a process of dehumanisation of Jews, you start to gain empathy and respect for issues happening in real life.

Life Skills/Life Orientation is not seen as a critical or core subject, and many do not think it is important. This is the view of pupils, who see it as a joke; parents, who don't know what it is about; and even teachers, who don't see it as necessary when compared to their more 'academic' subjects. Having taught it these past few years, I tend to differ. The skills you learn in the curriculum range from self-awareness and looking at people non-judgmentally to understanding diseases, including STIs. It also looks at governance in South Africa, which is so important to teach to our youth who just don't give a shit about the country and how its political system works. How can you think that going to Langa to learn about cultural awareness is useless? Do you think work-shadow is unhelpful? Peoples' mindset about the subject needs to change.

But the most serious issue for me is that teachers are not seen in the light that they deserve. My colleagues at Herzlia work bloody hard. Although school hours may be from 07:45 to 15:00, there is lesson prep, extra murals, marking, report writing, schedule meetings, extra lessons, tutorials, and so much more. Teachers also have private lives, where they have to juggle all of this with looking after their homes, spouses or partners, children, and parents. Yes, there is the benefit of holidays, but they are so well deserved after the stress of the term.

And so, as I leave from one teaching role to another, I have some requests. Be kind and patient — teachers are people too. Respect the teacher's decisions — they have experience in teaching and the knowledge of how to teach. Tell your children to be courteous to their teachers — the classroom is a place to learn; discipline should not be an issue. Finally, appreciate your children's teachers — they deserve it!

Good luck for 2021. May it be better than 2020!!

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End of an era: Herzlia Constantia (1973 – 2020)

By Dominique Herman (Herzlia Constantia 1983 – 1989)

When I visited Herzlia Constantia a few months ago for the first time in more than 30 years, there was a hip-hop class and piano lesson happening, and a soccer game on the quad's football pitch. In my day, I recall having to rely largely on our conversational skills for entertainment.

The author on the first day of 'big school' at Herzlia Constantia in 1983

The principal, Jos Horwitz, took me on a walkabout, made all the more memorable by the fact that Jos and her husband used to look after my sister, brother and me when our parents went out of town. At the time, I was in primary school at Herzlia Constantia with Jos supervising my homework and having to endure the not terribly dulcet tones of my violin practice.

Coming to the end of our stroll around the campus, we walked down a staircase that had definitely shrunk since I last traversed it. Waiting at the bottom was eight-year-old Adam Rabinowitz who was not best pleased.

He proceeded to tick Jos off for disregarding the school rules by walking down what had been earmarked for the Covid era as an 'up-only staircase'. Witnessing Jos apologising and telling Adam that he was absolutely right was not only an enchanting scene, but reinforced for me part of what makes a Herzlia education unique: that pupils have the confidence to engage with authority figures like that, largely attributable to how warmly figures of authority engage with them.

The closure of the school galvanised me into getting in touch with my-then principal, Jim Goodacre. There isn't one person I know who went to Herzlia Constantia whose memories of the place don't feature him in a starring role.

My most vivid Jim memory was the time he made one of his customary class pop-ins. He asked one of us to come up and draw on the board a small letter i with a dot on top. Then he showed us how the 'i' should have had two dots on top if one was to answer the question correctly. As someone who has gone on to write and copy edit as a career, I've never forgotten that.

I also had the supreme pleasure of visiting my Sub A teacher, Hazel Darlow, who returned to live in Scotland five years ago but happened serendipitously to be stuck in Cape Town during lockdown at her daughter Fiona's house.

Hazel started her 22-year Herzlia Constantia career in 1979. 'It was a lovely school,' she said. 'So when I had to leave when I reached 65, I was very unhappy. I would do it all over again.'

Judging from the overwhelmingly passionate response to news of the school's closure, clearly many people feel the same way.

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 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.

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.
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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Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, 'Prince of G-d'

By Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein

I have felt the loss of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks zt'l in a deeply personal way.

I have lost a friend and a mentor; someone I looked up to, who guided and supported me from my early days as Chief Rabbi of South Africa. I will never forget that he was one of the first people to call me when I took up the position seventeen years ago. From that moment, he was there for me, guiding me with wisdom, kindness and compassion. And I wasn't the only one; there are many people around the globe who benefited from his wise counsel and compassionate care and support.

There is a phrase which comes to mind when thinking of Rabbi Sacks, and it is used by the Torah to describe Abraham, our forefather: *Nesi Elokim*, a 'prince of G-d'. Rabbi Sacks was a prince of G-d. A prince of dignity. A prince of kindness. A prince of eloquence. A prince of wisdom. His presence, his speeches, his articles, shone with royalty and brilliance. It is that sense of lost majesty that we are all feeling at this time. He was a prince amongst the Jewish people and a prince among the nations, celebrated for his leadership, his intellect, his ideas. Rabbi Sacks wasn't just a source of guidance to queens and princes and prime ministers – he, himself, was a noble soul.

And he carried with him the source of all royalty. He carried the *keter Torah*, the 'crown of Torah', and he carried it with such dignity and authority.

The Talmud says that the crown of Torah is the greatest of all crowns. The crown of Torah is greater than the 'crown of kingship', and even the 'crown of the priesthood', because it is the source of all majesty in this world, as the Talmud demonstrates by citing this verse: "Through Me kings shall reign." When one wears the crown of Torah, one carries the royalty of G-d, the 'King of all kings'.

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks carried the crown of Torah in such a way that its light shone across the globe. Through his eloquence, his genius, his profound wisdom, he was able to unlock and unleash the Divine light that lies within our Torah. Rabbi Sacks was well-versed in all of the wisdoms of the world. He understood sociology and psychology, politics and philosophy, science and literature. And yet he showed us that all wisdom is subservient to – and sourced in – the ultimate wisdom, the ultimate crown, the wisdom of Torah.

In this way, he was the ultimate kiddush Hashem; he sanctified G-d's name every time he wore the crown of Torah, and everyone who heard him or read his writings, gained renewed appreciation and reverence for the Divine wisdom of the Torah. Over the course of decades, he brought its light to bear on some of the most difficult and complex issues facing the world – religious intolerance, antisemitism, secularism and materialism, faith and science, the politics of anger. He was able to access the wisdom of Torah and use it to illuminate these intractable problems with the majesty of Divine wisdom. Rabbi Sacks demonstrated that the Torah contains the wisdom that is indeed the blueprint for all of creation and every dimension of human experience. Through his speeches and his writings, he demonstrated how everything we need to know about life and society is contained within the Divine wisdom of Torah, as the mishna in Pirkei Avot says, "Turn it over and over, for everything is in it." And in so doing, he showed the world in the most powerful way the majesty of the crown of Torah.

Rabbi Sacks was truly a prince of G-d. He carried the name of G-d high in this world – and he uplifted all of us. The word 'nasi', 'prince', comes from the root of the word 'to carry'. This is the true meaning of royalty from a Torah perspective; we don't carry the king, the king carries us. Rabbi Sacks taught us and led us and inspired us. He carried us on the majesty of the Torah he taught.

Let us all continue the holy work of Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, prince of G-d. Let us extend his legacy, by carrying the crown of Torah with pride and dignity, and by illuminating our lives and our world with its Divine light. I can think of no more fitting tribute to his kindness, his dignity, his empathy, his brilliance, his eloquence, his wisdom – and his deep love for us all.

Our hearts and prayers go out to Lady Elaine Sacks and to her children and grandchildren. Your loss is one we cannot understand – but know that we share your grief and are with you in your pain.

Yehi zichro baruch. May his memory be a blessing.

Community collaboration

The participants of the EOLI Cohort 2020 recently sponsored the purchase of 54 Wonderbags which were distributed to families supported by JCS Tikvah Foodbank.

This collaboration was made possible with thanks to the current EOLI 2020 participants, Karen Tollman of Constantia CAN and Lauren Cohn of JCS Tikvah Foodbank under the leadership of EOLI Director, Viv Anstey.

"Thank you for the Wonderbag! As an environmentalist, I love them and wish everyone used them! Mine is so old and tatty that it's a treat to get a new one. This is a great initiative and wonderful to be able to share with Tikvah Foodbank recipients." Tikvah Foodbank Recipient

The ELIOT OSRIN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPE TOWN

TIKVAH FOOD BANK. SUPPORTED BY JCS CAPE TOWN

Israel's Health Ministry says lockdown possible over Chanukah

By Assaf Golan, Maytal Yasur Beit-Or & Eran Itzkovitch for Israel Hayom via JNS.org

In late November, Israeli Health Ministry Director General Hezi Levy said that he doesn't know if there will be a lockdown over Chanukah, "but we are identifying an increase in morbidity, and it could lead to new restrictions."

Levy made the remarks at a special press conference following the decision by the so-called 'Coronavirus Cabinet' to allow for Eilat and the Dead Sea to be designated as 'tourism islands,' in addition to an easing of restrictions on the number of customers allowed inside stores and an opening of zoos.

"Today, 780 verified patients have been identified out of around 50 000 tests. There is a slight increase in morbidity," he said, noting that the number had remained stable among younger members of the population.

"The rate of reproduction is now hovering around 1.08, a higher value than the target we set out for moving forward with the framework for easing restrictions. As for hospitalised [patients], there is a plateau in the number of serious patients, without any sharp increases or decreases," he said.

Levy said that "absent a catastrophe," fifth- and sixth-grade students would be allowed to return to in-person learning as planned. He called on the teachers of those students to be tested for the coronavirus before returning to school.

Meanwhile, the World Health Organisation Regional Director for Europe Hans Kluge claimed that states could avoid a lockdown if their citizens adhered to Coronavirus guidelines. Lockdowns should be a "last resort," he said. "There would be no need for lockdowns if 95 percent of people wore masks, instead of the [current] 60 percent," he said.

While Kluge said that progress on developing a vaccine for the virus was encouraging, the world must not become complacent, as the vaccines would not be available over the winter, and as result, many countries could still see their healthcare systems collapse under the pressure of a sharp spike in infections.

This article first appeared in Israel Hayom.

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Just not doughnuts! Food writer reveals what she cooks at Chanukah

By Abigail Klein Leichman for Israel21c via JNS.org

As a child in the former Soviet Union, Janna Gur knew little about Jewish holidays. It wasn't until her family emigrated to Israel when she was a teenager that she learned about the eight-day winter Festival of Lights known as Chanukah.

"I've always loved Chanukah," says the Tel Aviv-based food journalist and cookbook author. "I love Israeli winter, and I love the songs, and the candle lighting is beautiful. It reminds me of the Russian New Year [*Novy God*] of my youth."

But she is not fond of sufganiyot, the deep-fried, jelly-filled doughnuts that reign supreme in Israeli Chanukah food culture.

"As time goes by, people are buying rather than making sufganiyot, and bakeries are getting crazy with outrageous toppings and not even frying them, which is the whole point," Gur says.

If we take donuts off the table, what's left? After all, Gur points out, "There's no such thing as a Chanukah meal like you have on Passover or Rosh Hashanah."

Her preference is savoury latkes (*levivot* in Hebrew), the potato pancakes that American Ashkenazi Jews associate most with the holiday.

On her website are recipes for Ashkenazi Potato Latkes, Chanukah Balkan Potato and Leek Pancakes, and Orna and Ella's Sweet Potato Latkes. The latter is a rare vegan latke; usually, potato pancakes are bound with eggs.

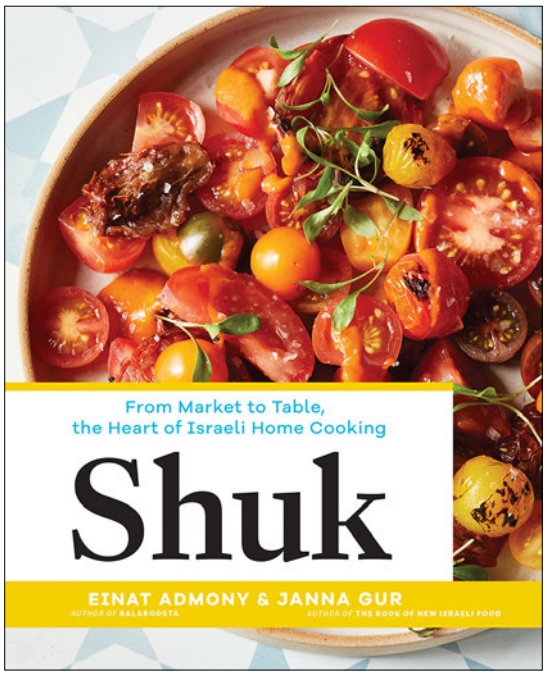
There's a recipe for Syrian ejjeh fried vegetable and meat patties in her 2014 cookbook Jewish Soul Food: From Minsk to Marrakesh, an interesting main-dish alternative for Chanukah.

Two lovely latke variations appear in Gur's cookbook, Shuk: from Market to Table, The Heart of Israeli Home Cooking, coauthored with Israeli-American chef Einat Admony.

One is *aruk*, a patty made of herbs and mashed potatoes, traditionally served for Friday lunch in Iraqi Jewish households.

The other is more evocative of Gur's Soviet childhood, jazzing up plain potato pancakes with the addition of beets. (See recipe below.)

"I'm a beet freak, so when I wanted to give an upgrade to the traditional Ashkenazi potato pancake, beets were my solution," she writes in the recipe intro.



"Unlike potatoes, beets don't start turning black the moment you grate them, and they preserve their crispiness a bit longer, so it's easier to pace their preparation and serving. These crunchy-chewy latkes have just the right hint of sweetness to offset the bright dressing."

The following recipes are excerpted with permission from Shuk by Einat Admony and Janna Gur (Artisan Books), copyright © 2019.

Beet Latkes With Preserved Lemon and Yogurt Dressing (Pareve)

Makes 10 to 12 latkes

1 medium russet potato (270g), peeled
1 large or 2 small beets, peeled
1 medium yellow onion
1 large egg
1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
1 teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary
¼ cup (30g) all-purpose flour
Freshly ground black pepper
Vegetable oil, for frying
1 tablespoon kosher salt
Preserved Lemon and Yogurt Dressing (see below) or plain yogurt, for serving

Grate the potato coarsely on the large holes of a box grater or in a food processor using the grating blade. Wrap the grated potatoes in a clean kitchen towel (no fabric softener, please!) and squeeze vigorously to get rid of any excess liquid. Transfer to a large bowl. Do the same with the onion. If you don't care about staining your dish towel, do the same with the beets. Otherwise, grate the beets and squeeze out the moisture by hand; add to the bowl with the potatoes and onion.

Add the egg, thyme, rosemary, flour, and several twists of pepper and mix thoroughly — your hands are good for this.

Line a plate or tray with paper towels. Fill a large nonstick skillet with vegetable oil to a depth of ¼ inch (6 mm) and heat the oil over medium-high heat. When the oil is hot, stir the salt into the latke mixture, pick up a small handful, and squeeze out even more liquid (depending on the potato and onion you use, you might have quite a lot of liquid).

Shape the mixture into a round, flat patty about 3 inches (7.5 cm) in diameter and carefully add it to the hot oil. Repeat until you have a panful of patties, but with plenty of room between them to flip the latkes. Fry until the latkes are crunchy and slightly browned, about 3 minutes on each side. Transfer to the paper towels to drain. Repeat to form and fry the remaining potato mixture.

Serve at once, with the preserved lemon and yogurt dressing or plain yogurt alongside.

Preserved Lemon and Yogurt Dressing (Dairy)

This vibrant yellow, citrusy dressing is a wonderful match to subtly sweet beet latkes, but that's just the beginning. Serve it on roasted vegetables or pan fried or grilled fish, or as a dipping sauce for any deep-fried snack (the acidity cuts right through the fat). It can keep for up to two weeks in the fridge, though it will probably be gone sooner.

Makes about 3 cups (720ml)

8 wedges preserved lemon, store-bought or homemade (see below)
1 jalapeño chili, cored, seeded and coarsely chopped
¼ cup (60ml) fresh lemon juice
¼ cup (60ml) water
2 tablespoons honey
1 teaspoon ground turmeric
2 teaspoons kosher salt
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
2 cups (480 ml) whole-milk Greek yogurt

Rinse the preserved lemon wedges and remove the seeds. Combine the preserved lemon, jalapeño (if using), lemon juice, water, honey, turmeric, salt and oil in a food processor and puree until you have a completely smooth mixture—this may take a couple of minutes, so be patient.

Add the yogurt and pulse a few times, until the sauce is smooth and lemony yellow. If not using at once, store in an airtight container in the fridge for up to one week.

Variation: Keep the sauce chunky. Instead of mixing everything in a food processor, finely dice the preserved lemon and jalapeño and fold together with the rest of the ingredients.

Quick Preserved Lemons (Pareve)

Makes about 2 cups (500 g)
5 lemons, washed and quartered lengthwise
3 tablespoons kosher salt
¼ teaspoon ground turmeric
3 tablespoons sugar
Extra-virgin olive oil, for storing

Combine the lemons, salt, turmeric, sugar, and 3 cups (720 ml) water in a medium saucepan and bring the water to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and simmer, stirring occasionally, for about one hour, until the lemons' flesh has broken down and the rinds are very soft.

Drain thoroughly and transfer to a clean, dry jar with a lid. Pour in just enough oil to cover the lemons. Seal the jar and store in the fridge for up to 1 month. Use a clean, dry spoon or fork (never your fingers) to remove the lemons from the jar as needed. Give them a quick rinse and remove any seeds before using.

This article was first published by Israel21c.

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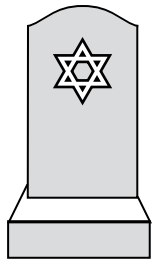

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