

★ JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

VOLUME 38 No 5

JULY 2021

www.cjc.org.za

Please support
the Chronicle!

VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTIONS

FOR 2021 ARE DUE

R350

Help us continue to
keep the Cape Town
Jewish community
connected.

PAYMENT OPTIONS ON
PAGE 3 OR CLICK HERE!



Meet Israel's 36th government



Pic: Avi Ohayon, GPO

more on page 4

Rainbow challah for Pride Month



more Temple Israel news on page 15

Temple Israel Cape Town ran a Challah Bake led by Student Rabbi Andi Kuti (left) and Jacqui Benson (right) in honour of Pride Month and in preparation for Pride Shabbat.

SA Jewish Museum changes focus



more on page 19

A group from Sinai Academy gathers in the museum's 'shtetl' to listen to a story

A new documentary series about Jewish history in South Africa



more on page 19

Regular contributors

Features

Page 3	Des says... Shabbat times Subscriptions Family announcements
Page 4	United Herzlia Schools Melton SA Zionist Federation (Cape Council)
Pages 6 - 9	Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies
Pages 10-12	SA Zionist Federation (Cape Council)
Page 13	Mensch Thought-leader of the month Union of Jewish Women
Page 14	Mensch
Page 15	Temple Israel
Page 16	Community Security Organisation
Page 17	Telfed Salisbury House Sephardi Shul
Page 18	Cape Jewish Seniors Association
Page 19	South African Jewish Museum
Page 20	Jewish Community Services
Page 21	Anton Katz: Justice — who appoints the judges? Coffee Time
Page 27	Chronic Ads
Page 28	Craig Nudelman: Beyond border, Bridging the divide between Israel and the Diaspora

Page 19	Legends & Legacies: A Story of a Community
Page 22	Emerging teen pop-star Mila Smith Book Reviews: Azila Talit Reisenberger's <i>The Magic of us</i> , and Tony Leon's <i>Future Tense</i>
Page 23	Ricky Stoch: Not all young Jews want to leave South Africa
Page 24	Dane Abramowitz on a career in marketing
Page 25	Cathy Abraham explores the deeper meaning of nothing
Page 26	Dr Gareth Kantor: Navigating the third wave



We want to hear from you!

We welcome your news, opinions and stories. If you have anything to share with the community, please email editor@ctjc.co.za

Banking details:
Standard Bank — Branch: Thibault Square;
Branch code: 020 909; Acc no: 070 703 493;
Acc name: The Cape Jewish Chronicle Trust;
Acc type: Current

CSO emergency number for security and medical emergencies

**24 hours
086 18 911 18**

CJC EDITORIAL BOARD

Chairman: Lester Hoffman. Ex-officio: Ben-Zion Surdut. Committee: Daniel Bloch, Tzvi Brivik, Geoff Cohen, Barbara Flax, Myra Osrin, Helen Schneider, Jonathan Silke, Chaya Singer. Editor and layout: Desrae Saacks, Secretary: Tessa Epstein, Digital coordinator: Lisa Shapiro

DISCLAIMERS

ERRORS, OMISSIONS AND CORRECTIONS The Cape Jewish Chronicle regrets any errors or omissions that may occur in the paper and, where possible, will attempt to rectify these in a subsequent issue, should such a measure be deemed appropriate.

No repeat advertisement or credits will be given for small typographical errors which do not appreciably lessen the value of the advertisement. The appearance of an advertisement or photograph does not necessarily indicate approval or endorsement by the Editorial Board for the product or service advertised or photograph reproduced, and it takes no responsibility for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of the reliance upon the information contained therein.

LETTERS AND OPINIONS Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board or its sponsoring bodies. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed. However, by agreement, the writer's name may be withheld in the publication. Letters are published subject to space being available. The Editor and the Editorial Board have the right to decide on the inclusion of any item submitted for publication. Letters may be edited for clarity, space and/or language.

KASHRUT Unless otherwise stated, food and catering services advertised in this publication are not under the supervision of the Cape Beth Din.

FINANCIAL You should always obtain independent expert advice prior to making any financial investment, commercial or other decisions. Do not enter into any transactions of the above nature, based partly or wholly on the content of any advertisements or articles published in the Cape Jewish Chronicle.

Des Says...

By Desrae Saacks, acting editor Cape Jewish Chronicle



The individual within the collective

A theme that came up repeatedly for me this month has to do with the power of the individual within the collective.

I was advised more than once by well-meaning friends and acquaintances of ways to beat the system by bypassing a player in the supply chain, or scoring a discount that I'm not strictly entitled to. All pretty small, inconsequential amounts 'saved', but when enough of us exploit these seemingly innocuous shortcuts, what we're actually doing is depriving someone of their profit margin, and thereby endangering their livelihood and those of their dependants.

I'm writing this column as a new strain of COVID-19 invades our country, creating a third wave that threatens to overtake the previous peaks and once again overwhelm our health sector. It's Sunday 27 June, and I've just watched our president announce a return to level four restrictions, which will result in the failure of many small businesses and the loss of even more jobs.

Those of us who have the resources to contribute to the economy should do so with awareness of our ability to make a difference. If there's anything to be learned from these dark COVID days, it's that we're all in this together, interconnected and interdependent.

Likewise, when we ignore a cough or take off our mask in a crowded place because 'we're young/tough/immune/...' we are risking the lives of all those with whom we come into contact, and participating in the spread of the pandemic that's grounded us all.

Like Cathy Abraham's art practise (page 25) where individual iterations combine to create a complex and beautiful thing, the collective is the manifestation of the actions and intentions of a group of individuals, each with the power to influence the whole. And while we're all dependant on the next person to do the right thing, the only behaviour we can control is our own, and it really does matter!

This issue is brimming with individuals working alone or in groups, who by quietly 'doing their thing' are contributing to the collective of the Cape Town Jewish community, and to all other communities of which they form a part.

The purpose of this publication is to provide a meeting place for our community, and to tell our story. I invite you to pay your subs, support our advertisers, and send us your stories, photographs and opinions for publication in future issues.

Let's do this together!

Family Announcements

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

FAYE SALOMON

It is with immeasurable sadness we announce the passing of Faye. Faye was a woman of many talents, and a pillar of the Oasis Retirement Resort community. We would like to thank the community for the outpouring of condolences, well-wishes and prayers. These serve to remind us how very loved Faye was, and the remarkable impact that she had on so many lives. Faye will be sorely missed by her children Leonie, Eric and Caryl, siblings Louis and Anita, and all of her extensive extended family and multitude of friends.

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

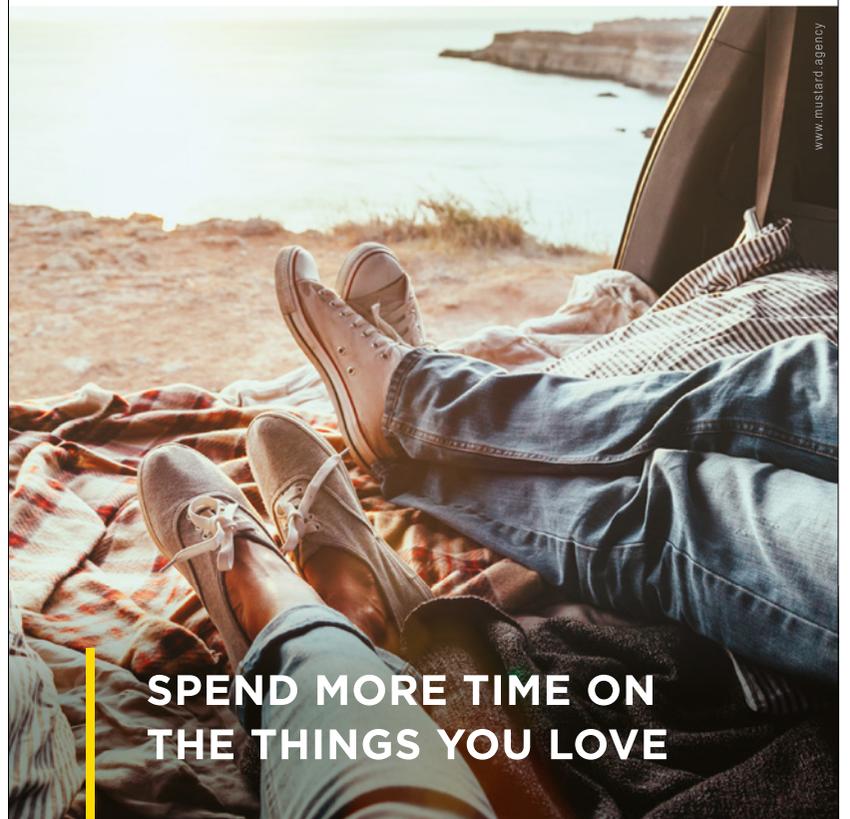
Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting	Ends Latest
2 July/22 Tammuz	Pinchas	5.31pm	6.26pm
9 July/29 Tammuz	Matot/Massei	5.34pm	6.29pm
16 July/7 Av	Devarim/Chazon	5.38pm	6.33pm
23 July/14 Av	Va'etchanan/Nachamu	5.43pm	6.37pm
30 July/21 Av	Eikev	5.48pm	6.42pm

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

mgi bass gordon

AUDIT | TAX | ADVISORY



SPEND MORE TIME ON THE THINGS YOU LOVE

YOUR AUDIT, TAX AND ADVISORY IN THE RIGHT HANDS.

021 405 8500 • www.bassgordon.co.za

MGI is a worldwide network of independent auditing, accounting and consulting firms.

Please support the Chronicle!

VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2021 NOW DUE

Help us continue to bring you news from the Cape Town Jewish Community

R350



SNAPSCAN



ZAPPER



EFT

BANK DETAILS:
Cape Jewish Chronicle Trust
Standard Bank
Acc: 070 703 493
Branch: 020 909

Please use your name and email as payment reference.

Herzlia Matric 2020 legacy project wins prestigious international award

By Mark Helfrich, Curriculum Head, UHS

It was with great excitement that we received news from World ORT that two Herzlia matric class of 2020 pupils, Sarah Katz and Bianca Curitz, have been awarded the prestigious international *Gina and Joseph Harmatz Award for Social Responsibility*.

This award recognises students who have made an outstanding contribution to *tikkun olam* — our shared responsibility to heal, repair and transform the world. According to London-based Chief Programme Officer Vladimir Dribinskiy, “this year we received many excellent submissions, and your students’ dedication to their project was exceptional. Our decision to present them with this award is a reflection of the dedication and commitment to social responsibility that they have shown in their work and the positive impact that they have made which we hope will inspire others.”

The winning project entry is best described by the project champions, Sarah Katz and Bianca Curitz themselves in their 2020 application, “As South Africa went into the first COVID-induced lockdown, we witnessed the students at our less privileged partner school, Gardens Commercial High, really struggling to



Herzlia and Gardens Commercial matrics met to discuss their technology needs

access online classes. Sitting behind a laptop in an online class, we felt a responsibility to help where we could; to leverage our position of privilege to help bridge the gap, even marginally, between those who had access to online learning and those who did not.

“We set to work drawing up proposals, organising meetings with our principal, and making contact with students nationwide to try to understand the needs of the broader matric community.

After speaking to the Gardens Commercial students and to our matric class, we formed an enthusiastic committee of 18 pupils to raise money for routers and data for our fellow students. We set up a Herzlia Matric Legacy Project Back-a-Buddy webpage, made phone calls to potential donors, and sourced mobile routers. After a focused campaign we raised over R120 000 and packaged a router, sim card and 30GB of data per month for each of the 108 students, to see them through until the end of their matric year. We felt connected to the 2020 matric year group in a way we had not experienced before, and a deep sense of responsibility to work and serve our South African peers.”

One of Herzlia’s key curriculum strategies is to produce global citizens who participate positively in both the Jewish and wider society. Sarah and Bianca and their fellow matric pupils of 2020 have demonstrated very clearly the impact that *tikkun olam* can have on helping to heal the world!



Herzlia matrics, Bianca Curitz and Sarah Katz, launching the fundraising project



Sarah Katz distributes data packs to Gardens Commercial matrics.



Your Window to the World

For now, Melton has successfully transitioned all its courses to an online platform and the interest to engage in Jewish learning has been unprecedented. With the world as our market, Melton has successfully recruited both students and faculty from everywhere.

- **Our 2021 course highlights include:** Arab-Israeli Conflict, Cairo Genizah, Kabbalah, History of Jewish Text, Chumash, Ethics, Jews on Film, Holocaust Memoirs, Jewish History & Jewish Leadership.
- Melton has a course for you!



- **Join us for our upcoming courses:** Social Justice, Women in Judaism, SA Jewish History, Jewish Humour and an Elul course on Jewish Values.

Please visit www.meltoncapetown.org for more info or contact
 Viv Anstey, Director: vivanst@iafrica.com 0828095414
 Lauren Snitcher: lauren@snitcher.org 0828802257

from page 1

The SAZF Cape Council wishes Israel’s 36th government a hearty mazaltov

The SAZF Cape Council wishes a hearty mazaltov and sends our warm congratulations to incoming Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and the incoming Israeli government. The new government broadly consists of parties from the left, centre, and right and includes an Arab-Israeli party.

We also wish to thank outgoing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for all his efforts and achievements on behalf of the State of Israel, most notably in developing Israel’s high tech economy, achieving diplomatic relations and a historic peace with the Arab nations, and maintaining Israel’s security.

May Israel remain a strong, proud and dynamic Jewish and democratic nation.

- Nine female ministers
- Two Arab ministers
- Karine Elharrar, a veteran MK who has muscular dystrophy and is Minister of Energy
- Nitzan Horowitz (Minister of Health) and Idan Roll (Deputy FM) who are openly gay
- A religious Prime Minister

This is our 36th government, this is Israel.

3 SALES IN 4 WEEKS



MAKE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE THE BEST OF YOUR LIFE

COME AND JOIN THE FUN!
APARTMENTS FOR SALE
FROM R2,3M TO R9,5M

Go to www.oasisretirementresort.co.za for our virtual walk-throughs and photo galleries – and call us to make an appointment to view on site.

Follow us on FB and Instagram
#OasisRetirementResort @oasisretirementresort



OASIS

LUXURY RETIREMENT RESORT
CENTURY CITY



Cindy 082 495 7168 • Linda 082 785 6160 • Lorenda 083 270 4755 • Sales Office 021 250 0592

CARE CENTRE OASIS CENTURY CITY · CAPE TOWN



We believe that laughter is the best medicine

Lizzie Brynard-Brill - Care Centre Manager



Owen Futeran - Care Centre Director



Assisted Living • Physical Rehabilitation • Frail Care • Alzheimer's/Dementia Care

PLEASE CALL Lizzie Brynard-Brill 021 528 7301 • email lizzieb@capetownoasis.co.za • www.oasiscarecentre.co.za


CONNECT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNITY

Thrown into the deep end — navigating my first month!

By Daniel Bloch, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

By the time you read this article, I will have been Executive Director for two months. However, we can all appreciate that the Chronicle itself is not put together in five minutes.

It takes weeks of collating content, proofing articles and ultimately ensuring that everything you read and see is accurate and truthful. Hence this article will only provide insight into my first month at the Cape SAJBD.

My first week started off like any new job — Is my temperature below 37.5 degrees? Where is the coffee machine? Who do you go to for an IT emergency? What's the WiFi password? All important questions which must be answered. In between, I managed to attend a few meetings, introduce myself to my neighbours and I was able to get my teeth stuck into Board matters.

Then came week two, marked by the escalation of the conflict in the Middle-East. They say the best way to learn at a new job is to hit the ground running. For the rest of this week and the two weeks thereafter, my time was consumed with meetings, briefings, phone calls and email responses all related to the impact of this conflict on our local community. Many people have referred to my first month as a 'baptism of fire'.

Everyone has a different view of things — whilst some people see the glass as half-full, others may see the glass as half-empty. I am a glass-half-full kind of guy and I try to find the positives in every situation. So, despite the barrage of antisemitic comments online, the relatively imbalanced media commentary and the various protests, I was able to experience something truly amazing. The Jewish community came together in unison, as we usually do during challenging times. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies as one organisation (not individual provincial offices), representing the interests of Jewish South Africans, responded in one voice to the President of South

Africa, members of government, the public and the media, calling for peace, an end to the conflict and a stop to the senseless online antisemitic abuse.

We are not alone in the fight against antisemitism. We have friends in the community with whom we have collaborated, fighting towards a common goal — protecting our rights as Jews to express our religious beliefs and to live in a safe and secure environment. We thank all those who have raised their voices and spoken out in defense of the Jewish community.

Life however must go on, even through troubled times. We seem to forget that COVID-19 is still very much with us, and the third wave has hit the Western Cape. We need to look after our family — especially those older than us. For this reason, the Cape SAJBD has partnered with the UJC, CSO Cape Town and the Cape Jewish Seniors Association (CJSA) to assist senior Jewish citizens with information related to the vaccine. Our dedicated vaccine phone-line allows members of the community to speak to someone who can guide them through the registration process and provide them with valuable information.

Looking ahead to the months of June and July, plans are underway to celebrate Youth Day, Pride Month and Mandela Day. I am excited at the prospect of collaborating with our partners in order to recognise and appreciate the contributions within our diverse community, connect with our youth and engage in open debate around issues affecting them and providing necessary support to those less fortunate.

My first month with the Cape SAJBD was truly interesting and marked with a steep and exciting learning curve. I look forward to connecting and collaborating even more with our incredible community in the coming months.


VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

The rise of political antisemitism, masked as anti-Zionism

By Tzvi Brivik, Chairperson, Cape SAJBD

As I sit here preparing a letter to the community, we are still feeling the effects that the May conflict in the Middle East has had on our society.

As an organisation, we support the existence of the State of Israel and their right to defend itself. However, we note, that even within our own community, the extent of this support may vary. Whilst the Cape SAJBD is not a pro-Zionist lobbying group, we choose not to associate or partner with any person or organisation which denies Israel's right to exist. We accept genuine criticism of the Israeli government, and recognise that there are differing views as to how the State of Israel should be governed. Where this criticism of the Israeli government is used to mask or justify antisemitic beliefs, we will step in and address it.

Over the course of May, we watched as social media 'activists' used anti-Israel sentiment to disseminate antisemitic rhetoric that was masked as 'anti-Zionism'. We watched how quickly this tool, which allowed every person to become a commentator on this conflict regardless of whether they had intimate knowledge of the history and affairs in the Middle East, led to global Jewry becoming scapegoats for the actions of a state.

Unfortunately, social media is not the only place where we have noted a significant increase in hate speech. Journalists and politicians, from whom we should expect balanced and fair reporting and comment, have left us disappointed by their one-sided, inflammatory statements. We addressed radio stations, newspapers and politicians directly urging them to consider a more balanced view.

We would like to commend Herzlia school for inviting speakers to address the learners on all aspects of the conflict, and our own Generation Next subcommittee which hosted webinars focused on engaging the youth on how these difficult conversations should take place. (Read more about Generation Next's 'Navigating the Age of Informed Ignorance with Dr Zohar Raviv' webinar on page 9 by subcommittee Chairperson, Justin

Asher) As Dr Zohar Raviv had said during this webinar: freedom of speech does not translate into freedom of expression. At any time in a discussion, should one side become abusive, accusatory or demeaning, there can be no meaningful exchange of ideas. It is crucial then, that when we attempt to have dialogue, we recognise that words matter. Our #WordsMatter campaign asks each active citizen to practice engaged listening and connect with one another meaningfully despite our differences.

Before this May conflict, we addressed another incident of antisemitism. We, alongside the national SAJBD, raised concern with the method and nature of questions posed to Judge Unterhalter and Advocate Lever by the Judicial Service Commission in April. We were concerned that questioning them on their religion and affiliation to Israel, or even their views on the Middle East, was unfair and unreasonable; and could not, in any event, have led to the judicial service commissioners being able to make a competent decision. We are pleased that this first week of June, the Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution brought an application to the Constitutional Court in which it stated that the questioning of these candidates went beyond what was permissible, and as usual, that this application will be heard on an expedited basis by such court.

Finally, and in order to further our ability to serve our community, we have implemented a new #ReportHate hotline on 079 994 5573 available from 8am to 5pm on weekdays. This has allowed us to respond faster to complaints of antisemitism, including investigating and where necessary addressing the offender, either directly or through an institution affiliated to such offender. We encourage anyone who believes that they may have been subject to hate speech or antisemitism to report this to us using this Hotline or fill in our #ReportHate tool.





Connecting with Country Communities in Paarl, Wellington and Stellenbosch

By Daniel Bloch

We recently celebrated the festival of Shavuot which commenced on the evening of Sunday, 16 May.

A communal braai was held on the Sunday as a prelude to Shavuot. This was hosted by the Paarl-Wellington Hebrew Congregation and also attended by members of the Stellenbosch Hebrew Congregation, allowing the communities to celebrate together — all whilst observing COVID-19 regulations. Country Communities Chairperson David King and I were invited to attend and share a meal with members of the community. We took the time to engage and offer advice where needed.

My family (wife and kids) as well as my father-in-law were also invited. As my wife and her parents are originally from Paarl (Miller and Berman families), it made this trip that much more special. Driving through the town of Paarl, my wife Jenna was telling our children the stories of where their Zadie and Gaga went to school and pointing out their old houses.

When we arrived at the shul just after 12pm, the weather was sunny and there were several people sitting outside, deep in conversation;

and the braai masters were preparing the fire for what later would be a most scrumptious meal — chops, boerie rolls and salads.

We were greeted by Mark Kaufmann who runs the Paarl-Wellington Shul and has been very involved with the restoration of the Wellington Cemetery. He introduced me to his father Fischel Kaufmann who is the current chairperson, and Dennis Zetler who is the chairperson of the Stellenbosch Hebrew Congregation. Just before lunch, Fischel Kaufmann gave a warm welcome and I was fortunate enough to address the community, assuring them of the Board's commitment to partnering with all our Country Communities.

A most pleasing sight was that of young children (including my own) running around during the event. We learnt that two young families had recently moved to the area and had joined the Paarl Shul.

All in all, it was a truly great day out and a valuable opportunity to connect with members of the Paarl, Wellington and Stellenbosch Jewish communities. I look forward to more engagements with these and our other country communities, going forward.



David King, Dennis Zetler, Daniel Bloch and Fischel Kaufmann

#CosyUp

with members of the intellectually disabled community this winter. We need your donations of

- beanies
- scarves
- gloves
- socks

to support 3,000 disabled members of the Cape Town community this cold winter.

For further details, look up our "One-to-One 2021 #CosyUp Campaign" event on www.capesajbd.org or email Albert at albertg.glass@gmail.com

#GiveWarmth

What is One To One?

One To One is a community-based project that's been going for 38 years and had run 2 projects under COVID-19 restrictions. It is a unique example of community cooperation involving people from across greater Cape Town, both in size and impact. It hosts in excess of 3,000 intellectually disabled people at the annual fair, but this year, it seeks to treat those 3,000 individuals to a cosier winter.

To get warmth, one should give warmth.





CAPE SAJBD
Engage | Educate | Empower

Should universities retain possessions wrongfully acquired during the Holocaust?

By Gwynne Robins, Senior Researcher, Cape SAJBD

"I intend to plunder and to do it thoroughly," Hermann Göring told the Nazi party.

To do this he set up special units called the Reichsleiter Rosenberg Taskforce (also known as the ERR) which stole millions of books and hundreds of thousands of objects of art in what was considered the biggest robbery in history.

Some of these objects were found by the Allies and distributed to Jewish communities after the war through the *Jewish Reconstruction Programme*, with 40% allocated to Israel, and 5% given to South Africa through the Jewish Board of Deputies which sent 20% to Cape Town, 5% to Durban, and the rest to Johannesburg. Unfortunately, Johannesburg's collection vanished over a long weekend together with a Russian security guard, whilst Cape Town's collection can be viewed at the SA Jewish Museum and the Samson Centre.

But, what about those items that came to South Africa with avaricious Nazis?

Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) (now the University of Johannesburg) owns a valuable collection of books housed in its rare book section, willed to them by convicted war criminal Prof HJ De Vleeschauer, who had been an ERR book selection commissioner and had signed orders dismissing all Jewish professors and teachers from Belgian universities and schools. A striking feature of his collection is the mysterious removal by cutting or erasure of ownership markings and names in many of the books.

Sentenced to death, De Vleeschauer abandoned his family and escaped to Switzerland with a young woman and 8000 books. When the National Party came to power in South Africa, he started writing to influential Afrikaans academics. He supported the idea of the Afrikaners' mission in Africa as 'a great white people with great Flemish blood', and attacked the west, the United Nations, the Jews and the communists for opposing efforts to remove coloured people from the common voters' roll. De Vleeschauer entered South Africa under a false name with his books and his 'niece', and was given a job at UNISA, which later gave him an honorary doctorate.

I recently met with Prof Archie Dick of the University of Pretoria (UP), who has written articles exposing De Vleeschauer's past and is investigating the source of his books with Belgian and American academics.

In the same way that RAU had accepted valuable collections looted during the Holocaust, so too did UP, working hard to persuade millionaire Jacob van Tilburg to donate his valuable collection of art and Chinese ceramics to them — even though he had been sentenced to 13 months for collaborating with the Nazis. The Dutch Resistance claimed his collection had been improperly received for safe-keeping from Jews, and that Van Tilburg was connected to a collaborator who promised to transport Jews to Vichy France in return for money, but handed them over to the Gestapo instead. The Dutch Jewish community and the former Netherlands Minister of Culture had demanded that the art be returned, as much had been stolen from Dutch Jews. Rabbi Abraham Soetendorp flew out from The Hague to negotiate with the university but neither the Rabbi nor the Jewish Board of Deputies were successful in showing that the collection had been unlawfully acquired.

UP has held that it will only consider returning objects to its former owners or their heirs with documentary evidence of ownership, choosing simply to move Van Tilburg's bronze bust into the basement. Unfortunately, the Nazis were very thorough in their efforts to eradicate Jews, and those few who survived, did not emerge from camps with such documents.

At the time of the donations, apartheid ideology was dominant, with leaders of the universities seeing nothing wrong in protecting condemned Nazi war criminals, nor of being party to the crimes by accepting valuable collections looted during the Holocaust. More than eighty years later, the collections remain with the universities and no effort has been made towards restitution.



Need help with the COVID-19 Vaccine Registration Process?

Contact the Cape SAJBD Over Sixties Vaccine Helpline



021 434 9691

TO REPORT
AN INCIDENT OF
ANTISEMITISM OR
ANTI-JEWISH
BEHAVIOUR

HATE SPEECH
INTIMIDATION
ACTS OF VIOLENCE
VANDALISM
GRAFFITI



Report Hate Hotline: 079 994 5573





CAPE SAJBD
Engage | Educate | Empower



**#VOTES
MATTER**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ELECTIONS 2021
VOTER REGISTRATION**

**17-18 JULY
08:00-17:00**

FIND OUT MORE
WWW.ELECTIONS.ORG.ZA



CAPE SAJBD
Engage | Educate | Empower

Navigating the age of informed ignorance with Dr Zohar Raviv

Justin Asher, Chairperson of Cape SAJBD's *Generation Next* subcommittee

On Sunday 23 May, the Cape SAJBD's *Generation Next* subcommittee — a group of students dedicated to educating, engaging, and empowering the youth of the Cape Town Jewish community — hosted a discussion led by Dr Zohar Raviv with group of students and young adults.

In his profound sense-making style, Dr Raviv is considered a 'constructive disruptor' who is able to construct reason and rationale out of complexity.

The two-hour seminar, *Bombardment of Info vs Knowledge — Navigating the Age of Informed Ignorance*, was an interactive session in which Dr Raviv provided amazing insight into the balance of information to which one has access via various media outlets, and the way one responds and engages those whose opinions are formed through ignorance, disinformation and distortion.

With plenty to think about after his opening lecture, participants were given the opportunity to share real-life experiences where they could put Dr Raviv on the spot and receive guidance on how to deal with issues they had brought to the table — issues which stem from their daily lives, right here in the Mother City.

This session was incredibly informative and offered a valuable opportunity to engage with one of the most respected thought-leaders in Israel. His counselling on everyday matters provided direction to those who find it difficult to engage in their daily lives, as he offered solutions and advice in his responses. Dr Raviv's analysis of the ignorance that fuels social media made sense to the young adults who took the time to attend his session, at the end of a week of war and wounds, and the war of words.



Cape BOD Bursary Foundation

Apply now for financial assistance for your 2022 tertiary education!

You may apply if you:

- Are a Jewish undergraduate or postgraduate student
- Are in need of financial assistance to study in 2022
- Live in the Western Cape
- Wish to attend a registered university, technical college or similar educational institution in the Western Cape

Applications open on

1 August 2021

& close on

15 October 2021

For further enquiries email:
bursaries@ctjc.co.za



A letter from Isaac Herzog



Jerusalem, Sivan 5781
June 2021

יצחק הרצוג
יו"ר ההנהלה

Isaac Herzog
Chairman of the
Executive

Ms Chaya Singer
Executive Director
South Africa Zionist Federation
Cape Town

Dear Chaya,

Thank you for your gracious message which I was so pleased to receive.

Three years ago, I was honored to assume Chairmanship of The Jewish Agency Israel, the historic organization which laid the foundation to the State of Israel.

Today, I feel exceedingly privileged and profoundly humbled for having been elected 11th President of the State of Israel — land of my forefathers, land of my sons. The gratitude which fills my heart is second only to the passion with which I approach this esteemed role. Serving Am Yisrael in Israel and across the globe as president is an extraordinary opportunity, and a challenge I embrace with every fiber of my being.

The South Africa Zionist Federation (Cape Council) which you lead has been an important, valued partner and I look forward to cooperating further to promote the noble missions we share.

Guided by my faith, confident in the power of change and encouraged by the ability to unify — I welcome your support and I am eager to get to work.

Sincerely yours

Isaac Herzog
Chairman of the Executive
President elect of the State of Israel

התאגדות הישראלית ליהודים בדרום אפריקה
The Jewish Agency for Israel - Southern African Branch
The Jewish Agency is funded by the Jewish Federations of North America, Karen Heywood as well as foundations and individual donors from Israel and around the world.

DIRECTOR'S CUT

By Chaya Singer, Executive Director SAZF Cape Council

Our Youth Day message



Shalom and happy Youth Day South Africa, this is a message to our Cape Town Jewish youth, those who are young at heart, and all those who remember the tragic massacre of young people in Soweto on 16 June 1976.

We unite on Youth Day as South Africans to commemorate a turning point in the struggle for our Democracy, the high-school student led Soweto Uprising, which saw thousands of students mobilise and march in protest of apartheid education policies. 176 school learners were brutally shot dead, and many more wounded and detained. We unite on Youth Day as South Africans to remember.

I'd like to take a moment, to also remember the life and legacy of a Jew, a Zionist — and a deeply committed South African, who also lost his life on that tragic day, in the course of his work to improve the lives of Soweto youth, Dr Melville Edelstein.

Dr Edelstein was born in King Williams Town in 1919. As recounted to me by his daughter Janet, he was both a religious and liberal Jew, a humanitarian, and a Zionist who loved Israel. He traveled to Israel in 1954 and deeply considered making aliya but was torn about leaving South Africa and his family. While in Israel, Edelstein made a trip to the kibbutz Sde Boker and stayed with David Ben-Gurion, and his wife Paula. When he discussed his dilemma, Paula told him that "happiness resides in the bluebird of your back garden." So he moved back to South Africa and started doing social work in Soweto.

Edelstein was a popular and well-loved member of the Soweto community and was employed by a government department which dealt with welfare in the community, focusing on education and employment particularly of young people and the disabled. He warned the government that violence would occur if oppressive apartheid laws were not reviewed and revoked. He fought for the right to education for Soweto youth, but his report was ignored.

On the day the protests began, Edelstein was opening a new employment centre. When he heard about the protests, he rushed back to his offices, worried about the safety of his co-workers. He was found by reporter Peter Magubane. He had been stoned to death by the mob, and there was a protest sign hanging around his neck. Magubane said, "If they'd known who he was, this would never have happened." A sentiment confirmed by Murphy Marode, as Meville Edelstein was loved as a peacemaker.

I recall the 2017 National Youth Day ceremony when a plaque commemorating the contribution of Edelstein to the people of Soweto was

unveiled near the Morris Isaacson High School, built by Jewish philanthropist Morris Isaacson in 1956. Melville Edelstein's grandson Levi celebrated his barmitzvah with an Aliya in the heart of Soweto, beside the plaque, in the company of government representatives and ANC struggle stalwarts, to honour the life and tragic death of his grandfather Melville.

Dr. Edelstein had been active in the Jewish community and volunteered at The South African Jewish orphanage, Arcadia. He was a member of the Sydenham-Highlands North Hebrew Congregation and the synagogue also houses a plaque erected by the Jewish community commemorating his work and contribution.

As South African Jews, we have a legacy of courageous Jews who fought and gave their lives at the forefront of the struggle to end apartheid and to create our rainbow nation with the freedoms enshrined in our constitution. Many were proud Jews, inspired by the humanitarian tenets of Judaism. Some were socialists, communists, libertarians, and yes many were Zionists.

To those with short memories who would seek to take this proud legacy from us as a community, to those detractors who would undermine the social cohesion that unites us as South Africans, and incite hatred towards us, boycotting our businesses and making our children feel unsafe, to those who undermine our representative civil rights and religious organisations, elected leaders and institutions, to opportunists who would vilify us and undermine the very freedoms of association, religion, and expression our Jewish grandparents and many others fought and died for, know this:

You do not speak for all Jewish anti-apartheid activists or pacifists, or for those who were jailed, exiled or made the ultimate sacrifice and aren't here to speak for themselves. You do not speak in my name. And you will not make me feel lesser because I am a Jew, because I am white, because I am a Zionist.

Over the last few weeks, some young people in our community have experienced intimidation and threats, particularly online, but also on university campuses and at schools around the country.

Youth Day reminds us that we are all South Africans. We all share in the legacy of our reconciliation and we all need to work towards social cohesion and building our rainbow nation.

"Happiness resides in the bluebird of your back garden."

**The above is the full script of the video released by the SAZF (Cape Council) in honour of Youth Day. Click [here](#) to watch.*

In honour of Pride Month



Gay Jews shouldn't have to choose between their pride and their Zionism



Youth Movements roundup

Bnei Akiva

Bnei Akiva Cape Town has been very busy over Yom Ha'atzmaut, Lag BaOmer, Yom Yerushalayim and Shavuot! We shared events with Beit Midrash Morasha as well as visiting Jewish day schools. Shavuot was especially AMAZING seeing so many Jews coming together to learn.

Since then we've had two movie night events for Grades 3s and 4s and Grade 5s and 6s as well as a Maddies Workshop session which Yoni Rosenthal, Rosh Machaneh, came down to host.

Eytan Labe, Chairman Bnei Akiva Cape Town



The Maddies Workshop with Yoni Rosenthal

SAUJS is here for you

It has been a difficult few weeks for our SAUJS students. With the rise of tensions in the Middle East, social media has become a very uncomfortable place. SAUJS Western Cape wants to reassure you that we will continue to do anything in our power to ensure that campus always remains a safe and comfortable place for Jewish students.

Over the past few weeks, SAUJS held an information briefing about the conflict to allow our students to be more prepared and informed on how to handle the hate they are facing. If anyone would like this recording, or needs any other assistance, please DM us on any of our social media pages.

It is important note that we feel it is essential that we stay united during this time, and we have therefore started a SAUJS WC WhatsApp group. If you are a young Western Cape Jew between the ages of 18 and 25 interested in attending social events, political events, fun days, business seminars, Jewish events or outreach, please send us your number so that we can add you.

Deena Katzen, SAUJS WC Chairperson

Habonim — back to basics

June was another important month for JHDSA Cape Town, even though it perhaps was missing some of the prior thrills of our April and May. With everything going on in Israel and Palestine, we doubled down on our movement's commitments to our Zionism pillar. We ran educational seminars, prepared news updates and contributed to our monthly newsletter — all on the topic of what exactly caused the conflict, what it means for both sides, and how our members should navigate discussion spaces on the topic going forward. It was one of our first exposures of educational content this year. It was constructive, challenging and compassionate.

We have also started revisiting the day schools that we have missed so much. It has been great to see some of the familiar faces, as well as how some of our channichim have grown since our last proper interactions at Machaneh 2019. By now our ken will have broken up, but stay tuned for events for your children in the school holidays — we are working tirelessly to analyse COVID-19 cases and trends to make sure our events are as safe as they are fun.

Aleh v'Agshem!

Aaron Kruss-van der Heever, Rosh Ken Cape Town

Netzer

Follow us on our social media pages to find out what we are planning next, hope to catch you at the next event!



NETZER HAD A SHAVUOT PICNIC! WITH ALL OF THE COVID CHECKS IN PLACE, SOCIAL DISTANCING AND WEARING OF MASKS, WE HAD A GREAT AND SAFE TIME AT KIRSTENBOSCH ON SUNDAY THE 16TH MAY. BE SURE TO JOIN US AT THE NEXT ONE!





The Jerusalem Declaration's bogus definition of anti-Semitism

by Gerald M. Steinberg and Asaf Romirowsky This article first appeared in *The National Interest*

In 2016, following major attacks targeting Jewish and Israeli targets around the world, and based on earlier text adopted by the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, the government-based International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) published a two-page working definition of anti-Semitism.

This initiative was designed to fill the vacuum that fostered ineffective policies and willful blindness in countering the sources of hate crimes directed specifically at Jews.

The authors included a number of examples, some of which relate to Israel and the 'new' anti-Zionist form of anti-Semitism, which, along with traditional sources, uses the hate-inducing language and images of the Soviet era. These include 'denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination', applying double standards not 'demanded of any other democratic nation', using symbols 'associated with classic anti-Semitism... to characterise Israel or Israelis' or comparing 'contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis'.

Since 2016, this document has been formally adopted by thirty governments, mainly in Europe, North America, and Australia, as well as by international institutions. In addition, a number of parliaments and municipalities have endorsed the text, and, in many cases, universities and other important frameworks use the definition in the form of guidelines for assessing antisemitic behavior.

But for some ideological activists — particularly *Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions* (BDS) supporters — the Israel-related examples of anti-Semitism are unacceptable and are portrayed, or distorted, as attempts to 'silence criticism' of Israeli policies, or even as 'threats to democracy'. Under the banner of 'progressive values', influential groups that frequently critique Israel — including *J-Street*, the *New Israel Fund*, and *American Friends of Peace Now* — pushed the claim that the 'codification of the IHRA working definition', specifically its 'contemporary examples', creates the potential for misuse to suppress legitimate free speech and prevent



Image: Reuters

'criticism of Israeli government actions'.

And in Germany, of all places, a group of self-described 'cultural leaders' associated with the far Left launched a highly publicised effort to rescind the Bundestag resolution that adopted the working definition, and referred to BDS as a form of anti-Semitism. This group includes Stefanie Schüler-Springorum, who uses her position as head of the Center for Research on Antisemitism in Berlin to promote demonisation of Israel. As Professor Jeffrey Herf has written, her centre strictly avoids dealing with virulent anti-Zionism of the Soviet and East German regimes, as well as the Islamist contribution.

Reinforcing these efforts, and overlapping in a number of areas, another professionally promoted public relations campaign to undermine the IHRA consensus was launched under the heading of the *Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism* (JDA). Falsely claiming support from 'leading scholars of antisemitism', the funding source is carefully hidden, and the website — created at the last minute, with anonymous ownership — is registered in Iceland. (As is often the case, the progressive democratic values claimed by this group do not extend to funding transparency.) Ostensibly developed under the auspices of the highly ideological Van Leer Institute in Jerusalem, three of the eight 'coordinators', including Schüler-Springorum as well as a number of signatories, were also leaders of the German campaign. It is not surprising that the JDA manifesto repeats much of the language in the other attacks. It is also possible that they arranged the funding.

Copying the structure of the IHRA

document, the JDA includes five examples related to Israel and the conflict that 'on the face of it, are antisemitic', as well as five (for balance, of course) that, according to their manifesto, 'on the face of it, are not antisemitic'.

In the first examples, some follow the language in the original (IHRA) version, but others are notably absent — the labeling of double standards as anti-Semitic or 'drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis'. Both aspects are part of the BDS movement — by removing them from the definition of anti-Semitism, the JDA group seeks to give itself space for this form of anti-Israel discrimination. And in comparison to the IHRA's clear statement that "Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g. by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour" is anti-Semitism, the JDA version stands out as Orwellian doublespeak — 'Denying the right of Jews in the State of Israel to exist and flourish, collectively and individually, as Jews, in accordance with the principle of equality'.

The second supposedly 'non-antisemitic' examples proceed to develop the core anti-Zionist and pro-BDS objectives, as notoriously embraced by some of the better-known signatories, including Richard Falk. These include 'supporting the Palestinian demand for justice and the full grant of their ... rights', (often a euphemism for replacing Israel); promoting alternatives to a Jewish state (i.e. various 'arrangements for Jews and Palestinians in the area between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean'; 'criticism of Israel as a state...its institutions and founding principles....'. In addition, they claim

that 'it is not antisemitic, in and of itself, to compare Israel with other historical cases, including settler-colonialism or apartheid'; and — the core sleight-of-hand behind the manifesto, 'Boycott, divestment and sanctions are commonplace, non-violent forms of political protest against states. In the Israeli case they are not, in and of themselves, antisemitic'.

The frequent use of weasel words such as 'on the face of it' and 'in and of itself/themselves' is also significant, as noted by Prof. Matthias Küntzel. Ideological warfare is rarely one-dimensional, and arguments made to conform to legitimate and widely accepted norms are then interpreted and twisted far beyond the range of the simple language 'on the face of it'. A careful reading of the JDA text and context shows that while pretending to be neutral on the legitimacy of Israel and Zionism, their primary goal is delegitimation.

Of particular note is that by investing major resources in delegitimising the IHRA definition, they marginalise the core issues of anti-Semitism and the escalating attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions. According to the JDA, 'anti-Semitism has certain distinctive features', but these are minor, while in the spirit of progressive values and intersectionality, 'the fight against it is inseparable from the overall fight against all forms of racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, and gender discrimination'. In other words, any definition of anti-Semitism is unnecessary, particularly when it hampers 'free speech' necessary for singling out Israelis and justifying hatred.

In contrast, the IHRA working definition is the most effective means of countering the poisonous incitement that leads to assaults. By politicising and undermining this consensus, the JDA and the wider counter-IHRA campaigns are opening the door for even more violence targeting Israeli and Jewish institutions.

Gerald M. Steinberg is emeritus professor of political science at Bar Ilan University, and heads the Institute for NGO Research in Jerusalem.

Asaf Romirowsky is executive director of Scholars for Peace in the Middle East (SPME), and a senior non-resident fellow at the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies (BESA).

MENSCH THOUGHT-LEADER OF THE MONTH

By Michalya Schonwald Moss

**In honour of Mandela Day:
the power of listening**

When it comes to leadership, the ability to listen is what often makes a good leader great. Nelson Mandela had the masterful ability to listen, even when words were painful, ignorant or confrontational.

When Mandela died in 2013, we made our way, together with throngs of mourners, to his Johannesburg home, a few blocks from my own. Drawn like a magnet, I remember feeling embraced by the crowd, and a sense of belonging.

People were dancing, crying, singing, writing notes, and decorating stones from the plant-beds on the sidewalk.

In the centre of the road there was a young, white South African man who was addressing the mourners in Zulu. The crowd was loving what he was saying, moving their bodies with his words. I, being American, couldn't understand these words. Yet I listened and heard. He was letting the audience speak through him, giving a voice to our unspoken emotions, our grief, and our pride.

Through decades of experience, and again now in these 'post' COVID-19 times of working in the field of humanitarian aid and development, I have learned that listening is an essential point of entry to build trust, create local partnerships and gain community buy-in.

Listening isn't given as much attention

in leadership training as public speaking is, yet when a leader grasps the enormity of the power to listen, she has the



ability to create new possibilities and transform old paradigms together with her community. Although listening is the silent partner in communication, it should not be taken for granted.

As the implementing partner on the ground in the 'Plot 89' township in Gauteng, our team of volunteers at Cadena South Africa are trained in how to listen when engaging with our beneficiaries.

They go door to door, in the spirit of our hand-in-hand delivery ethos, to assess the health and hygiene situation in communities where pit-toilets are the only option. Our engagement strategy is to not assume we know what is needed, but to gain as much information as possible from the ground. To meet the needs of the community and co-create early adoption of our interventions for sustainable impact.

In our data-gathering processes, we are curious, culturally sensitive and kind. We ensure that we cultivate a human connection with community members, allowing for the creation of an empathetic team that shares the same vision.

By working to combat the pit-toilet crisis in South Africa through educational workshops and distribution of an innovative sanitation product that neutralizes solid waste, and eliminates flies and odours with extraordinary levels of success; we feel proud that we have helped our beneficiaries regain their dignity and improve their quality of life.

In honour of Mandela Day, please join Cadena South Africa in our pledge — to listen before leading when looking for solutions.

This lesson can be applied to all areas of our lives: In our personal and work relationships, with our children and especially with ourselves. To quote the great Madiba: "May your choices reflect your hopes, not your fears."



Outside the Mandela home in Johannesburg just after his death

Originally from the United States, Michalya Schonwald Moss is Director of Global Impact and Development for Cadena, an international humanitarian aid and disaster relief organisation, guided by the principles of Tikkun Olam. Michalya has been living in South Africa since 2009.

Michalya is also both a Board Member and Network Member of Jewish Social Justice NGO, Mensch. www.mensch.org.za



AGM honours volunteers and showcases projects

We held our 88th AGM on 22 May via Zoom and it gave us an opportunity to showcase the incredible projects that our branches are involved in.



Phyllis Friedlander receives the Pearl Mandelstam award.

We had the opportunity to honour our incredible volunteers including Phyllis Friedlander who received the Pearl Mandelstam Shield of Excellence, Chairman's award for her outstanding and long-serving contribution to our Women's JCF campaign (launching this month) which she chaired for over 20 years. Phyllis is also the longest-serving member of the Cape Town Executive and is an Honorary Life Vice-President of the Cape Town branch, as well and an Honorary Life Member of National UJW. Myra Goldenbaum became Honorary Vice-Chairman and Alan Hoffman and Su Lubner received service excellence award, while Hilary Osrin received a volunteer appreciation award.

Our outreach projects excelled with the Friend's Football Club from Noluthu's Kitchen (a project of our Simcha Group) winning the City of Cape Town's Ward 93 Sports Tournament and their young women's team coming second.

Kensington Educare created a vegetable garden with children and teachers getting down and connecting with the soil. Kensington also hosted an incredibly successful Family Fun Day organised by the teachers and PTA.



Kensington Educare kids busy in the garden



Noluthu's Kitchen football boys in action



Noluthu's Kitchen girls football team

THIS MANDELA DAY



**YOU CAN FEED, NOURISH & GROW
THE CHILDREN OF SOUTH AFRICA!**



BOOK NOW! [MENSCH.ORG.ZA/MANDELADAY](https://mensch.org.za/mandeladay)

**GLOBAL ONLINE
COOK-A-LONG!**

SUN 18 JUL 2021
UK 5PM/ SA 6PM/ ISR 7PM/
USA: EST 1PM/ PT 10AM

**INVITE YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN SA AND AROUND THE WORLD AND
JOIN US TO COOK A HEARTY, HEALTHY VEGGIE SOUP, & HOMEMADE BREAD
IN HONOUR OF MADIBA'S LEGACY AND HIS LOVE OF CHILDREN!
YOUR TICKET WILL SUPPORT CHILDREN VIA THESE ORGANISATIONS:**



Consider This

By Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani



Shavuot, Tisha B'Av and the Yamim Nora'im – some reflections

On Motzei Shabbat 17 July, Jews around the world will begin to commemorate Tisha B'Av. I write this article a month after our celebration of Shavuot and it struck me that there are many parallels between this festival and the commemoration of Tisha B'Av.

Shavuot is ritually connected to Pesach through *sefirat ha-omer*, the counting of the omer. The Torah (Lev. 23:15-17) commands that we count seven complete weeks from the day after the 'sabbath of Pesach' until the day after the seventh week – fifty days. Our sages understood 'sabbath' to mean the first day of Pesach (as opposed to the Saturday during the week of Pesach) and so we count the omer every night from the second night of Pesach for seven weeks. The next day we celebrate Shavuot, which became the anniversary of the giving of the Ten Utterances at Mount Sinai (originally Shavuot was the celebration of the First Fruits, *Chag ha-Bikkurim*).

Similarly Tisha B'Av occurs seven weeks before Rosh HaShanah, a fact that is marked by the seven Haftarat of Consolation, starting with *Shabbat Va'etchanan*, the first Shabbat after Tisha B'Av. This Shabbat is also referred to as *Shabbat Nachamu* (Sabbath of Comfort) because this haftarah is followed by six more prophetic readings from the Book of Isaiah, all with the theme of God comforting the People of Israel after their suffering. The mood of these seven weeks linking Tisha B'Av to the beginning of the *Yamim Nora'im* (the Days of Awe) is in stark contrast to the haftarat of the three weeks preceding Tisha B'Av. These prophetic readings, taken from the Books of Jeremiah and Isaiah are termed Haftarat of Affliction, in which the prophets warn their audiences of the dire consequences of not observing God's ethical laws. Thus the three weeks leading up

to Tisha B'Av are preparation for mourning the destruction of the two Temples, and other tragedies that befell the Jews of Europe; just as the three days leading up to Shavuot are preparation for hearing the Ten Utterances being chanted from the sefer Torah on the morning of the festival. These three days are known as *Sheloshet Yemei Hagbalah* (the three days of limitation), based on Exodus 19:12 and 15 where God instructs Moses to make sure that the Israelites are ready to witness the revelation at Mount Sinai.

The ritual counting of the omer every night for seven weeks forces us to make a conscious link between Pesach (the Festival of Freedom) and Shavuot (the Festival of the Giving of Torah), illustrating the importance of moral and ethical laws to ensure true freedom and the safe-guarding of human dignity. Similarly the chanting of the seven haftarat of consolation on the seven Shabbatot linking Tisha B'Av to the High Holy Days should instil an awareness of a connection between the two events in our spiritual calendar. The original reason for commemorating the fast of the ninth of Av (as well as the fasts of 17 Tammuz, 3 Tishrei and 10 Tevet) was to mourn the destruction of the First and Second Temples in 586 BCE and 70 CE respectively.

The Talmud (*Yoma 9b*) teaches that the First Temple was destroyed by the Chaldeans because the People of Israel were guilty of idolatry, immorality and bloodshed. Even though the populace of Judaea occupied themselves with Torah study and the observance of the mitzvot and acts of loving-kindness during the times of the Second Temple, the sanctuary was destroyed by the Romans because of the prevalence of causeless hatred (*sinat chinam*) among the Jews (*Yoma 9b*). The historical record of the destruction of the Second Temple bears out this Talmudic assertion. Intolerance and hatred of the followers of one Jewish sect towards those of another simply because they had different interpretations of Torah or views on how to relate to the non-Jewish world led to inter-factional fighting that eventually enabled Rome to destroy Jerusalem and the Temple.

So while the Ten Days of Repentance from Rosh HaShanah to Yom Kippur is a time of personal atonement and soul-searching, Tisha B'Av should be a day of national self examination and evaluation. The ninth of Av should be a reminder of the dangers of intolerance and self-righteousness. Jewish communities world-wide are comprised of Jews that differ in religious practice and interpretation of Torah, political views (pertaining to the State of Israel and beyond), ethnic backgrounds and spiritual journeys. Some are born into the Jewish people and others find their way to Judaism. Tisha B'Av warns us that it is imperative to accept that we are a people that are at once diverse and united under God and Torah. Rabbinic literature is replete with argument and discussion *LeShem Shamayim* (for the sake of heaven). Similarly every Jew who is committed to *tikkun olam* and relating to the elevation of the mundane into the realm of the holy has a path to the Most High. As

long as we express ourselves from the premise that we must be 'light of nations' (Isaiah 42:6, 49:6) we must have a safe space to articulate our views without fear of being ostracised or worse. Needless hatred and fear of diverse opinions not only leads to the destruction of a society or a people, but it also inhibits individual growth because being challenged is the only way to undertake sincere personal examination, a task that we are supposed to undertake during the *Yamim Nora'im*.

This year Tisha B'Av falls on Mandela Day, a day set aside for sixty-seven minutes of *tikkun olam*, based on the premise that we are all God's children and that we must set aside our differences to work for a common cause. President Mandela's vision of a rainbow nation by definition necessitates embracing our diversity under the umbrella of unity, just as a rainbow, the symbol of God's covenant with humanity, is one entity comprising different colours.



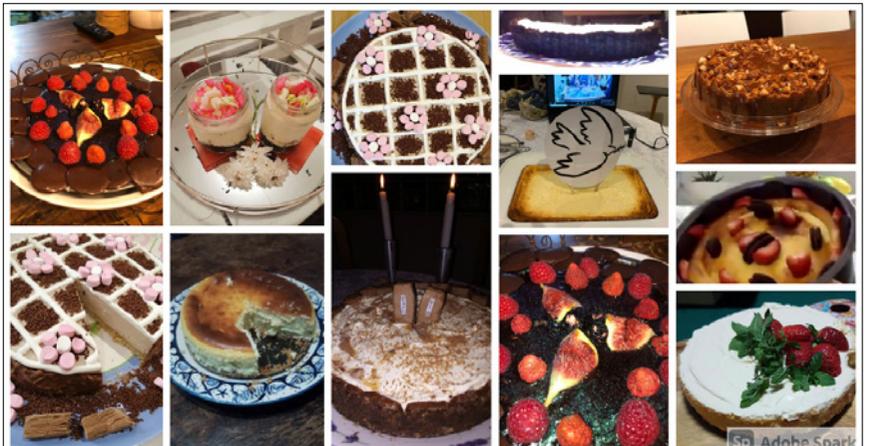
Temple Israel's  **WELSON MANDELA DAY**

Mandela Day
Walkathon

Sunday 18th July at 3pm
at the venue of your choice

Email marketing@templeisrael.co.za
for more info and to register

Winning cheesecakes for Shavuot



This year's cheesecake entries in our annual Shavuot Cheesecake Competition hosted by Suzelle DIY. Congratulations to our 2021 winners, the Bourne family.

Mazaltov to last month's Bnoth Mitzvah




Rebekkah Holmes 12 June
Hannah Jantjies 19 June



CSO Cape Town – Protecting your loved ones, keeping you safe and healthy

The last decade of the twentieth century saw the deepening of globalisation, the emergence of the digital age, as well as a rise in political, religious and ethnic violence globally. In South Africa it was a time of renewed hope with Apartheid in its death throes and Nelson Mandela a free man with the vision to create a unified and democratic country.

The global tide of antisemitism was ever-present, with attacks on Jews and their way of life becoming an almost daily occurrence. It was against this backdrop in 1992, in an effort to protect their way of life, that Jewry in the Western Cape rallied together and formed the Community Security Organisation Cape Town (CSO CT). The South African Jewish Board of Deputies formally launched the organisation a year later. CSO CT was founded on the key principle of protecting Jewish life, the Jewish way of life and empowering the community to protect itself.

In its infancy, its role was to provide security and physical protection to those attending shul on the Shabbat, and to other Jewish sites of importance. Fast forward to the present, and CSO CT provides services to the greater Western Cape community that also include medical, emergency and training services. In addition, they run numerous school programmes alongside related community initiatives.

The CSO model is based on our shared humanity. Every individual within CSO helps out on a voluntary basis by contributing either their time, expertise or skills. While CSO employs three full-time paramedics, the remaining 20 medical staff are volunteers. The same applies to



CSO volunteers protecting Gardens Shul

the 90-odd individuals who give of their time within the protection and security services, in the control room, or with the COVID-19 Wellness Monitoring Programme. This usually consists of one or two shifts each month as well as some training. The pandemic has meant that training is now fairly challenging, but CSO CT has managed to continue training volunteers online to ensure that they are able to continue providing a much-needed service to the community.

“When I tell people I work at CSO, the response is always the same, thank G-d for CSO. This underlines a critical sentiment — when the community calls on us, we will respond and never let them down. This is something I believe that none of us can live without,” says Loren Raize, Director at CSO CT.

She adds, “Our team of well-trained, dedicated and passionate volunteers give everything for our community. Volunteers are our most prized resource — we cannot achieve our mission without them, and so we urge the community to step up and join — there are many ways to get involved.”

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, CSO has further embedded itself into the community. By establishing a Wellness Monitoring Programme, CSO was able to remotely monitor community members infected with COVID-19 who were in isolation or quarantine. The programme tracks the heart rate, oxygen levels and temperature of patients. Should their condition deteriorate, a medical team or general practitioner is dispatched to conduct an in-person assessment and decide on further steps.

Every volunteer has their own inspiration for joining CSO CT. Some have a personal link or have had their lives impacted by the work of volunteers. Others have lost relatives in the Holocaust and during the horrors of the Second World War.

Says Raize, “Even if it is simply standing outside a Shul during services to protect fellow congregants, it is their contribution towards making the world a better place and ensuring that something like that never happens again.”

“While we continue to positively impact and support communities in the Western Cape, we require the resources to do so. We call on community members to contribute in any way they can, whether through their time, skills and expertise or manpower,” she concludes.

CSO CAPE TOWN — PROTECTING JEWISH LIFE AND THE JEWISH WAY OF LIFE

EMERGENCY NUMBER: 086 18 911 18



CSO medics responding to an emergency call



CSO 24/7 control room

[back to contents](#)



Unity, resilience and community

Sharon and David made Aliyah almost 30 years ago and settled in the seaside city of Ashkelon.

During the recent conflict, Ashkelon residents dealt with an unprecedented barrage of rockets. Sirens sounded at too-frequent intervals, day and night, for days. Sharon reached out to Telfed, "We need help, please." She went on to explain that their apartment has no *mamad* (safe room). "We have had to run down three floors on a non-stop basis. We are exhausted, traumatised... other residents in our building are near collapse."

While they were fortunate to have a communal shelter in their building, it was in a state of disrepair, and they were desperate for help so that the space could be 'somewhat livable'. Her concern for the safety of elderly and sickly neighbours, who could not make it to the shelter in time, prompted her to reach out.

At times of crisis, we are reminded of the resilience and kindness of our olim, the strength of our community, and the lifelong connection that our olim share with Telfed. Once a list of required essential items was received, we discovered that deliveries from local shops were delayed due to the security situation. Telfed's Ashkelon Regional Volunteer and veteran *oleh*, David Zwebner, tackled the problem and ensured that the necessary supplies were purchased and delivered (between rockets and sirens) to Sharon, David and their neighbours.

In recent weeks, we have seen and experienced the true essence of Israel. Israelis from all walks of life

united in support of one another. In a message to the community, outgoing Telfed Chairman Batya Shmukler, relayed her impressions as a mother of two soldiers, "I am incredibly proud to live in Israel, our only home. Despite incessant rocket attacks, a total stranger brought shwarma to my son and his unit. Another resident near Gaza prepared homemade schnitzel for them in case they were hungry. Other Jewish parents are stepping in to look after my children, our children. It is a reminder that we are like family."

South African olim initiated projects to support those in the south. They opened their homes to host residents of the Gaza border communities and collected and delivered clothes, food, toys and other supplies to those under heavy fire. Telfed staff and volunteers made hundreds of calls to South African olim in the most affected communities to check in on them, and see if they needed any assistance. Telfed CEO Dorrin Kline took cover (twice) in Tel Aviv on his way to delivering welcome packs to our newest olim in their quarantine hotel.

From the moment the ceasefire came into effect, it was business as usual. Our new olim, who have had to contend with changing COVID-related aliyah requirements and rocket fire, now know they can handle anything — including the infamous bureaucracy of immigration. Among our new arrivals in 2021 are a number of young olim who are waiting to begin their army service. We are ever grateful to our soldiers and look forward to hosting over 100 South African Lone Soldiers at our annual Lone Soldier brunch this August.



Adi Zahavi and Yoni Blitz assisted David Zwebner with the delivery of basic supplies to South African olim in Ashkelon, during Operation Guardian of the Walls.



How we learn at Salisbury House

In May, we celebrated Shavuot at Salisbury House.

Together with Temple Israel, we collected *bikkurim* (non-perishable food) to donate to the less fortunate. Once we collected enough food we divided it up into different food types. We then plotted this information down on a bar graph and discussed how much of each food type we had collected. We incorporated mathematical vocabulary, as well as discussing the nutritional value of each type of food. We explored the different meals that could be made with each food type and discussed which food would be considered a staple food and which were luxuries.

Rabbi Malcolm visited our school to discuss the relevance of *bikkurim* and Shavuot and why we take part in this mitzvah. We packed the groceries neatly into shopping bags and loaded

up the cars. We decided to donate the food to Christ Church Kenilworth, as they have several feeding schemes in our school's area.

When we arrived at the church we were greeted by Sharon, the Campus Manager. She told us about their soup kitchen evenings, care packages and *U-Turn* collaborations. The children got an opportunity to ask questions and we discussed the similarities between Temple services and Church services during COVID times.

We were invited to play in the lovely gardens at the church and when we got back to school we wrote a detailed article on the process we took to eventually donating our goods to Christ Church Kenilworth.

A great deal of fun and learning was had during this project. At Salisbury House we integrate our subjects to create authentic, true-to-life learning experiences.



Salisbury House children, accompanied by Rabbi Malcolm, hand over bikkurim to Christ Church Kenilworth staff



Sephardi Hebrew Congregation

PART TIME RABBI FOR SEPHARDI CONGREGATION

The Sephardi Hebrew Congregation of Cape Town is looking for a vibrant religious leader, initially on a part time basis. The ideal candidate would be based in Cape Town and have already obtained his Smicha. Sephardi origin or familiarity with the rites and rituals of a Sephardi synagogue would be advantageous. Must be able to communicate clearly in English and Hebrew, with a bonus of French if possible.

If not a South African citizen, the candidate should be in possession of a valid work permit.

Remuneration will be negotiable based on experience.

Please address your application, with copies of all relevant documentation, to office@sephardi.capetown

Follow the Chronicle online



Click on your favourite social media site & visit our website.



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

Coping with loneliness while being alone during lockdown and beyond

Many of us have spent an awful amount of time alone during the last year and a half; and we each have a different way of coping with this alone-time.

As an organisation we have tried to ensure that our members have been able to interact with others, and remain part of our community while being alone.

There are ways to enjoy solitude instead of feeling lonely. When you notice loneliness creeping in, there are ways to transform it into a positive feeling, thus enabling you to enjoy your solitude and keep from feeling lonely. Feelings of loneliness have always been an issue. The pandemic has only magnified this as we continue having to keep our social distance, and so many communal areas remain shut down. Whether Covid continues or we go back to the new normal way of life, this is really a good time to learn ways to combat loneliness and to enjoy solitude.

Understanding the power of loneliness and being alone

Loneliness and being alone are not the same thing. There is a huge difference.

Loneliness is when we are sad because we long for interaction with others. Being alone is not having someone else physically near you. There is no feeling inherently associated with being alone — equating loneliness with being alone is a conscious or subconscious connection that we make.

Once we separate the physical state of being alone from the feeling of loneliness, it can instead be replaced with the peace and comfort of solitude.

Stop judging

There are many reasons to find yourself alone at times. Often, the pain of loneliness does not come from lacking interaction with other people but from the judgement we place on being alone. We imagine we are alone because we are not liked. Our thoughts can spiral making us feel that we are not good enough to have company. When we judge ourselves, this only brings about resentment and despair.

The acronym FOMO 'Fear of Missing Out' is a reality, especially during COVID — isolation heightens FOMO and because we really do not know when this is going to be over, it has become a real fear for many. However there are really ways to prevent FOMO:

Be your own best friend

You must love yourself to enjoy solitude. Loneliness is the poverty of self: solitude is richness of self. Treat yourself like you would a friend. You would not allow your friend to judge themselves badly so you should not allow your mind to abuse you. Tell yourself what you would tell a friend as this will make you stronger. Make plans to do things with yourself that you enjoy — you are wonderful company and know exactly what you like and how you want things done. Make yourself feel loved and appreciated — watch a movie that you have wanted to watch for ever and enjoy yourself while you can.

Find and do what you love

Find what brings you true joy. Be honest with yourself. You cannot help but enjoy your solitude if you are doing something you love. If you don't know what you love, now is the time to figure it out — write down what has brought you joy in the past and whatever your heart has been longing for. Start projects so that you can feel in control of your alone-time (it might even make you want more alone-time), thus eliminating that feeling of helplessness that often accompanies loneliness.

Rejuvenate for interaction

People do need solitude and alone-time to prepare and rejuvenate the soul for when they do interact with others. There can be much happiness in the solitude of planning for when you are not alone.

Schedule things to do with others. Relax and rest so that you have energy and positive attitude when you do mingle with people. Many individuals are surprised at how much more present, connected, and content they feel in company once they have taken time to rejuvenate in solitude.

Memories can hold powerful emotions for us. The stories we hold dear and keep alive can be good to journal while we are alone to prevent loneliness, and as a great way to preserve life stories for your family. Take this opportunity to do something positive so that once the pandemic is over, you have something positive on which to reflect.

Diana Sochen – Executive Director

Social and Personal

Even during the lockdown period, there have been numerous occasions to celebrate.

We welcome new member

Edward Katz

Engagement

Hymie and Rosebeth Becker
– granddaughter

Births

Welcome and mazaltov to the families celebrating births.

Phyllis Friedlander

– great-grandson

Eve Joffe – great-grandson

Wilfrid Mirkin

– great-granddaughter

Mazaltov to families celebrating bar and batmitzvahs

Avron and Haley Almelah – son
Marcel Almelah – grandson

Sam and Reeva Chait – grandson

Barbara J Khan – grand-nieces in Sydney and grandson in Israel

Hilda Wilk – grandson

Marriage

Eileen and Cedric Braudo
– granddaughter

Special birthday

Ann Stoller – 98 years

Wilfrid Mirkin – 85 years

Anniversary

Sam and Reeva Chait – 66 years

Ivan and Miriam Atlas – 60 years

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

Maureen Nates – sister, Pearl Levin

Natalie Goodman – husband, Reuben

Pat Josephson – wife, Urshula

Weekly Shabbat Meals

Served to your door. Yummy meals delivered to your home by our incredible volunteers while you are able to celebrate ensuring your safety at all times.



Daily Zoom programmes

Please join us for our daily Zoom programme which is available on our Facebook page.

Every day is special with a varied and exciting session. Extend yourself and learn something new every week.

CJSA Shabbat Wine



Available throughout the year for your Shabbat Meals and more. Please support us by buying a bottle for only R80.



Building bridges at the SAJM

Since last year, COVID restrictions have put a stop to our visits from government primary schools.

We are waiting for the day we can enjoy the full range of school groups again. However, our Cultural Diversity Education Programme has risen to the challenge by changing focus. We are now partnering with NGOs to host visits from children and adults keen to join us outside of school. We have had wonderful days with the Walker Bus Project (Mitchells Plain), Delft Cadets (Delft), Liyema (Khayelitsha), Q Rock (Wellington), and the Junior Achievement groups from Livingstone and Beacon Hill

High Schools, and look forward to our next bookings which include groups from Paarl, Delft and Nyanga. In addition we are looking ahead to an increase in visits from private schools, starting with Sinai Academy who spent a morning with our *Dani Dreidel* activity books and a story in the shtetl.

In June we welcomed two groups of staff members from Glendale Care Home, who were enthusiastic to find out more about the history of the people whom they know so well. They came away with a greater understanding of our community. We realised that many South Africans of other religions and cultures who work for Jewish organisations and

businesses have little background knowledge of the community in which they work. Given the worldwide rise in antisemitism, we see an opportunity for Jewish business owners and organisations to broaden their staff's understanding of Judaism and Zionism. If you are a Jewish-run organisation or business, we invite you to build your own bridge with your staff at our museum. Contact us and we will prepare a specialised tour for you.

A heartfelt thank you to the guides



Sinai Academy with their *Dani Dreidel* activity books

and facilitators who have helped to build bridges thus far: Roz von Zwicklitz, Dalene Morris, Tanya Bauman, Lesley Katz, Cheryl Margolin, Langa Nesani, Beverley Sarembock and Beryl Verblun.



Livingstone High School Junior Achievement students visited us as a reward for their hard work.



Smiling under their masks: the second group of Glendale staff arrive for their tour.

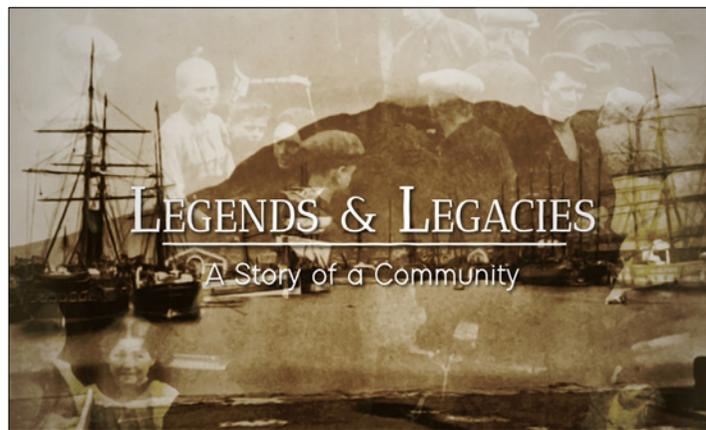
Legends & Legacies: A Story of a Community

Legends & Legacies: A Story of a Community is an eight-part documentary television series that tells of the history and contribution of the South African Jewish community.

A Jewish presence in Southern Africa can be traced as far back as Fernao Martins, a *converso* (a Portuguese Jew who was forced to convert to Christianity) who was selected by Vasco da Gama to be his translator on his first voyage via southern Africa to India in 1497.

The first Jewish settlers to South Africa were Anglo-Germans at the beginning of the 19th century, followed by East European 'Litvaks' escaping the pogroms later that century. Most settled in rural areas, and not until the diamond, then gold rush of the late 19th century, did a greater assortment arrive; adventurers, explorers and refugees.

Jewish immigrants and their descendants have left their mark on South Africa in many ways. There have been doctors and lawyers and rabbis and parliamentarians, hawkers and diamond-diggers, industrialists and Randlords, renegade Boer War commandos and Nobel prize-winners, social workers, artists and activists.



All these are part of the rich complexity of Jewish life at the southern tip of Africa.

The makers of this series crossed the country, from small villages to major cities and uncovered little-known stories, interviewing community members from all walks of life, finding both joy and sadness and remarkable achievement.

The series was created and produced by Mark Wade, written and presented by Alan Swerdlow, and funded with special thanks to the Kirsh Foundation.

Episode 1: Comings and Goings How did the immigrant South African Jewish community arrive at the foot of Africa? Who were they, where did they come from, and where did they go?

Episode 2: Gib a Kook/Have a Look From hawkers to captains of industry, the same road was trugged.

Episode 3: Something Tangible The establishment of the communal institutions, from graveyards to schools.

Episode 4: It all Depends The integration of the community into the civil society that surrounded them.

Episode 5: Longings and Belongings The engagement of the community with the political realities of South Africa.

Episode 6: Wondering Jews The thinkers, the philosophers, the writers, the people of science and medicine and the law — truly a 'people of the book'.

Episode 7: My Child Could Do Better South African Jewish involvement in theatre, the arts and creativity — and what it did for the community.

Episode 8: Considerations An informal gathering of Jewish family and friends before the Sabbath. We contemplate the present and the future of South Africa's Jewish community.

The series will launch on Sunday 11 July at 6pm as a world charity premiere in support of the Union of Jewish Women South Africa, and will include a brief discussion with Bev Goldman (UJW), Alan Swerdlow and Mark Wade.

Registered participants will be able to view the live webcast, and have access to a private YouTube channel to view the series at their leisure. Episodes will launch weekly, every Sunday at 6pm, from 11 July to 29 August. Late registrants will be given access to a private YouTube channel.

[Register here](#)

[back to contents](#)



**JEWISH
COMMUNITY
SERVICES**
CAPE TOWN



www.jcs.org.za

JCS@WORK

First Community Group Home for Individuals

Lynne Hendricks
Social Worker & Project Coordinator
Hazel Levin
Executive Director JCS

Unemployment, accommodation and food security are some of the factors that have led to individuals requiring assistance from Jewish Community Services, which has been exacerbated by COVID-19. JCS had for some time been looking for a large 'Home' to house the vulnerable and indigent members of our Cape Town Jewish Community, who needed material relief and social services.

The aim of the Group Home was firstly to save on rental costs and leasing, as well as an opportunity for individuals to reside in a supportive environment, eliminating loneliness and allowing for interaction amongst all residents. Living independently, but provided with the basic needs of food and accommodation. It was very important to determine whether a particular type of housing is the right match for the individual. Auxiliary social worker, Lynne Hendricks, worked on a selection process with the social workers ensuring we had the right complement, who could reside together.

Our 17-bedroom home – a home to 16 clients, was purchased in October last year and within a month we had filled all the rooms. It has been nearly six months since the first residents moved in and the journey, although a wonderful concept, has had a fair share of teething problems, but none that we have not managed to work through. JCS is determined to ensure that these residents are kept occupied in the day – not only giving a handout but a handup. JCS has made a commitment to these

clients and has implemented a Work Employment Programme – JCS WRAP (Wellness Recover Action Plan). Each client living in the home will participate in this programme. The objective of the programme is to help each client map and plan their future within a two-year period.

JCS has partnered with Staffwise, ORT Jet, Quantum Growth and Woodhead's to help get all our clients assessed, upskilled, employed and independent. Each client will also be partnered with a volunteer life coach.

Clients enjoy a warm home environment, sharing meals, weekly Shabbat dinners and being supportive of each other – it's a home, supplying shelter and food security and one where everyone feels safe and secure in their environment, with a resident housemaster overseeing the 16 residents.

At JCS we believe in NOT ONLY GIVING A HANDOUT BUT A HAND UP! For more information or to sponsor a Shabbat Meal for our 17 Milner Road residents, please contact a social worker on **021 462 5520** or email info@jcs.org.za.

"Thank you JCS for your support during my COVID-19 hospital stay and for giving me a helping hand to restart my life. I am now in an amazing secure and safe place with other likeminded people, with all the support and encouragement from a great team that I could ever wish for, to get me back on my feet. We have a nucleus of our own little community that really support each other. Thanks again to JCS and the management team of staff and social workers for giving us our life back." - Milner Road Resident



#JewishCommunity #SharedLiving #SocialUpliftment



A VIEW FROM THE BAR

Justice — who appoints the judges?

By Anton Katz SC

Justice is key to a better society. Parashat Shoftim, Deuteronomy 16:18 – 21:9 opens with the summons to “appoint judges and officials for your tribes... and they shall govern the people with due justice. You shall not judge unfairly.”

Rituals are essential and beautiful, but they remain frosting. Goodness, justice and decency form the basis of a good and caring society.

The Torah insists, “Justice, justice shall you pursue”¹. And part of justice depends on who dispenses it. It is of no value to have judges who are partial to one group or certain ideas. Judges are the custodians of justice in society. Independent, fair and learned members of society assist in resolving disputes peacefully. Violence, destruction and unhappiness can be avoided or limited by the actions of wise and fair judges. The Constitution recognises this by commanding that courts must apply the law “impartially and without fear, favour or prejudice”, and the oath of office prescribed by schedule two requires each judge to swear that he or she “will uphold and protect the Constitution... and will administer justice to all persons alike without fear, favour or prejudice, in accordance with the Constitution and the law.”

The judicial branch is responsible not only for resolving disputes between private parties, but also for resolving disputes between government and private parties, and even disputes between different branches or sectors of government. It has the responsibility to protect individuals from government overreaching, and it plays an important role in South Africa’s constitutional balance of powers. The Constitutional Court has commented that “Unlike Parliament or the Executive, the Court does not have the power of the purse or the army or the police to execute its will. The superior courts and the Constitutional Court do not have a single soldier. They would be impotent to protect the Constitution if the agencies of the State which control the mighty physical and financial resources of the State refused to command those resources to enforce the orders of the courts. The courts could be reduced to

paper tigers with a ferocious capacity to roar and to snarl but no teeth to bite, and no sinews to execute what may then become a piece of sterile scholarship. Its ultimate power must therefore rest on the esteem in which the judiciary is held within the psyche and soul of a nation. That esteem must substantially depend on its independence and integrity.”

In South Africa, to become a judge is unlike many professions as one does not study specifically at university to become one, and then apply. There is no ‘judging’ degree or certificate in South Africa. In some countries, particularly those that follow what is known as the civil law system, individuals study to become judges at university. In South Africa the Constitution says that any appropriately qualified person who is considered fit and proper, may be appointed as a judicial officer. So, the interesting and difficult question is: how and who are to appoint judges, the custodians of justice?

Each country has different mechanisms for the appointment of judges. In some societies judges are appointed by the head of state, such as a King, Queen, Chief or President. In some, the Queen or other head of

state plays the role of judge herself. In other societies, the citizens vote in contested elections for judges. And in other societies, juries consisting of peers play the

role of judging. There are no juries in South Africa; only judges and magistrates who adjudicate disputes.

Judges in South Africa are appointed by the President on the advice of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC). The South African Constitution establishes a Judicial Service Commission effectively to control the President’s appointment of judges. In recommending candidates for appointment as judges, the JSC must determine whether the individual is a fit and proper person to be appointed. Thus, the composition of the JSC becomes important. In the past few years, the JSC has increasingly been criticised for conducting itself in an unbecoming and unlawful manner.

There have been complaints that certain candidates are targeted for their religious, cultural and political affiliations. Recently, the JSC put out a media statement refuting the SA Jewish Board of Deputies’ complaint that it had targeted Jewish

candidates, including Judge David Unterhalter.²

CASAC (Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution) has also launched a High Court challenge declaring certain conduct of the JSC to be unlawful. How the High Court rules on CASAC’s case will be interesting and important.

Who sits on the JSC is obviously significant. Like all parts of the Constitution, the composition of the JSC reflects a compromise between competing parties and values during the drafting of the Constitution. Some parties sought limited representation by politicians, whereas others were concerned with legacy of apartheid judges and wished for greater influence by the incoming government.

The JSC consists of 23 members. Ten of the commissioners are parliamentarians and another four are appointed by the President. The other members are three of the most senior judges, the Minister of Justice, a law professor and four commissioners who are practising advocates and attorneys. It is immediately apparent that political parties play a relatively

dominant role in deciding who becomes a judge. Questions arise as to whether that is a fair and just system. Is justice somehow compromised or watered down when the judges whose task it is to uphold justice are appointed by persons elected by the citizens? There is probably no perfect appointment regime. Every system will have advantages and disadvantages. Judges are human and those who appoint the judges are human. So, the best justice can hope for is that although judges, when dispensing justice, and the JSC when appointing judges will make mistakes, that those errors will be rare rather than the norm. That’s what justice demands.



Anton Katz is a practising Senior Counsel, former United Nations special rapporteur on mercenaries and human rights, former Acting High Court Judge, and an admitted attorney in New York. He was born and raised in Sea Point.

“...any appropriately qualified person who is considered fit and proper, may be appointed as a judicial officer.”



THE SHABBOS BOX BY COFFEE TIME

A different menu every week

Feeds 3 – 4 people

WhatsApp orders to **076 959 3763** Orders must be placed by **Thursday 12h00** and

Proof of Payment emailed before collection to coffeetime@jsec.org.za

Collection Friday from 13h00 – 14h45. Close 15h00.

Please contact Steven Miller for any specific catering requirements on **021 461 8414**

BANKING DETAILS: Standard Bank
Account Coffee Time Account No **071552456**
Branch Code **020909** Branch Thibault Square



COFFEE TIME
ASTRA CENTRE
CAPE TOWN



zapper



Snap here to pay
SnapScan



www.astrajob.com



MLQHX

1. <https://www.myjewishlearning.com>

2. <https://www.judiciary.org.za/images/news>

Here comes Mila...

Mila Smith is a sixteen-year-old student at Herzlia. She's also a talented singer/songwriter with a newly released debut single and another on the way.



She describes how she's been singing as long as she remembers, putting her thoughts and feelings to music as far back as the age of three.

The CJC asked her about her career thus far — what were the pivotal moments? The first pivotal moment was getting a keyboard when I was eight years old. That's when I started writing my own original music. Then, at age 11, I started a band called *Skyscrapers* with two boys from school. I was the lead singer and composed the original music. In 2016, we released our debut EP *Possibility* and a music video for our single *Just Kids*. In December 2016, our song *Megaphone* was the song behind the DSTV campaign for their new channel *Animania*. Afterwards, we got to perform at *Concert in the Park* and opened for well known South African bands like *Freshlyground* and *The Rudimentals*. The band broke up in 2018. That same year I was approached by *Platoon*, a creative artist services company owned by *Apple*. I signed with them as a solo artist and was able to write and record with various producers. Now, three years later, my debut single and music video for my original song *Liars and Fakes* is out — and I couldn't be happier!

Describe your process: My writing process usually starts with a melody. I can be anywhere: at school; in the shower etc and I get a random melody in my head. Then I establish that melody as chords on the piano (I play by ear). Once the chords are established, my lyrics flow from there. I usually write based on my own emotions and experiences. Or I put myself in someone else's shoes and write from their perspective. Besides writing music, I love creative writing tasks at school because it's a different way to flex the writing muscles.

How are you managing to balance your time, and energy between your academic commitments and your music career? Balancing my time between my academic commitments and my music career can be challenging. However, it has been possible due to Herzlia's support and my strong support system at home. My school is very understanding of my demanding schedule. So too is my mom and the rest of my family — they are always there when I need them; willing to listen and give advice. I think it is also very important to know your limits and set boundaries to ensure you don't take on too much. I'm always willing to voice when I feel overwhelmed and try to plan when to do what, to ensure that I have some time for myself to relax.

Your debut single has just been released — what's it about? *Liars and Fakes* was essentially written about someone who I felt used me for superficial gain as opposed to chasing a real, genuine friendship. It is an upbeat pop song with a little bit of an 80s disco sound to it.

The video is amazing and looks like it was a lot of fun to make. Tell us about it: The making of the *Liars and Fakes* music video will always be memorable! The actual shooting of the music video was delayed constantly due to COVID and eventually, in February 2021, we were able to shoot. The production team behind the music video is called 'Butterfly Films' and they helped bring the music video to life. It starts off at a diner, where my squad and I are working. We are dissatisfied and have to act fake and superficial. Then we decide we've had enough and escape the diner (on roller skates) and skate around the city. Eventually we land up at an abandoned mall. It is there that we change outfits. I loved that idea because we were transforming in our clothing but also in our mindsets. Rather than being fake and superficial, we emerge as our true, authentic selves. The music video ends off on a high note — on the roof of a skyscraper.

Where to from here? After this, my second single and music video is planned to be released at the end of July. Afterwards, the goal is to release my debut EP towards the end of this year. I'd also love to start performing my songs live, when lockdown regulations ease up! Another dream of mine is to compose music for a movie or film score, so that is something I'd love to focus on too!

Click [here](#) to watch *Liars and Fakes*

BOOK REVIEWS

By Lindy Diamond

The Magic of Us by Azila Talit Reisenberger



As a fan of the author in real life, and having witnessed first-hand the warmth, humour and goodness she infuses into marriage ceremonies, I was more than excited to spend a few hours in her mind, reading *The Magic of Us*; a book that explores the exquisite complexity of being human and subject to the whims of others in our quest for happiness and self-fulfillment.

The book starts with a hypothetical question that introduces us to the characters and gives us insight into who they are. Although there are many — spanning over a century of narrative — they have been written with enough attention to detail for the reader to have a vested interest in their well-being.

After this introduction, there are hints that something momentous is about to unfold, and I was not disappointed. Through casual dinner conversations, epic overseas explorations, and historical narrative, the author takes us on a huge adventure, at times suspending reality and stepping into the genre of Jewish historical fantasy; and we go along happily because of the infinitely likeable characters.

Just under the surface of this fictional tale lies acerbic criticism of the sometimes-cruel, always-challenging world of conversion to Judaism under the strict eye of the Beth Din and the male-dominated rabbinical leadership, as well as patriarchy in general. The author asks us to question; *What is a Jew? Who is the 'most' Jewish? What does that even mean? What does a Jew look like?*

In a country where we often wear orthodoxy as a birthright and not a way of life, the book raises questions that many who have not gone down the grueling road to conversion have never thought to ask. This story also makes you want to trace your great-great-grandparents back to the towns and cities you have heard of but never visited, to a world that in some ways shaped us, but no longer exists.



For many in our community, the stories are our stories, and details feel familiar, through our own family histories, or cellular level recall. The beautiful tradition of blessing children is mentioned throughout the book in different contexts and this continuation of tradition is a moving motif.

This easy-read is a sometimes pleasant, sometimes painful ride through family history, tragedy and relationships, woven together with the narrators' (and author's) sense of morality and humour.

Future Tense: Reflections on my Troubled Land by Tony Leon

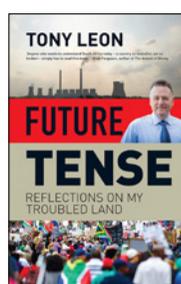


With a writing style that is informal, yet bursting with the insight of decades in the political arena, Tony Leon and *Future Tense* make it feel like you are having coffee and a chat with this veteran politician.

Leon's latest book takes us through Present, Past and Future Tense in three distinct parts, each filled with the author's personal experiences, and reflections on South Africa's political landscape. In a style that is more conversational than didactic, Leon weaves a narrative that not only tells us *what* happened, but gives a seasoned professional's view on *why* it happened; and more importantly, what he thinks it all means for the future of South Africa's citizens.

The book draws on quotes from various sources, allowing the reader to grasp these snapshots of political zeitgeist at different times, through multiple lenses. We can really delve into what was happening behind the scenes, instead of only what was on the stage, and it adds a whole new layer of context to what we think we know.

Books on South African politics can be dry, and I wasn't looking forward to what I thought was another of those. I am most relieved to say that I have been pleasantly surprised. This remains juicy and inside-scoop-like.



There were times when I imagined Leon leaning in to speak in hushed tones with raised eyebrows and me responding with a pearl-clutching "Surely not?!" When I couple that with easy reading and a definite improvement of my understanding of politics, I would call this time well spent, and I daresay, enjoyed.

This is a good book to read if you want to be able to discuss politics intelligently and understand the goings-on in the DA and ANC, without having to suffer through a long-winded autobiography or dry historical account.

[back to contents](#)

Not all young Jews want to leave South Africa

By Ricky Stoch This article was first published by DafkaDotCom 22 March 2021



There is nothing quite like a pandemic in London to remind you how good our lives are in South Africa. I moved to London in 2018 to study and now, while starting my business and getting British citizenship, I commute between South Africa and the UK. When I settle down, I hope to do it in South Africa.

According to the 2019 Jewish Community Survey of South Africa (JCSSA) most respondents (74%) had either a strong or quite a strong sense of belonging to South Africa. However, the survey noted that “feelings of belonging are weakest among respondents aged 25 and younger.” In a recent *DafkaDotCom* article (24/02/2021), Deena Katzen alludes to this pattern when she writes, “I believe that many young Jewish South Africans will opt for the opportunity that offers them the best quality of life. For most this is no longer South Africa.”

Like most surveys, the JCSSA is not entirely representative. I was 25 when the survey took place and I found the results surprising as my social circle has a very strong sense of belonging to South Africa. In fact, of those who have left South Africa many hope to return. When I asked my friends about the survey none of them were even aware that it had taken place.

Obviously, my friendship circle is not a significant enough sample size to alter the statistics. We are left-leaning, secular Jews in our twenties and thirties, we are too old for youth movements/SAUJS and don't have children, so haven't 're-entered' traditional communal spaces. But I would argue, that in the statistics our voices, and voices like ours, aren't being heard. We make up a small contingent, but a contingent nonetheless. A group that has the potential to make an impact not only on the Jewish community but South African society as a whole.

When people hear that I want to come back to settle in South Africa I am usually met with disbelief, a raised brow and, “well, that's refreshing”. Then, with narrowed eyes, I'm asked, “is it because of the weather?”

The reality is that, in the UK, things like the weather, the tedious bureaucracy, the comparatively lower standard of living to which relatively privileged South Africans are accustomed, and everything in between, are just details. They aren't great but they certainly aren't the main reasons I want to leave the UK and return home.

I have an ongoing back and forth with a friend, who also lives overseas, about what makes South Africa so special.

It took us many hours of complaining about other people's frivolous “first world complaints” (the irony is not lost on us) and lack of perspective to give a name to what we felt was missing. We call it the *impetus for change*. By this we mean not only the desire to make a difference but the opportunity and ability to make a tangible impact in the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Our circle might not be reflective of our contemporaries in the broader Jewish community. That said, I don't know many people who aren't, in a professional or personal capacity, contributing meaningfully to broader South African society. I don't think my friends are necessarily typical, even the one in finance works for a nonprofit and is pursuing a career in development. The others work in the arena of human rights, public health, food security, or are doctors in the public health system. The handful that work in the corporate sector, do charity work and volunteer. At the very least, they donate to local charities when and where they can.

“When I settle and have a family I want to do so in a place where contributing to society, to something bigger than oneself, is the expected and not the exceptional.”

The *impetus for change* is not unique to the Jewish community but, Jewish or not, I can't say the same for the majority of my contemporaries in London. Tzedakah and Tikkun Olam are integral to Judaism but South African Jewry is distinct in that our outreach extends beyond our own community.

The JCSSA reports that 74% of respondents agreed that the “organised Jewish community goes to great lengths to help the underprivileged majority in South Africa.” Organisations like Afrika Tikkun, or Mensch, are not only motivated by Jewish values, but, as Mensch describes itself, is specifically dedicated to “support and develop social change-makers, facilitate volunteering, and build bridges between people, to bring about positive transformation in South Africa.”

When I settle and have a family I want to do so in a place where contributing to society, to something bigger than oneself, is the expected and not the exceptional.

Another factor that informs my desire to settle in South Africa is the rise of antisemitism in Europe. The key finding of the *Experiences and Perceptions of Antisemitism Second Survey on Discrimination and Hate Crimes Against Jews in the EU* (2018) is “that antisemitism pervades the public sphere, reproducing and

ingraining negative stereotypes about Jews. Simply being Jewish increases people's likelihood of being faced with a sustained stream of abuse expressed in different forms.” The survey also notes that respondents perceive antisemitism to be rising significantly across the region.

I am not religious but I am traditional and proudly Jewish. I know that antisemitism exists in South Africa. That said, in South Africa, I have never second-guessed whether or not to say that I am Jewish. In England the opposite is true. I won't wear a Magen David or any other Jewish signifier in public. I am not alone. In January, *The Guardian* published an article, stating that 44% of British Jews avoid “visible displays of Judaism in public.”

Like most things in England, antisemitism isn't overt. Rather, it lies below the surface. The comments are just innocuous enough to make you think you are being over-sensitive. One friend hasn't told her colleagues she is Jewish in case she asks for a raise and is met with the stereotypical

tropes we all know too well. I recently read an email from a prominent consultancy on International Holocaust Memorial Day saying broadly that discrimination was bad. However, despite being about International Holocaust Memorial Day, the email made no reference to the systematic persecution of Jews in Europe in World War II.

This January, *The Independent* published an article detailing the results of a poll on antisemitism conducted by *YouGov* and Kings College. The article noted that 45% of British adults agreed, among other antisemitic tropes, that Jews “control the media,” or “talk about the Holocaust just to further their political agenda.”

The 2018 EU survey on antisemitism, mentioned earlier, estimates that across the twelve countries canvassed, 39% of respondents had experienced antisemitism in the 12 months prior to the study. In comparison, the JCSSA reports only 8.8% of respondents experiencing verbal insults or harassment.

The South African Jewish community is complex and full of contradictions. We like to kvetch but in truth we are incredibly lucky to belong to such a small, organised and involved community. I've never experienced anything like it anywhere else in the world.

The JCSSA reports that “overall,

Jewish identity in South Africa appears to be stronger, and more religious, than in either Australia or the UK.” To me, it is more telling that the survey found “South Africa's Jewish population is highly active in Jewish communal life, with over three quarters of respondents (78%) having attended at least one communal event in the previous twelve months.”

But it isn't just the *impetus for change*, comparatively low levels of antisemitism or strong community that continue to draw me back to South Africa. It is also the opportunities, especially for young people, that come with living here.

If you are entrepreneurial, starting a business here can be significantly easier. This is mainly due to our being a developing country, which naturally means there are opportunities to build products and offer services that don't already exist. If you are seeking employment, you are a big fish in a small pond. This is especially so in the Jewish community, which prioritises investing in education. In cities like London, New York, Toronto or Sydney you are a guppy in an ocean where everyone is Ivy League (or the local equivalent) educated. Moreover, at the risk of perpetuating the stereotype, the reality is that being part of our Jewish community opens doors.

For better or for worse I love and hate the South African Jewish community. A community that I hate to love and love to hate. A complicated community to which I believe it is a privilege to belong, because at the end of the day I know they will catch me if I fall.

In my life I have lived in six cities, three countries and have had the privilege of travelling extensively. I am privileged to have options, backups as well as a plan B and C. I have also learned the hard way that the grass isn't greener anywhere, it just has different thorns.

Ricky Stoch is the founder of Studio Fundi, a design consultancy and product development firm, based in London and Johannesburg, which uses the power of visuals to solve problems, change behaviour, democratise information and communicate 'big ideas'. For the past two years she has focused on developing a cheap solution to increase treatment adherence to antiretrovirals and other chronic medication. Ricky holds BA and Honours degrees from the University of Cape Town and a Masters in Visual Communication from the Royal College of Art in London.

Meet rising digital marketing star, Dane Abramowitz

Dane Abramowitz is the founder of HOTSEAT digital agency (soon to be amalgamated into Liquid Thought), having previously worked at Red Bull for six years, ASICS for three years, and most recently as marketing manager at EGG — the brainchild of YDE founder Paul Simon and Arie Fabian, ex Fabiani.

The CJC caught up with him to find out more about his career trajectory thus far.

Why did you choose this career?

To be honest, I've never known what I wanted to do or be. All I knew is that I wouldn't survive the normal nine-to-five office life, so Red Bull and ASICS were a great balance of work and play. I quickly realised though that I'd never reach my bigger dreams working for someone else, so I needed to start my own thing. I have my father to thank for the entrepreneurial drive in me.

I started a web design company when I was still at school and everyone wanted a website at that time. I was an 18-year-old kid having studied coding and subsequently started making semi-decent websites for small clients. At that age, it felt like I was printing money. I couldn't understand why everyone else wasn't doing it too.

That was my stepping stone into the world of marketing. Jump ahead five years and I'm at one of the biggest brands in the world, flying around the globe, a first job any person of my age at the time would dream of. I got comfortable though, and chose to leave to become digital manager at ASICS, an underdog in the sneaker scene. It excited me to know that I could make my mark and build something from the ground up. A few years in, in the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic, the opportunity came about to work with a couple of big-thinking entrepreneurs, and I couldn't say no to a startup in the retail sector. It was a wild ride to say the least, but I learnt everything I needed there, to move forward with my own agency.

Briefly explain what it is that you do

My agency has evolved quite significantly over the years through new employees, new ideas and the ever-changing landscape, but essentially what is soon to be the ecommerce wing of Liquid Thought, provides true end-to-end ecommerce management, from digital strategy, website development, paid media strategy and management, content creation and logistics. There's a lot to unpack in each of those, but you get the gist of it.

Partnering with Liquid Thought has put us in the space of digital transformation. In a nutshell, there are a substantial number of brands and businesses that are struggling to keep up with the rapidly changing online economy. Our focus is to help get them up to speed through new uses of technology, simplified automated processes and smart marketing strategies to break through the clutter.

What do you love about it?

We're in such an interesting time, in South Africa and the world, to be in this space. The way we communicate with brands and people, and the way we engage with content and the way we are changing so quickly... I love watching all of it evolve and being a part of finding solutions to improve our lives.

There are so many clever people out there. Being in the marketing space I try to engage with as many of those people as possible and discover where their minds are taking them, which usually sparks a new idea or two. It's no secret that South Africa has some major opportunities in the technology and development space and the right people to build the platforms and tools. I love being a part of that.

What don't you love about it?

I don't think there are things I can say I don't like in this area. I wouldn't be doing it if I didn't enjoy it. I have a huge belief in doing what you love, otherwise you're just working to live. I am in a very fortunate position which

allows me to work on projects that I enjoy, and have a life outside of work. I think too many marketing jobs destroy your ability to do anything else. In most marketing positions, you have to wear too many hats, so that the work becomes your life. Burn-out is real in this industry and it's not worth it.

What advice can you offer to anyone who wants to pursue a similar career?

This really depends. Marketing within a brand can be super-fun; for me the prerequisite was finding a marketing job at a brand that wasn't too corporate. If you're in the same boat, look for brands that are doing really exciting, progressive stuff.

In terms of starting an agency, it's all about connections. We have no website (until now), we have no credentials, nothing. Every single client, brand and business we have has come from word of mouth.

Do good work, build strong relationships and you will reap the rewards. I learnt this from a creative agency I hold in high regard, ICONIC. I worked with them at Red Bull, took them with me to ASICS and started a relationship with them at EGG before I left, simply because of the people, the way they treat me as a client and of course, the incredible quality of their work. That shows you the importance of nurturing relationships in this industry.

What are your plans for the future?

My focus on the immediate future is growing Liquid Commerce, the newly-formed wing of Liquid Thought. There aren't many players of true end-to-end ecommerce in South Africa beside the obvious big few, but our goal is to be a one-stop-shop.

My brand marketing background, the many many years of web development from Liquid Thought, and the logistics expertise of my business partner means a real 360-degree ecommerce roll-out.

Other than that, we are working on an exciting app, but that's all I'm saying about that for now.



Is there anything you'd like to add?

Relationships and connections are key. Just the other day I went for coffee with an old Herzlia Constantia primary school friend who I don't see too often. He's a super-smart guy in the development space and I threw some ideas around with him. He's now got me thinking about some ways in which we can work together going forward.

I've been in touch with school friends doing extremely innovative things in diverse areas. Check out *Aerobotics* founded by Benji Meltzer or *Elevate* founded by Matan Abraham. We've got some of the smartest individuals, right in this community.

Dane Abramowitz was born in Durban and moved to Cape Town before the age of one. He attended Herzlia for all of his schooling, starting at Constantia Primary.

After school he specialised in multimedia at Vega School, and followed that with a post-grad in Entrepreneurship at UCT.

As an inclusive community forum, The Cape Jewish Chronicle will be focussing on stories of individuals within the community, with exciting 21st century careers. If you have an interesting story to share with the community, please contact us at editor@ctjc.co.za

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CHRONICLE!

Voluntary Subscriptions for 2021

R350

Help us continue to bring you news from the Cape Town Jewish Community!

www.cjc.org.za

SNAPSCAN



ZAPPER



EFT

BANK DETAILS:
Cape Jewish Chronicle Trust
Standard Bank
Acc: 070 703 493
Branch: 020 909

Please use your name and email as payment reference.

Exploring the deeper meaning of nothing

Cathy Abraham was born in 1968 in Cape Town, where she currently lives and works. She specialised in process-based art at the Michaelis School of Fine Arts, University of Cape Town (UCT), where she graduated with a Masters degree in Fine Art with Distinction in 2018.

In her art practice, Abraham works systematically to unlock surface meaning in the search for

a deeper understanding of the purpose of the everyday. Using repetitive processes and a system of numbers connected to the Kabbalah, she constantly questions the boundaries between reality and illusion. Abraham's practice is grounded in her belief in the links between art and science; spiritual practice and reincarnation; and the search for ways of shifting perspectives. Her work challenges notions of time and space.

Abraham's creative work brings together seemingly disparate entities through participation and a ritual-based practice. She uses mediums that reflect the subject matter which include film, mixed media, installation and participation as well as painting and sculpture.



Following on in my daily practice of breathing, I continue to use repetitive processes to grow into larger works. Using drawing, either with a pen or pastel, as well as painting, repeatedly forming the same mark; my works ultimately form themselves.

As a child, I was told that my struggle with breath, with asthma, was nothing but psychosomatic.

I have used breath and captured it in balloons designating it as both subject and material. A consequence of my asthma is my compromised ability to blow up a balloon, and for this reason I have chosen balloons as the measure of my breathing capacity. I use breath to manifest the unseen implications of trauma within and without the body.

The bronzed exhales are cast from a daily practice of a square breath meditation. Thirteen breaths exhaled into balloons captured the five minute breathing cycle. Each balloon is cast in bronze with a matt black patina. Making solid what was previously airy, giving weight to the previously insubstantial, they are transformed from the inconsequential to the substantial. The heaviness of the bronze mass is a manifestation of the exhalation made solid, giving weight and shape to the formlessness of breath.



Psychosomatic, bronze with a black patina, 5cm x 7.5cm each

For the *Scales as Veils* series, I begin with a machine-like quality of drawing scales. These scales began as a reference to fish scales in a lament for those endangered and already extinct fish from our oceans. Through the year-long process of drawing these scales, these works have come to represent so much more, much of which I am still to find the words for. As I 'scaled up', I began to notice that no matter how I tried to create uniformity, the irregularity of my hand resulted in the tightening and loosening of the shape of the scales I was drawing. This tribute to the naturally occurring shape in nature, created its own form on the canvas mimicking a wave or a ripple and forming a 3D illusion on a 2D surface.



Shock waves, gold pen on black primed canvas 2m x 1.8m

Repetition plays its role again in the pastel drawings from the *Unwritten* series. Here, I have used the repetitive marks my late mother made to cross out items in her diary. Erasure means that the task is done. The experience is complete. What is not diarised though, is the story that lies between those moments. Thinking about the many stories I can never tell, I began to use this form of mark-making as a meditation, and a way to trace the effect of those stories. Furthermore, these works are considering the gaps in the way stories are remembered, with attention to the stories that cannot be told.

Finally culminating in the form of ghosts for a brushmark, repetition through counting each brushstroke as it is painted defines the third part to this body of work. The repetitive brushstrokes create their own illusion of form on the page. Culminating in the form of a ghost, each brushmark represents an existence. Through repetition by counting each brushstroke as it is painted, another dimension to this body of work is defined. Counting forms a fundamental part of my artistic practice. Paying special attention to the numbers 9, 18 and 36, I count the brush marks as a meditation. At first laden with paint the brush begins to make its mark, yet eventually it is only able to leave a fragmented residue. This 'ghosting' serves as a reminder of the consequences of the marks made in this world through actions, making visible what is invisible, and tangible what is intangible. The repetitive strokes serve to draw out the residue of ghosts within the walls, tangible or perceived. The brush strokes sound like sweeping. When sweeping, there is the illusion of cleaning or of sweeping away. Yet this form of sweeping through painting leaves a residue, a trace ever-fading but still visible.



Dining with ghosts, household paint on a wall 3m x 5m

Dining with ghosts is part of *House Party*, an exhibition at The Fourth Art Gallery, 4th floor, 28 St Georges Mall, Cape Town CBD, and can be seen until 31 August.

Painting the brushmarks directly onto the wall in the gallery at The Fourth, the artwork is extended into a larger format. This format will be painted over after the duration of the exhibition which further amplifies the intention of the ghosting paintings. Transitory and intangible, for now, these walls are visible, but soon they will disappear.

"Counting forms a fundamental part of my artistic practice, paying special attention to the numbers 9, 18 and 36. I work systematically to unlock surface meaning in the search for a deeper understanding of purpose and logic in everyday occurrences."

COVID-19

Navigating the third wave

by Dr Gareth Kantor

The COVID third wave has ripped terrifyingly through Johannesburg and other communities and is now here.

Hospitals in the Western Cape are reaching capacity, and we're now in Stage 4 lockdown to avoid a similar catastrophe in our own city and province in the days ahead.

What can we do?

Sixteen months into the pandemic it seems crazy to have to remind ourselves about so many things that we should already know. It's also tiring to have to keep doing them. But some insights are new or have taken a while to come through to public health messages. And some well-accepted prevention measures and behaviours have still not been understood — or acted upon — by large segments of the community. On the other hand, we still see a lot of 'hygiene theatre' — performative gestures like the 'single hand spritz', or the 'chair seat wipe', which have no value in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Surfaces

Handling surfaces or items is a low-risk activity. If something is heavily contaminated with virus, and you rub your hand in it and pass it directly to your mouth, nose or eyes, you might get COVID. But each contact with a contaminated surface is estimated to have a less than a one in 10,000 chance of causing infection. Daily sanitising is enough in most situations. It's not a bad idea to clean your hands with alcohol-based sanitiser after contact with high-touch surfaces and as a general hygiene measure.

Aerosols

COVID does spread through close contact with other people, partly via the large droplets (>100 μm size) that exit people's mouths or noses in coughs or sneezes. Also through aerosols — smaller particles that are expelled when breathing or talking — which hang in the air for minutes or hours and can be inhaled. Aerosols spread easily across poorly ventilated indoor spaces to infect people at a greater distance. Therefore, avoid crowded indoor spaces, keep your distance (2m or more) and wear a mask.

If you have to be indoors for more than a few minutes — a grocery store,

workplace, shopping mall, school, etc — make sure it's well ventilated and keep your mask on. Windows and doors should be open so that there's a constant exchange of indoor air for fresh air from the outside. If that's not possible, ventilation systems that are properly engineered to exchange room air at least six times an hour are needed. This can be measured, for example with carbon dioxide meters which reflect the amount of rebreathed air in the environment. Circulating the air through devices with special filters ('HEPA', MERV-13') can help. Perspex shields prevent droplets splattering on you from someone's cough or sneeze, but fixed screens can also impede ventilation airflow and possibly make things worse.

Ventilation

Hospitals have strict rules about ventilation in certain clinical areas, but other building owners and managers do not yet seem to have the necessary level of awareness of the implications of ventilation and the airborne spread of COVID. Regulations have not yet caught up with the science. During this rising phase of the epidemic, and until the wave is clearly over, plan your shopping needs in advance, use delivery services, minimise the number of shopping trips, or shop at quiet times such as first thing in the morning.

Masks

Mask-wearing limits the spread of COVID in two different ways. If you're infected, you can reduce the amount of virus you emit into the surroundings by wearing a mask. If you're sick you should not be out there, but remember that about half of COVID

transmission occurs from people who are without symptoms at the time. You can greatly reduce your risk of inhaling enough virus to get sick, by wearing a mask. The mask must cover your *mouth and nose*.

Invest in the best quality mask you can find, and make sure it fits. This means triple layer, with or without filters. No valves. Easy to breath, but no leaks. A well-fitted mask may be less comfortable than you would like but it's worth it, and there are various ways (clips, etc) to improve the fit. Double masking — surgical mask underneath, cloth mask on top — is another way to reduce leaks, and also increase filtration.

Crowded spaces

Eating in a crowded restaurant is a high-risk activity which is why they're closed for the next two weeks. When they reopen, seat yourself well-spaced from other groups, outdoors or in a very well-ventilated indoor space. Accept the temperature check at the restaurant door but understand that it's a ritual with no proven value for keeping COVID out.

If you feel sick, go home. It might not be COVID, but be a good citizen. If it is COVID, stay home, get in touch with your GP or other health-care provider, community support, friends and family; and stay the course — ten days. Most people recover without much more than Panado, but if your symptoms worsen, get professional help right away. A few people will get really sick, need hospital admission, and we know how the rest of the story can unfold tragically.

Embrace the outdoors; it's not only good for body and soul, but safe from COVID. Very, very few people have acquired COVID outside, but don't go overboard by getting too close to people outside your normal family circle at the braai, on the beachfront or at other outdoor events.

Vaccination

Mass vaccination is what we desperately need, as quickly as possible, along with the measures described above. It's a race against the virus.

How to get vaccinated? Vaccination is available for over-60s, healthcare

workers (this job description has a broad definition and you may qualify even if you aren't a nurse, doctor or other health professional), and from mid-July, over-50s.

Whatever your age, get registered on EVDS. (<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za>) If you need help, please ask. Wait for your SMS. More vaccination sites are being set up, but it's a fluid and uncertain situation. Walk-ins are currently accepted but people with appointments take precedence. If you're eligible, try your luck, and don't give up too easily.

While it is still not a 100% guarantee, very few fully vaccinated people have become really sick and even fewer have died. But you can still get COVID and probably even pass it on to others. About two weeks after your second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, or about a month after the J&J, your protection is established. Exactly how high the risk of infection is then is not yet clear, and is variable depending on the individual, the type of vaccine, and the variants of SARS-COV-2 that are circulating.

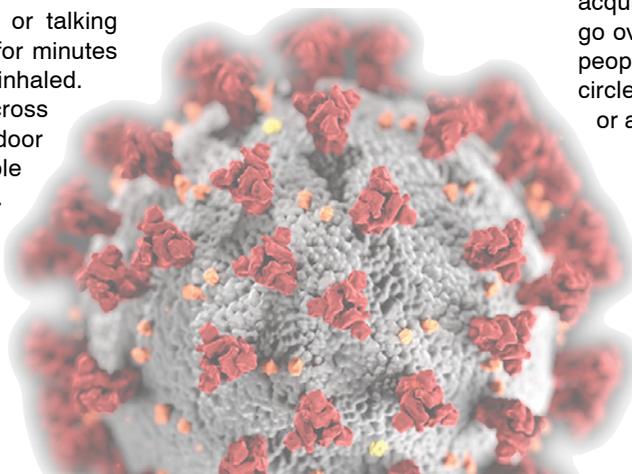
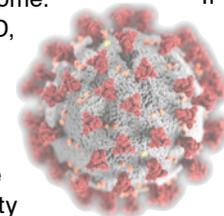
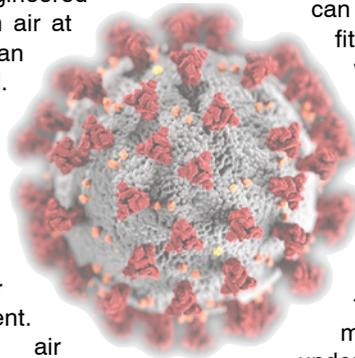
If you've been vaccinated, your risk of getting COVID from another fully vaccinated person is low, but not zero. Still, if you've both had the jab, this is probably the threshold for allowing socialisation at close quarters without too much concern, unless you or your companion has a severe health condition which could mean that you should be more cautious.

Hospitals

While the pandemic is on the rise, consider the stress on our health-care system. As hospitals fill up, you may not be able to access care for normal health conditions, or even for urgent and emergent problems. The health-care workforce is at breaking point. This is another reason to be generally cautious.

Good luck out there; be safe and keep your friends, co-workers and loved ones safe too.

Dr Gareth Kantor is an anaesthesiologist based in Cape Town, a health industry consultant and a health system improver. He is also on the expert panel of GreenFlag Association, a new group that aims to give people the peace of mind that they live, work and relax in safe, healthy, well-ventilated spaces.



[back to contents](#)

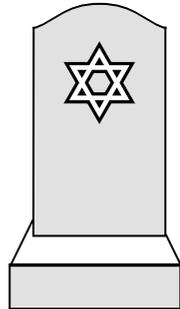
HEBREW MONUMENTS

CANTOR IAN CAMISSAR

TOMBSTONES

MOUNTAIN ROCKS, BELFAST BLACK, SANDSTONE, MARBLE AND GRANITE

MANUFACTURING HIGHEST QUALITY TOMBSTONES FOR THE CAPE TOWN COMMUNITY



WE NOW HAVE A SANDBLASTING DEPARTMENT FOR ALL TYPES OF MATERIAL

HEBREW MONUMENTS IS HERE TO GIVE THE VERY BEST SERVICE AND ASSISTANCE AT ALL TIMES

2019 PRICES STILL AVAILABLE

CANTOR IAN CAMISSAR:
TELEPHONE & WHATSAPP OR: 082 551 3344
EMAIL: Camissar@mweb.co.za

CHRONICADS

Rates: R50 per line incl VAT Phone: 021 464 6736 (mornings)

CARER/NURSE AID

Reliable honest lady, 15 years' experience seeks Mon to Fri, day duty. Can cook. Refs avail. Valencia 073 143 3647 / 082 469 2992

RELIABLE PET/HOUSESITTER

Mature single guy. Excellent refs. Short/long term. Keith 084 604 1194 Email: keithmilne1961@gmail.com

CARER EXTRAORDINAIRE

Seeks part-time work. Shops, cleans and personal care. Driver's license, contact refs. Carol 074 898 8242

DON'T DO IT YOURSELF

Your Errand Service. I'll get through your to-do list and manage your time for home or business. 061 662 1350

SORT IT

Downsizing home? Retirement move? Kids leaving home? Deceased estate? Organising, sorting, disposing of books, household effects, etc. 083 265 7738

TRANSFER VHS TO DIGITAL

Barry: 082 885 7548
mediamemories@bax.co.za

BLINDS

Contact Elaine's Blinds for all new blinds, servicing, repairs and cleaning. Stephen and Elaine Guinsberg 083 270 9352

JOFFE PLUMBING

For all sanitary plumbing repairs, maintenance and renovations. Phone Hilton 082 789 2897 or 021 439 5550

MAZAL MOTORS

Leon Levitt — Maintenance and repairs to all types of vehicles. Try us. Ph 021 797 1550 or 082 410 2756

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING SERVICES

MEGA-CLEAN

Cleaning of all carpets, upholstery, leather, office & dining chairs, mattresses, vehicle interiors
Pet Stain & Odour Removal
Low Moisture System - Quick Dry - Deep Clean

Pensioners' Discounts **Window Cleaning Tool!**

PROFESSIONAL, RELIABLE, SERVICE DRIVEN & ACCOUNTABLE
Call Amanda Barnett: 082 751 9604

Too old to drive?
No garage space?
Emigrating?

I WILL BUY YOUR VEHICLE!

since 1996
Melville Silke
Ph 072 132 5572
021 552 3429 a/h

YM Projects
Your Man for the job

Our Services:

- Handyman work
- Refuse removal
- Landscaping
- Mini movers
- Project management
- Wooden gates
- Fences & pergolas

Contact Us:
Ben 082 937 7193
yourmanprojects@gmail.com
Instagram: [your_man_projects](https://www.instagram.com/your_man_projects)

WE WANT TO BUY

SILVER JEWELLERY
CHINA GLASSWARE
ART SCULPTURE
HOUSEHOLD GOODS, etc

Burr & Muir
Antiques/Collectables

The Mirage, Shop 5,
Cnr Strand & Hudson Streets,
De Waterkant, Cape Town
021 4181269 Fax: 021 418 1273
email: info@burrmuir.com
website www.burrmuir.com



By Vivienne Cupcakes takes orders from the UK, USA or SA and delivers exquisite personalised hand-decorated cupcakes in Cape Town.

Easy payment in your own currency.

email : vivienne@basckin.co.za
www.byviviennecupakes.co.za
Cell/whatsapp: + 27 83 461 7797

To place a chronic ad email: chron@ctjc.co.za

Waterproofing Cape Town

Specialist in Painting, Roofing, Damp Proofing & Waterproofing Services

www.waterproofing-capetown.com

Tel: 021 300 1822/ 021 000 2326 Sea Point

HAVE YOU CELEBRATED A SIMCHA IN THE LAST YEAR?

SEND US YOUR SIMCHA SNAPS, TO GET THEM INTO OUR BIG PRINT ROSH HASHANAH ISSUE!

We will be producing our second **print** issue since COVID-19 for Rosh Hashanah in September.

Have you celebrated the birth of a baby, a birthday, bar/ batmitzvah, anniversary, engagement, wedding or any simcha or achievement in the last year?

Send us a photo and share your simcha with the community!
Wedding pictures can be submitted at no charge.
For other simchas we charge R285 per picture.

Email chron@ctjc.co.za or call office: 021 464 6736 between 9am and 1pm



Gardiner Stone



The Gardiner family's relationship with the stone industry started in the 1930's



Showroom 134 Durban Road Bellville
Bellville 021 948 2152 Paarl 021 872 1508 Strand 021 854 5890
Ros Gardiner 072 2414 120
gardiner@gstone.co.za www.hebrew.gstone.co.za
FOR ALL MEMORIAL REQUIREMENTS

USING MY NUDEL

Beyond borders: Bridging the divide between Israel and the Diaspora

by Craig Nudelman

One of the frustrating things about writing a column a couple of weeks in advance is that I can't actually focus on current affairs since these may be irrelevant by time of publication. As I am writing this, an extremely important global matter has arisen.

The European Championships have taken the global football world by storm. Italy and France are in a commanding position with Portugal, the defending champions, off to a promising start in their group of death. Will we see the Euro 'come home' to England, or will the world number 1 team, Belgium, finally get to hold a trophy?

No, I'm just joking. The actual issue I'm alluding to is the election of a new government in Israel, with Netanyahu being ousted from office after 12 years at the helm as Prime Minister. This will, hopefully, change how Israel is seen by the world. But perhaps, more importantly, it will shift people's views of diaspora Jews.

The recent conflict in Gaza was ugly. While Israelis were being bombed by thousands of rockets (4300 rockets were fired into Israel from Gaza), Jews in the diaspora had to contend with other kinds of attacks. Regardless of where we stand on the political spectrum, we are seen as ambassadors of Israel. Whether one is right or left, or most difficult of all, centrist, there was nowhere to hide during the conflict. Anti-Israel sentiment was everywhere, and this led to an atmosphere where Jews could not share their views on Israel without being criticised.

From London to Washington,

Chicago to Cape Town (in Sea Point, nogal), there were protests all over the world. The Cape Town protest was a peaceful protest, as far as protests go. But there were others which were just plain antisemitic, with protesters screaming "**** the Jews!" There were instances of placards displaying swastikas and references to Nazis. A rabbi was hospitalised in Essex after being assaulted, and the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) collected 222 reports of antisemitic harassment, vandalism, and violence in the United States.

The recent conflict shows how Jews, not Israelis, are targeted in the diaspora. I believe that Israelis, *vis a vis* the Israeli government, underestimate (or don't care) about how Israeli politics affects Jews living outside of Israel. The antisemitic atmosphere around the world was not ever taken into account by the Israeli government. And even though there is an Israeli Minister of Diaspora Affairs, their last post on Facebook (28 May) gave a very *parev* response to the attacks. This is not the only time we have seen this phenomenon of diaspora Jews being affected by the conflict in Israel and it will not be the last time. Every significant event in Israel affects global Jewry.

Therefore, when Naftali Bennet officially became the Prime Minister of Israel on Sunday 13 June, I was relieved. I don't necessarily

appreciate his stance on many of the core issues that face Israel, including his views on settlements and Palestinians within Israel. However, it is a change. The fact that the coalition is a hodge-podge of political parties across the political spectrum is only a slight concern. I mean, people say "two Jews, three opinions" in jest, imagine what a government with right, left, centrist, and Islamist representatives will be like! Who knows how long the government will last? But this could be just what global Jewry needs.

Whether one is right or left, or most difficult of all, centrist, there was nowhere to hide during the conflict. Anti-Israel sentiment was everywhere, and this led to an atmosphere where Jews could not share their views on Israel without being criticised.

Jeremy Sharon, writing in *The Jerusalem Post*, states that there are people within the new government who care deeply about Jews in the diaspora. They understand that global Jewry is diverse, with Jews of all denominations

caring about the welfare of Israel. This was largely ignored in the Netanyahu era, where his right-wing, conservative and ultra-Orthodox government passed legislation "banning Reform and Conservative converts from using state-funded *mikvaot*", and suspending the egalitarian prayer section at the Western Wall. Not only this, but his relationship with Donald Trump soured Israel's relationship with many progressive Jews around the world.

With a wide variety of ministers from all different backgrounds, the incoming government would seem

to be predisposed to having diaspora Jewry's issues at heart. Hopefully the new government will see the importance of the diaspora and can mend some of the damage that was done over the last 12 years.

That being said, we in the diaspora also have to work at our relationship with Israel. We have to be mindful of the deep rifts in Israeli society that will take time to heal. It is not good enough to blindly criticise each other's opinions or stay within our own echo-chambers. We need to create a space to engage with Israeli issues in a meaningful and educated way. We have to be uncomfortable to fully grasp what everyone says, even if it won't change our opinions.

Israel affects how Jews in the diaspora engage with one another, and how others engage with Jews. In an ideal world we would communicate constructively and talk about these issues with open minds at our *Shabbes* tables. Will there ever be a situation where we don't see trolling on social media? Probably not. But we can try to stop being so emotive and feeding the flames within this toxic environment.

18 July is Tisha B'Av, a day of Jewish mourning, where we commemorate the saddest day in Jewish history. Hopefully, we can see how these tragic events have baseless hatred at their core, and learn to communicate with each other as respectfully as possible. Let's step away from hatred and step towards changing the narrative, both in Israel and the global diaspora.



THE CAPE JEWISH CHRONICLE RECORDS ITS APPRECIATION OF THE CONTINUED SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

<i>The Susman Charitable Foundation</i>	RUBI AND ANNE CHAITMAN FOUNDATION	With compliments from Aggie Hirsch in memory of Freddy	MAZARS AUDIT • TAX • ADVISORY www.mazars.co.za	THE MAUERBERGER FOUNDATION FUND	With compliments from Ben Rabinowitz in memory of Shirley
THE HAROLD AND BEATRICE KRAMER FOUNDATION	<i>Goldschmidt Family Foundation</i>	CAPE GATE	Pick n Pay Inspired by you	THE SILVERMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION	Stanley and Zea Lewis Foundation
CAPE JEWISH CHRONICLE	With compliments The Henry Van Embden Family Foundation	With Compliments www.almondreeze.co.za BLUE DIAMOND ALMONDS Almond Breeze ALMOND MILK	With Compliments Kalman, Esther and Michael Maisel Trust	With compliments The Jack & Ethel Goldin Foundation	CAPE JEWISH CHRONICLE