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Rosh Hashanah 5782

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Des Says...

By Desrae Saacks, acting editor Cape Jewish Chronicle



Review, regroup and reassess

COVID has taught us to be more flexible than many of us thought possible.

We are working and studying from home, reading the Chronicle online and finding new ways to celebrate Yom Tov — reduced or remote shul services, and fewer guests around the table.

For many, a loss or change of career, and for many businesses, organisations and individuals, a whole new way of doing things. The Chronicle has also had to adapt to the new reality. Due both to breaks in the print and post cycle, and to loss of advertising, subscription and organisational revenue, we found ourselves forced to interrupt our previously unbroken record of printing and posting The Cape Jewish Chronicle every month since the first issue in November 1984. Thanks to the foresight of our previous editor Lindy Diamond, we had a fully functional online infrastructure set up, so we were able to transition seamlessly to a full online presence.

But we know that our hard copy was missed by many — readers and contributors alike. So we're very happy to be bringing out another print edition, only our second since March 2020. I really hope we can re-establish this side of our publication once again, as well as continuing to strengthen our digital platform, so that both mediums' unique qualities can be put to use. Digital for more immediate delivery of news

and information, paper for a more constantly present availability, and the tactile, olfactory and kinaesthetic experience of holding paper in one's hands. Both forms have their conveniences and pleasures, and ideally we'd like to offer the best of both worlds.

Rosh Hashana is here again! Time to be with family and friends, and yet again COVID is preventing this necessary communal aspect of the festival. And so we need to think out the box, find other ways to express our connection and humanity, and rethink some of our time-honoured ways of doing things.

I haven't made a plan yet (too busy finishing this edition of the Chronicle) but in the coming days I will have to figure out who we can see and who we can't, and how to make this new COVID-era yomtov meaningful.

And to look ahead to the new year. A chance to review, regroup and reassess my priorities. I really do hope that 5782 brings us all closer to ourselves, to the people we love and to finding our meaning in this wonderful, magical and relentless world in which we live.

As 5781 draws to a close, my wish is for a renewal, rejuvenation and re-centering in the year to come. And the energy and good health to make the most of it.

On behalf of the Chairman, Editorial Board, and my colleagues, Tessa and Lisa, I wish you all a Shana Tova uMetuka.

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

Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		Earliest	Latest	
3 Sept/26 Elul	Nitzavim		6.12pm	7.04pm
6 Sept/29 Elul	Rosh Hashana 1st day		6.14pm	
7 Sept/1 Tishrei	Rosh Hashana 2nd day		7.06pm	7.07pm
10 Sept/4 Tishrei	Vayelech/Shuvah	6.15pm	6.17pm	7.09pm
15 Sept/9 Tishrei	Yom Kippur		6.20pm	7.12pm
17 Sept/11 Tishrei	Haazinu	6.15pm	6.21pm	7.14pm
20 Sept/14 Tishrei	Sukkot 1st day	6.15pm	6.24pm	
21 Sept/15 Tishrei	Sukkot 2nd day		7.16pm	7.17pm
24 Sept/18 Tishrei	Chol Hamoed Sukkot	6.15pm	6.26pm	7.19pm
27 Sept/21 Tishrei	Shemini Atzeret	6.15pm	6.28pm	
28 Sept/22 Tishrei	Simchat Torah		7.21pm	7.22pm

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

Standing together in times of adversity is what we have always done. **This year is no different.**



Wishing you and your family a year filled with unity, strength and happiness. **Shanah Tovah.**

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לשנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו

We can make a difference to our lives

Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani



One of the many gifts that Judaism gives us is the annual opportunity to wipe the slate clean and start afresh.

The *Yamim Noraim* give us as individuals and as a community the chance to atone for our mistakes and errors of judgment and begin to improve ourselves and our relationships to others and to the Divine. This process of *teshuvah* is related to another powerful understanding of our role in the world. While it seems that much of our lives is preordained, Judaism empowers us to take control of our own destinies. This is beautifully illustrated in the *Unataneh Tokef piyyut*. The author of this central liturgical poem of the High Holy Day services posits “On Rosh Hashana their decree is inscribed, and on Yom Kippur it is sealed, how many will pass away and how many will be created, who will live and who will die... who will be brought to a low state and who will be uplifted.” The congregation responds: “But repentance, and prayer and charity annul the evil decree.” By actively undertaking *teshuvah*, engaging in *tefillah* and performing acts of *tzedakah* we are able to change God’s judgement.

This past year has been one of profound sadness and uncertainty. COVID-19 has had a devastating effect on our community. Many lives and livelihoods have been lost and the pandemic has left us with a sense of helplessness. Shabbat and the *chaggim* have provided a feeling of grounding and direction, and my wish is that the beautiful liturgy and melodies of Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur provide inspiration and hope to each and every one of you during these uncertain and frightening times. Although we cannot control the COVID-19 pandemic we can take practical steps to stem the spread of the virus. Following COVID protocol and making sure that we get vaccinated is in line with the Jewish value of *Pikuach Nefesh*, ‘saving life’. This period of penitence and introspection empowers us to determine our own future, and this is especially relevant during these times of vulnerability. While we are unable to safeguard ourselves fully from the effects of COVID, we can take steps to protect ourselves as much as possible. May we be motivated to be more compassionate and understanding, non-judgemental and inclusive as we move forward into the new year of 5782. My wife Gillian and I wish you a year of health, empowerment and fulfilment. *L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu v'Teichateimu*.

Praying with empathy and love

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein



Rosh Hashanah has arrived at a timely moment. After all the trauma we have experienced, we can draw deeply on the power and comfort of prayer as we prepare for the year ahead.

Having lost access to our shuls for weeks and months at a time during the pandemic, we have learned to appreciate them anew. Thank G-d our shuls are open again — albeit with strict health protocols in place — and we are able to experience the mutual love and support of praying together as a community.

When we pray together, empathy comes easier to us. We are able to truly open our hearts to those around us and pray for them in their moment of need. Hashem gives us the power to help others, as well as ourselves, through our prayers.

There are academic studies that bear this out. In 2001, a study conducted at Duke University Medical Center on a group of 150 cardiac patients uncovered some extraordinary findings. The patients, all of whom were receiving post-operative therapy treatment, were split into two subgroups — one subgroup had people praying for their well-being, the other subgroup didn’t.

The findings showed the subgroup that was prayed for had significantly better treatment outcomes than the group that received the treatment alone.

Most notably, the study was double-blind — neither the researchers, nor those being prayed for, knew about the prayers. And it wasn’t a once-off either. A comparable double-blind study conducted at San Francisco General Hospital’s Coronary Care Unit demonstrated very similar results.

If done with intentionality and sincerity, prayer can be a transformative experience. At its essence it is about cultivating an emotional connection — a real relationship — with G-d. The Talmud describes prayer as ‘service of the heart’. If we put our heart into it, prayer can be a direct encounter with Hashem. When

we aren’t just mouthing the words and going through the motions, we can have a private audience with the Creator of the universe. This transporting emotional state is true ‘service of the heart’.

When we pray, we need to articulate the words so that only we can hear them — that is why we pray in a whisper. There is an intimacy in whispering. When we whisper our prayers to G-d, we feel close and connected to Him. We feel His love for us and we express our love for Him, and that transforms our relationship with the Torah, ourselves and the rest of creation.

Whispering also signifies G-d’s closeness to us during these intimate moments. And the fact that we have this private audience with G-d is not something to take for granted. Consider the difficulty of securing a private audience with someone in high office or a venerated public figure. And yet, through prayer, we have privileged access to the King of all kings, the Creator of the universe. And we have it whenever we want!

Prayer is a deep emotional and spiritual experience. It can inspire and invigorate every aspect of our lives. And we need that in the year ahead more than ever if we are to confront all the challenges of our world with strength and peace of mind.

As we form our new year’s resolutions this Rosh Hashanah, let us ensure that prayer is high on the list. Let us make davening a daily part of life. Let us recite the heartfelt, holy words contained in the siddur — crafted by our prophets and sages, and uttered by Jews for generations — with renewed sincerity and intentionality. And let us return to our shuls in numbers to pray as a community with empathy and love.

In the merit of our doing so, may Hashem bless us all with a year of healing and growth and renewal.

Our warmest wishes to family and friends for a happy and healthy New Year and well over the Fast. May 5782 bring peace to Am Yisrael.

ATLAS Glenda and Selwyn

DAITSH Ian, Kim, Jared and Janna

EPSTEIN Selwyn and Tessa

FINE Roy, Michelle, Daniel, Steven and Jason

FRANKENTAL Sally, Amir, Ellen, Terri, Yaron, Gabi, and Matt

FUCHS Brian, Adele, Daren and Meg. Kelli, Farril and Presley Rosen and Esther Furman

FUTERAN Jeanne, Lita and Darby

GETZ Keith, Brenda and family

HIPPO In memoriam — Emerson Fittipaldi

KURLAND Roy, Ros, Matilda and Joshua

LAZARUS Ronald, Tamar, Alice, Dylan and Jesse

MARCUS Larry, Melissa, Nicole, Jarred and Tamara

MAY Carl, Jared, Joel and Zara

OBLOWITZ Eddy, Jennith and Ronen

POGRUND Barry, Hayley, Kevin and Samuel

SAACKS Mark, Desrae, Georgia and Phoebe

SANDLER Lisa, Dean, Amy and David

SANK Leonard, Dorothy, Jordy, Sara, Ezzy and Lexi and Mendy, Gabbi and Dovi Vogel

SCHIFF Russell, Cindy, Daniel and Keren

SEGALL Louise

SHAPIRO Simon, Lisa and Max

SILBERT Charles, Deta, Jake and Adam

SMIEDT Jonathan and Cheryl

SOFER Ivan, Liza, Gary, Gael and family

SURDUT Ben Zion, Esther and family

VAN EMBDEN Marco, Gwen and family

WOLFSOHN Colin, Janet, Sasha-Lee and Daniella

The Cape Jewish Chronicle wishes all our readers and their families Shana Tova u'Metukah

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שנה טובה

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לשנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו



Limmud South Africa wishes all of our presenters, participants and the entire Jewish community a happy, healthy and engaging Rosh Hashana and well over the fast.

May this New Year truly symbolise renewal, hope and health for us all.

Limmud South Africa is looking forward to taking one step forward on our Jewish journeys with our community in 5782!



On behalf of the Chairman, Director, Executive and Committee of the Nechama Organisation, we wish the Community Shana Tova and well over the fast.



Salisbury House Primary School wishes the Cape Town Jewish Community a Happy and Healthy New Year blessed with Peace, and well over the Fast. L'Shana Tova U'metuka



Wishing each and every one of our dear brothers and sisters a healthy, joyous and purpose-filled 5782.

Nissen, Ariella, Yankel, Esther & Nachum Goldman.



The Mensch Chairperson, Board and staff wish you a sweet New Year and well over the Fast. May 5782 bring opportunities for us all to live and act in a way that promotes peace and equality for all people of South Africa. Thank you all for your support and commitment in 5781



"Life is meaningful. We are here because there is something we must do; to be God's partners in the work of creation, bringing the world that is closer to the world that ought to be." Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z'l

The Academy of Jewish Thought and Learning wishes the Cape Town community a blessed, sweet, and meaningful new year.



"Do not seek greatness for yourself, and do not covet honour. Practice more than you learn" Pirkei Avot, 6:5

Wishing the community strength & healing this New Year

Shana Tova & G'mar Chatima Tova
From Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute:
Viv & Melissa & EOLI Advisory Board & Faculty.



FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS, WE WISH YOU A SWEET, HAPPY AND HEALTHY YEAR AHEAD FULL OF HUGS AND TIME SPENT WITH LOVED ONES.

FROM THE STAFF, CHILDREN AND COMMITTEE OF

ORANJIA
Jewish Child & Youth Centre



The Chairman and Committee of CJSA extend warm wishes to the Cape Town Community for a Peaceful, Happy and Healthy New Year and an easy and meaningful Fast.



We wish you a healthy and peaceful New Year and a meaningful Fast. May we continue to be strong and safe, ensuring a vibrant Cape Town community for generations to come.

G'mar chatima tovah from
The Chairman and Trustees of the David Susman Community Foundation.



The Chairman and Committee of the Friends of the UJC Cape Town wish you a New Year filled with good health, peace and prosperity. **Tizku l'shanim rabot — may we all merit many years.**

Wishing you an easy and meaningful fast.
Le Shana Tova Tikatevu.



From our family to yours, here's wishing you a healthy, peaceful and prosperous 5782.

Shana Tova U'Metuka and a meaningful fast.

UNITED HERZLIA SCHOOLS AND HERZLIA FOUNDATION TRUST



The Chairman, Committee, Staff, Workers & Residents wish the community Shana Tova; a year of good health, happiness and peace, and well over the Fast.

Thank you Cape Town for your wonderful support & encouragement!



The Staffwise team wishes you Shana Tova and well over the Fast.

May this New Year truly symbolise renewal, hope and health for us all.
L'Shanah Tova U'Metuka



The South African Jewish Museum wishes our guides and staff, friends and supporters a Happy and Healthy New Year, Blessed with Peace, and well over the Fast.

The Cape Jewish Chronicle wishes all our readers and their families Shana Tova u'Metukah

לשנה טובה תכתבו ותחתמו



The Chairman, Board of Governors, Staff and Pupils of Phyllis Jowell Jewish Day School wish you a Shana Tova U'Metuka. A sweet and happy new year and a meaningful fast.



The Chairman, Executive Director, Committee, Staff & Workers of JCS wish the community Shana Tova; a year of good health, happiness and peace, and well over the Fast. Thank you Cape Town for your wonderful support & encouragement



"Ben Zoma said: Who is wise? He who learns from everyone, as it is written: I have gained understanding from all my teachers." Pirkei Avot Chapter 4

Invest in your Jewish knowledge — Experience the Melton Way.

Wishing you a healthy year ahead enriched with Jewish Learning.



The Chairman, Honorary Officers, Executive and staff of the Bnoth Zion Association WIZO extend to the community and our members all good wishes for a Healthy, Happy and fulfilling New Year and well over the Fast.

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE BOARD

The Chairman and committee wish you a Happy New Year
Le Shana Tova Tikatevu
May you be inscribed for a good year and a Meaningful Fast.



UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN
The Chairman of the Cape Town Branch of the UJW, the Executive Committee and staff, wish all members and the community a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast



The Chairman, Executive Director, Council and staff of the UOS Cape Council extend their best wishes to the Cape Town Jewish community for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year 5782 and a meaningful Fast.
Wishing you all Shana Tova U'Metuka.



CTTH wishes you and your loved ones a K'tiva V'Chatima Tovah, may you be written and inscribed for a good and sweet new year!



ORT Jet wishes you a very healthy, happy and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast. A special thank you to our donors, mentors and network for your continued commitment to enable ORT Jet to facilitate business support and guidance within the Jewish Community.
L'Shanah Tova U'Metuka



Wishing the Jewish community a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast. ORT SA CAPE focuses on training and supporting teachers in disadvantaged communities in the Western Cape.
We thank our generous donors for helping us change lives through education.



Cape Town Jewish Community Centre and Hatfield Management Committee wishes the community a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.



The Rabbis, Trustees, Board, Councils and staff of the Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation extend their best wishes to the Cape Town Jewish community for a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year 5782 and a meaningful Fast in these interesting and challenging times. Wishing you all Shana Tova U'Metuka.



CSO Cape Town wishes you a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year and Well over the Fast. A special thank you to our donors and volunteers for your continued support which enables us to protect Jewish Life and the Jewish Way of Life in Cape Town.

L'Shanah Tova U'Metukah



The Trustees, Director and staff of the Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre wish the community, our benefactors and supporters a peaceful, healthy and blessed New Year and a meaningful Fast.

The Cape Jewish Chronicle wishes all our readers and their families Shana Tova u'Metukah



CAPE SAJBD
Engage | Educate | Empower

CONNECT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNITY

By Daniel Bloch, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

May the year ahead be filled with peace, happiness, and good health

We are all looking forward to a year filled with peace, happiness, and good health.

Regardless of where you live, your age, your ethnicity or your religious beliefs, we all want to leave the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict and chaos behind us.



As we head into the *Yamim Noraim*, we must all take time to reflect on, and take stock of, the past year. We must be grateful for all the good things in our lives and see how we can share our good fortune — and that incredible Jewish spirit of *Tzedakah* — with those in need.

Reflecting on my own year, I have so much to be thankful for. For starters, my family and I have enjoyed a relatively healthy past twelve months, having avoided the dreaded COVID-19 infection (touch wood); receiving our first Pfizer vaccine towards the end of July; and by the time you read this article, we will have received our second dose! Our parents have also been fortunate enough to avoid COVID-19, and we pray that they continue to live their lives in good health.

If there is a silver lining during this pandemic, it has been the opportunity to spend quality time with my family. We have been fortunate enough to travel around the Western Cape (observing COVID-19 protocols) and experience some of the beauty this province has to offer. Whether it was enjoying a braai in Paarl, playing in the snow in Matroosberg or feeding the chickens in Stanford, we were able to connect as a family, learn new things about each other and ultimately enjoy each other's company. Whilst online learning may drive parents up the wall, I have been able to observe what my children are learning and how they interact with their classmates — something we rarely experience when they are at school. Being able to play such an active role in their learning development has been invaluable and something I am sure most parents will appreciate. Special recognition needs to be given to all teachers who demonstrate endless patience and the ability to remain calm despite the constant chattering, screaming and fidgeting during online classes.

In May, I was given the wonderful opportunity and honour of representing my community by joining the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies. Despite the first few challenging months, I have managed to settle into the role without too many bumps and bruises. This smooth transition has been made possible with the support of my amazing professional team, as well as the lay leaders on our Cape Council. In order to be successful in life and business, you need to surround yourself with people you trust, people you care about and people who believe in you — for this I am truly grateful.

Being part of a community that strives to help others and continuously performs acts of *Tzedakah* is something I am not only appreciative of, but also feel extremely privileged to be part of. Whether sending supplies to the residents of KZN and Gauteng after the looting, helping clear the rubble after the devastating fires in April, assisting the elderly to get their vaccines, or raising funds to feed kids in disadvantaged areas, OUR community has stepped up and helped out.

May the next year bring peace, prosperity and good health for all. Wishing everyone a Shanah Tovah Umetukah and may we all be inscribed in the book of life.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

By Tzvi Brivik, Chairperson, Cape SAJBD

Celebrating, contemplating, and charting the next 12 months!

As we celebrate Rosh Hashanah, our Jewish New Year, we have an opportunity to reflect on the past twelve months since the Cape SAJBD election, and constitution of our new Board.



The Board, which has been serving our community for over 110 years, is democratically elected by the Western Cape Jewish community and our affiliates, and guided by the aims and objectives outlined in our Constitution. One such objective is to create and build bridges, and to participate in institutions which affect our Jewish way of life outside of our community — be they religious or otherwise.

Thanks to our lay leaders, who are supported by our professional staff, we have successfully engaged with government, provincial departments, the City of Cape Town, as well as educational institutions and other welfare organisations over the past twelve months. We have held many meetings and sought assistance and co-operation from outside institutions where necessary, to assist members of our community and our affiliates. These relationships improve our ability to serve our community and our effectiveness therein.

Some of our subcommittees are outward-facing, such as our Interfaith and Inter-community subcommittee and our Associate Relations subcommittee. However, many of the pressing issues we grapple with are internal. We may be asked to consider issues of policy for our community, and to regulate relations between communal members and communal organisations. Our Generation Next subcommittee is tasked with seeking out and involving unaffiliated young adults within existing communal structures, with the aim of creating a pool from which future leaders can be drawn. Our Country Communities subcommittee liaises with the numerous Jewish souls living outside of the Cape Town metropolitan area and in small towns dotted across the Western Cape who have played a vital role in the creation, development and growth of our community over the years.

So, although fighting antisemitism is seen to be our core function, it is certainly not our only function.

Over the last twelve months we have combated antisemitism across many spheres, majority carried out on social media, some in educational institutions and others in the daily lives of our community. Our approach of tackling antisemitism head on, inviting dialogue and encouraging mutual understanding, has been successful in most cases. We are also pleased to advise that since the Middle East conflict in May, cases of antisemitism have reduced dramatically. We are fortunate to live in a country with such a strong Constitution. Even so, we encourage our community to always be alert and to report antisemitism. You can call, text or WhatsApp our #ReportHate Hotline, available from 8:00-17:00 weekdays on 079 994 5573, or fill in our #ReportHate tool available here <https://bit.ly/3v3L0bE>.

We recently celebrated Women's day and I am sure that you would have been as proud and as I was to note the number of women in our community who have contributed so significantly, both inside and outside our community. Community members actively engaged on our social media platforms, meaning the content we provided was both appreciated and well-consumed.

We also held a very informative webinar on hate speech, antisemitism and cyberbullying, titled *Navigating Online Hate and Antisemitism*, with representatives of Jewish communities in the UK, America and locally. In anticipation of the upcoming local government elections we also held a very successful webinar titled *Ready Steady Vote*, with guest speakers Jacques Weber and Stuart Diamond who discussed what local government is, how to vote and why this election is important to members of our community.

Finally, and with much excitement, we welcome Craig Nudelman as our new Programme & Development Manager. Many of you may know Craig for his regular contributions to this publication. We wish him much success!

What remains is for me to wish you Shana Tova and Gmar Chatima Tova!



The Jews of Laingsburg

By Gwynne Robins, Senior Researcher, Cape SAJBD

Unlike Caledon and Montagu, Laingsburg in the Great Karoo, a semi-desert area, had no springs, and the Buffels River which ran through the town hardly ever had any water.

The semi-arid Great Karoo was very different from Lithuania with its lakes, mud and snow, but the railways had reached there in 1878, the town had been laid out in 1881, and, with the economic opportunities this promised, some of the Eastern European Jews who had started to arrive in Cape Town from the 1880s settled there. Among the first were David and Jacob Adamstein, who established a general dealer's store in the 1890s; Morris Cohen and Abraham Groll, a tailor, were living there in 1899; and Max and Phillip Buch, and Louis Helman, arrived in the early 1900s. David Adamstein's leadership qualities were recognised early and in 1897 he was appointed onto the newly-formed Laingsburg Village Management Board, and then onto its local council when it became a municipality in 1904.

It did not take long for the few Jews who had settled there to reproduce a Jewish life, and by 1900 Jacob Adamstein had established the Laingsburg Hebrew Congregation with 25 members. Three years later they had acquired land for a cemetery, and opened a synagogue which the Adamstein brothers equipped with a gate and railing, Israel Zacks with fencing material, Abraham Groll with a memorial tablet and Mr Guik with siddurim and bibles.

The opening of the synagogue was quite an occasion! Rev AP Bender came down from Cape Town to inaugurate it, a general holiday was declared in Laingsburg and all the leading citizens attended the event. Their first minister, Rev AM Jacobs, was appointed in 1908 and the minister's duties included slaughtering and kashering meat for the community, and running a cheder every afternoon for their children. In 1919 they asked the local school board to excuse Jewish children from religious classes.

Apart from cherishing their religion, the Laingsburg Jewish community established a Zionist society in 1911, which held a memorial service for Theodore Herzl, and which united in 1912 with the Laingsburg

Philanthropic Society — which had donated money for a cottage to house Yemenite immigrants and provided destitute Jews who landed up in Laingsburg with train tickets. They raised money for the Palestinian Relief Fund, for Ukrainian orphans, for the JNF, the Dunam Drive and the IUA. They had a Chevra Kadisha Burial Society which bought twelve burial prayer books in 1924 — an indication of how many people there were who could attend funerals.

However, it was always a struggle to keep the synagogue going financially, and one of the problems was supplying water to the synagogue and the mikveh. The Jewish Board of Deputies was asked to help, and by 1919 they had scraped together sufficient funds to repair the windmill that supplied their water. Two years later they bought a new windmill. Sometimes it rained, and in 1920 they had to restore the rain-damaged cemetery. In 1922 they approached Standard Bank for an overdraft and in 1930, H Solomon donated money for a water tank to supply the mikveh.

The community was at its peak in the 1920s, but afterwards went steadily downhill as the wandering Jews deserted it for more promising territory. The last wedding took place in the early 1930s. There was little antisemitism in Laingsburg in the 30s.

An announcement in The Zionist Record, Friday November 15, 1946 states:

LAINGSBURG HEBREW CONGREGATION WANTED SHOCHET, BAAL TEFILLAH AND TEACHER. Applications are invited for the above post. Salary £30 per month plus free house (married man preferred). Apply, giving particulars of qualifications to: THE HON. PRESIDENT Laingsburg Hebrew Congregation, Box 55, Laingsburg, Cape Town.

This must have been a last-ditch attempt because by 1947 only Abraham Groll, the chairman, and Louis Helman were attending services on Friday evenings. There was no longer a minyan or a minister, but even though there were only five families living there six years later, they still regarded themselves as a congregation.

Continues on page 10

Shana Torah
to you and yours!

Wishing you a sweet
new year and an easy fast
over Yom Kippur





Continues from page 9

The Jews of Laingsburg

By Gwynne Robins, Senior Researcher, Cape SAJBD

In 1962, the municipality expropriated the shul building and Issie Pinshaw, the Cape Board secretary, came to Laingsburg to collect its four Sifrei Torah and other religious artefacts. The Sifrei Torah were given to the Herzlia School, and Somerset West and Schoonder Street Congregations. The money from the expropriation was given to the Board, with some of the funds reserved for the cemetery upkeep.

Although Laingsburg was in a semi-arid area, its soil could not retain water, so when rain did occur it drained directly into the river. On 25 January 1981, after a cloudburst to the north-east, a roaring wall of water almost 6 metres high hit Laingsburg and swept away everything in its path. Within hours the whole town was under water. Ninety percent of the houses were swept away, including the synagogue, and the cemetery was badly damaged. Two-thirds of Laingsburg's infrastructure was destroyed, along with 184 houses, 23 commercial buildings and the town's old-age home.

Laingsburg under flood

The flood claimed 104 lives including that of Alfred Goodman, who was drowned in his house on the bank of the river. His was the last Jewish family in the village. The Anstey family, marooned on their farm, received supplies dropped off by helicopter and the Goodman family's garage was used by the army as a storage depot.

The Board of Deputies donated money to the mayor's disaster fund and appealed to the Jewish community for contributions. B'nai Brith International set up its own disaster relief fund which was aimed at helping those in the areas which were affected by the floods, and Magen David Adom and the Hebrew Order of David (HOD) also collected money. The HOD funds went towards a memorial for all those who perished in the disaster — the worst



The 1981 Laingsburg flood

flood in South Africa's history — and a plaque acknowledging the contribution was erected at the entrance to the cemetery.

Only two tombstones were left intact, those of Philip Goodman and Devorah Bat Chaim Zwi. The Jewish Board of Deputies' Country Communities Rabbi and the HOD repaired the graves.

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

The Cape SAJBD's Country Communities subcommittee looks after the cemeteries of defunct country communities. For more information, contact danielb@ctjc.co.za

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

Where are our synagogues?

When the Jews first arrived in the Cape, they settled wherever they found economic opportunities, and moved into country towns, establishing cemeteries and synagogues.

As their children grew up, they went to the cities to further their education, and stayed there, with the parents joining their children and grandchildren as they aged. As the communities shrank and they could no longer muster a minyan, many congregations closed, establishing trusts for its assets with the help of the Board, and donating their Sifrei Torah and religious artifacts to other congregations. The Board helps the congregations to look after the cemeteries.

But what happens to the synagogues? Below we see that they have become museums, homes, conference centres and even a badminton court.



Caledon shul, now a private house



Calvinia shul, now a museum



Ceres shul, now a conference centre



Ladismith shul, now a badminton court



Malmesbury shul, now a museum



Piketberg shul, now a museum



Riversdale shul, now a church



Robertson shul, now a holiday home



Springbok shul, now a museum



Uniondale shul, now a Lions clubhouse



Wellington shul, now an Apostolic Church

ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

We still have a number of active country community congregations. Part of the Board's mandate is partnering with these congregations to enrich Jewish life and help in maintaining their cemeteries and synagogues. If you would like to make a contribution, or get in touch with one of these congregations, contact sajbd2@ctjc.co.za.

HERMANUS HEBREW CONGREGATION

Until the COVID-19 pandemic, there were regular Friday night and High Holydays services and full Shabbat services during December/January. For details contact Dave Rade on 082 902 9214

In March this year several graves were desecrated, The intention is to lay the tombstones flat.

SOMERSET WEST/ STRAND HEBREW CONGREGATION

Until the COVID-19 pandemic, there were regular Friday night and High Holydays services. For details contact Hertzell Brodovcky on 082 871 0281 or Cedly Miller on 082 751 6437.



Hermanus cemetery

PAARL HEBREW CONGREGATION

Until the COVID-19 pandemic there were regular Friday night and High Holydays services. For details contact Mark Kaufman on 079 673 3307 or kaufie@telkomsa.net

Paarl looks after the WELLINGTON CEMETERY. In December 2018 most of the 63 graves were desecrated.

OUTDSHOORN

Until the COVID-19 pandemic, there were regular Friday night, yahrzeit and High Holydays services. For details contact Bernard Herman on 083 298 4326.

More than 30 tombstones were desecrated in August last year. These have been repaired and replaced, and laid flat.



Inside the Somerset West shul

PLETTENBERG BAY

Until the COVID-19 pandemic, there were Friday night and High Holydays services. For details contact plettshul@gmail.com or 044 533 4833.

STELLENBOSCH HEBREW CONGREGATION

Until the COVID-19 pandemic, there were regular Friday night and High Holydays services. For details contact Dennis Zetler on 082 570 6230

While the focus of the Board's work is centred around the urban area of the Cape Town Metro, it is often forgotten that many Jews live on the outskirts and in smaller communities within the greater Western Cape. The wellbeing of these communities and their members fall in the ambit of our Country Communities subcommittee. There are active communities which regularly host shul services and also maintain and ensure that the cemeteries are clean and safe for visits to loved ones. The Board also works closely with municipalities and individuals to maintain the cemeteries where there is no active Jewish community – these include Ceres, Piketberg, Uniondale, Caledon, Robertson, Montagu, Worcester and others. We encourage everyone to visit our country communities, spend a Shabbos, explore the towns and learn the fascinating history of the role Jews played in the growth and development of the Western Cape.



VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

By Karen Marsden Sank, Chair SAZF Cape Council

Hope as we enter the New Year

The month of Elul is traditionally one of introspection with a view to renewal. No less so this year, our second living with the scourge of the Covid-19 pandemic and the sense of hopelessness it has brought.

Consider that we have just witnessed the closing of the unprecedented 2020 Olympics in Tokyo, held a year later than planned in the hope that the pandemic may have abated. The pandemic sadly did not fade away, but the Games gave us some reason to break free from blanket despair.

To begin, the International

Olympic Committee finally publicly acknowledged the 11 Israeli athletes murdered at the 1972 Munich Summer Olympics. Then, in true fashion, the current Team Israel displayed hope in the face of adversity, earning a record four medals, two of which were gold. To hear Israel's national anthem, Hatikvah, proudly broadcast to the world, and watch the country's flag flying high, felt like hope had sprung eternal.

As we approach Rosh Hashanah 5782 there is cause for optimism. Some encouraging glimmers of hope have helped many in the Cape Town Jewish community emerge from a deep place of despondency. Significantly, after many months of

enduring an almost outright ban on travel to and from Israel, at the time of writing there has been a change in policy and many of us can now (with conditions) travel there and back again. We never gave up the hope that this day would come, just as we held onto hope for 2000 years that we would return, to be a free nation in our own homeland.

The evocative words of the poem 'Tikvatenu' written in the 19th century by Naphtali Herz Imber (he was inspired by the founding of Petah Tikvah in 1878), part of which became the iconic words of Israel's national anthem, HaTikvah, speak to the necessity of keeping hope alive in any event.

There is no better time than the month of Elul, as we approach Rosh Hashanah and then enter the season of high holidays, to embrace the opportunity to try again, buoyed by hope for a fresh perspective or the chance to perform more meaningful deeds. Living with, and not giving up, hope entails having faith in the process.



עוד לא אבדה תקותינו
Our hope is not yet lost
שנה טובה ומתוקה

Shana Tova U'Metukah

The SAZF Cape Council wishes you
Shana Tova U'metukah & a meaningful fast.

May we all be blessed with good health, happiness and peace.

Thank you for your ongoing support.
We are dedicated to continuing to strengthen
our community's relationship with our beloved Israel.

L'Shana Haba'ah B'Yerushalayim - Next Year in Jerusalem.





Making aliyah: if not now, when?

By Samuel Hyde

On the 27 July 2021, the biggest group of olim in 25 years left for Israel.



Simply put, you could feel the energy in the air at OR Tambo International as we gathered in a group conversing as if we'd been friends for years. Families, young adults and Dr Hymie Ehrlich, a 91-year-old Cape Town resident were all there to start the journey of a lifetime. My aliyah process began with a simple email to the South African Zionist Federation just under a year ago. I suppose the strangest part of the aliyah process besides the obvious feeling of leaving family behind and a country you have grown up in, is the bonds you make with those embarking on the journey alongside you. You form an instant connection with these people, most of whom you've never met. You share arguably the most important experience of your life with strangers.

Upon arriving at Ben Gurion airport, we were ushered into a room where we had a COVID test, and filled out some paperwork. We were handed a sim card, official documentation and cash in an envelope as a welcome gift from the government — the first payment of *Sal Klita*, that we as new Olim would receive over a 6-month period to help 'soften our landing'.

As a political journalist, proud Zionist and Jewish activist all the concepts, articles, talks and ideas I had held so close to my heart and proudly imparted had become my reality. I had become part of those who are the realisation of our ancestors' dreams.

Once all was completed the group 'hopped' on buses that took us to our first destination, a 7-day quarantine period, all expenses paid by the Israeli government at the Dan Panorama Hotel on the Tel Aviv beachfront.

For that week I stood on my balcony watching the passers-by, the mother pushing her child in a pram at midnight, the suited businessman riding a bicycle to the next door high-rise finance centre and the ultimate joy and freedom as children, teenagers and the elderly walked the promenade lit by the blazing middle eastern sun and engulfed in a euphoric freedom.

As a political journalist, proud Zionist and Jewish activist all the concepts, articles, talks and ideas I had held so close to my heart and proudly imparted had become my reality. I had become part of those who are the realisation of our ancestors' dreams. Already, being in Israel is more than just merely existing here. It is historic, but most importantly: we are all here knowingly to take charge and better the Jewish destiny for future generations to come.

The only question I have is: If not now, when?

Samuel Hyde, is a political journalist and Jewish & Israel rights activist based in Tel Aviv, Israel. He studied antisemitism and the Holocaust and aims to redefine the way in which the non-Jewish world interacts with Zionism, and revive Jewish pride within our youth.

Full circle for shlichah Batya Shmueli

By Samuel Hyde



Batya Shmueli with her family; husband Hed and children Shneor, Noah, and Naomi

Growing up in Ethiopia during the 1980s, Batya Shmueli had to constantly hide her Jewish identity.

She recalls celebrating Jewish holidays such as Pesach, remembering how they weren't able to sing or pray loudly for fear of drawing unwanted attention to themselves. Most of the Ethiopian Jewish community grew up in villages located in the North, but after her father purchased land close to the city he sent word to others to join, and by 1991 they had built a community of 75 Jewish families.

In 1939, during the Second Italo, a war between Ethiopia and Eritrea, Batya's father was just 16 years old when his childhood village was attacked. When the attackers found out he was Jewish, they beat him violently and abused him for hours. This horrific incident became the defining moment that led him to change his name so that he could assimilate into Ethiopian society, without the fear of antisemitic persecution.

Batya recalls that in her village everyone took care of each other but until she was 11 years old, she had to live her life in secret. One day, shlichim from the Jewish Agency for Israel came knocking on her family's door and told them to get ready, "The way to Jerusalem is open for you." Batya's father dropped to his knees, looked to the sky and said "thank you G-d, thank you G-d, you did not forget me." Within a short time Batya's father had sold their house and the family were ready to embark on a journey to the place she had only heard about from the stories of the Torah.

The night before the family were supposed to leave Batya was woken up to the sound of a neighbour's voice desperately saying, "you must leave now, they're coming." Earlier on that evening the neighbouring villages had held a meeting. They had found out that her father was Jewish, and blamed him for the death of their family members. They said he killed them because he was a Jew. They blamed everything bad that had happened over the years on her father, a man who had spent his 81 years giving to everyone he could. At this moment the family knew that they had to escape for their lives in the middle of the night.

She recalls the moment of arrival in Israel, as if for the first time, "My parents got off the plane and kissed the ground. We didn't know why but we copied them. It was very emotional, very exciting, everyone was so welcoming and kind." One cannot help but notice how Batya's life has gone 'full circle', from that defining childhood moment when the shlichim knocked on the door of her home to tell them the dream of going to the holy land was now a reality, to her becoming a shlichah and committing her life to nurturing the bond between Jews in the diaspora and Israel.

One could write a book on Batya's life, she is one of the most inspirational people I have had the chance to meet. As a South African living in Israel, all I can say about Batya Shmueli is that the Cape Town Jewish community has the greatest privilege to have her as their shlichah.



Youth Movements roundup

SAUJS — calling ALL Jewish youth 18 - 30

If you are between the ages of 18 and 30, and living in the Western Cape, you are warmly invited to the SAUJS WC online info session happening this month. SAUJS WC aims to remain a place for all Jewish youth even if you are not a registered student. We understand that this time, following from last year, has been very turbulent and as such we remain committed to fostering a sense of community, fostering growth opportunities, and providing exciting social events. If you would like to plan events and join an incredible committee, reach out to us on our socials and attend our AGM in October. All details will be posted on our Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp groups.

Cassandra Mayekiso

Diller Teen Fellows

Applications for Diller Teen Fellows Cohort 7 are officially open!

All Jewish Grade 10s in Cape Town who are looking to extend their leadership experiences, connect with teens locally and globally, and make an impact in our community – Diller Teen Fellows is for you!

For more information we welcome all parents and teens to our Cohort 7 information session taking place on Thursday, August 19th at 6pm on Zoom.

For details on the Zoom session, applications and interviews please email diller@ctjc.co.za or find the information on our Instagram page @diller.capetown.



The application form can be found at the QR code above, on our Instagram page or by emailing diller@ctjc.co.za for the link. **Applications close 30 September 2021.**

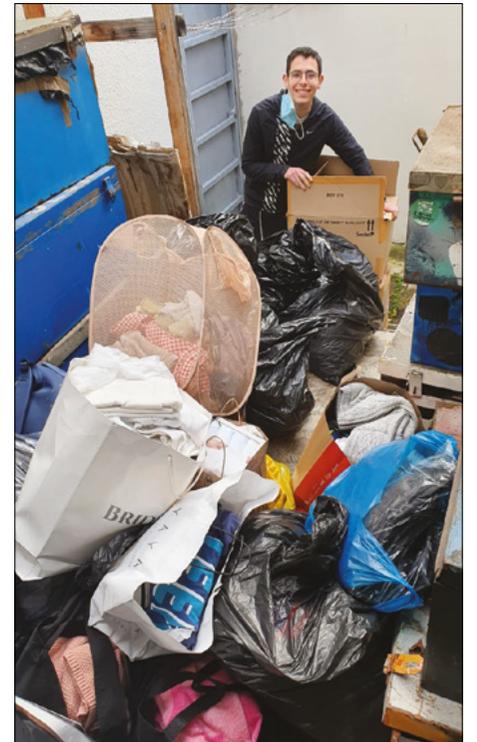
Martine Kawalsky

Bnei Akiva — #BneiBuilds

Bnei Akiva Organised national Zoom events during July, to occupy both our channichim and madrichim during their holidays. This included collecting clothes for JCS, writing a message of thanks to CSO, and a magic show!

We were so excited to bring to you #BneiBuilds. In nine days of destruction — together we built! During these nine days, #BneiBuilds built ourselves, our community and our relationships with others.

It's hard being so far away from the channichim during their holidays but we were so happy to be there for them even if it was at a distance. Bnei Akiva Cape Town is excited to begin in-person events soon, when the community is a bit safer, and we can't wait to see our channichim and madrichim together again!



Eytan Labe prepares bags of clothing to donate to JCS Bargains Galore.

Eytan Labe

Habonim — improvise, adapt and overcome!

Having entered the COVID-19 pandemic's 3rd wave in South Africa, the Habonim Dror Cape Town Ken have been cycling through our fractured nation to try to heal and survive, as we prepare to take on yet another journey during these COVID times.

Habonim recently hosted a series of online events for our channichim, known as 'Habo Bingo', consisting of various online games with the objective of ultimately completing a Bingo board.

The Ken VP has just completed a very successful bi-annual *Hanhaggah* seminar to discuss our future plans for the movement for the rest of the year.

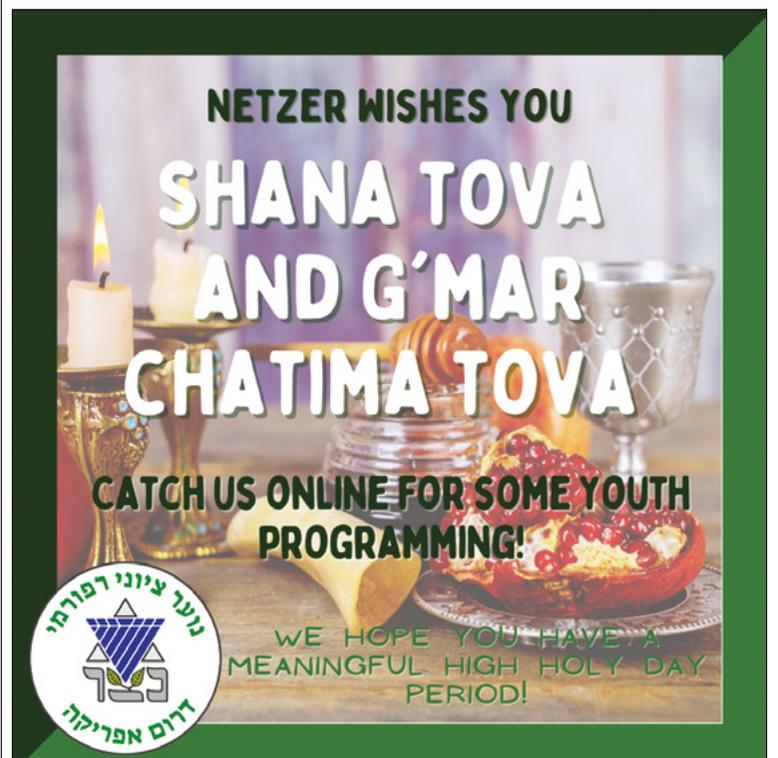
We are also excited to announce that we have had a few campsite upgrades in the form of two horses, chickens, ducks and rabbits.

Brynn Goldblatt (Rosh Ken Cape Town)



'Bliksem' (front) and 'Enrique' (back) grazing on Red Square.

Netzer



WOOLWORTHS

SHANAH TOVAH

Wishing all our Jewish customers and staff a happy Rosh Hashanah. May your year ahead be sweet and prosperous.





Community History Online Conference 2021: Preserving the footprint of Southern African Jewish community life in digital form



The rise of the internet has provided unprecedented means for connecting people as well as being a secure repository of information.

Many people with a passion to preserve the history of their Southern African Jewish communities have grasped this opportunity with both hands. How have they done it? Nearly 100 people from all over the world are finding out through 'Community History Online', a Zoom conference presented in three weekly sessions by the South African Jewish Museum and the UCT Kaplan Centre.

Viewers have been enthralled by individuals who have driven projects to find and communicate with the families of those who lived in their hometowns, and to hear how they motivated them to send stories and pictures of their weddings and barmitzvahs, their businesses and pastimes, their synagogues and ministers.

Geraldine Auerbach MBE from London kicked off by introducing us to the comprehensive website of the Jewish Community of Kimberley, explaining how it was achieved. Gary Sussman from Tel Aviv spoke about his beautiful websites for the 50 to 60-family centre of Vryburg. Rabbi Ryan Newfield, appointed in Muizenberg just a month before Covid struck, gave a vivid description of creating a community from scratch. Juan-Paul Burke presented an insight into the progress

of documenting the Woodstock and Salt River Jewish communities. Attendees were given tips, templates and offers of help to create their own 'virtual cities', recording pasts that might otherwise be lost.

Online resources

The wealth of resources in the online archives of the South African Jewish Museum and the Kaplan Centre was described by their archivists Leila Bloch and Katie Garrun. People were encouraged to make sure that family or community documents and appurtenances are safely digitised and stored in these places. Eli Rabinowitz in Perth Australia, a member of the Board of the International Jewish Genealogical Society, spoke about JewishGen's vast databases and other resources and his many community 'Kehilalinks'.

Virtual cemeteries

While gravestones are still pristine, the value of photographing them and transcribing them

is essential, as visits to South African Jewish cemeteries are not always possible — or even safe — today. Eric Berger of the Cape Town Cemeteries Board showed their extraordinary progress from a database of graves to a fundraising platform and a service to the families and the community.

Social media

Pioneer and role model in the field, Dave Bloom of Israel, who during the last 20 years has created a fascinating website celebrating the Zimbabwe Jewish Community, described how he and the community now use Facebook and Zoom as tools to bring people together and elicit stories.

Gavin Morris, Director of the South African Jewish Museum in Cape Town, says: 'Our goal has been to connect everyone interested in South African Jewish history and to present an overview of the various approaches being taken in securing our history online. We hope to learn of their triumphs and frustrations so we can create a clear path for others to travel. Already there is interest from individuals willing to start sites for Bloemfontein and Carletonville.'

**To listen to the talks, visit our YouTube channel or Facebook pages.
To join the mailing list of Community History On-Line (CHOL) email us at info@sajewishmuseum.co.za**

To listen to the talks again visit our YouTube channel or Facebook pages. To join the mailing list of Community History On-Line (CHOL) email us at info@sajewishmuseum.co.za

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Shanah Tovah Umetukah

שנה טובה ומתוקה



As this year comes to an end and a new year begins we have much to be grateful for.

Herzlia and The Herzlia Foundation Trust would like to wish the community, our donors, staff, parents and pupils a *Sweet and Happy New Year.*

 1597 pupils are enrolled across United Herzlia Schools.

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South African donors may be eligible for a tax deduction in respect of donations to The Herzlia Foundation Trust. United Herzlia Schools is the sole beneficiary of The Herzlia Foundation Trust – PBO No. 930038539



Record-breaking Aliyah flight

Families, infants, future lone soldiers and a nonagenarian were among the 87 new Olim who arrived in Israel on 28 July, on the largest Aliyah flight from South Africa in over a decade.

“Telfed (officially known as the South African Zionist Federation, Israel) plays a vital role in facilitating the absorption of new Olim from South Africa, Southern Africa and Australia. As a Klita organisation with decades of experience, Telfed is familiar with the challenges associated with integration, ensuring that services are geared towards supporting Olim as they make Israel home,” said Telfed CEO, Dorrn Kline.

These questions range from “Is this yogurt or sour cream?” to “When can I apply for an Israeli passport?”

“We’ve seen unexpected upsides from more group flights and mandatory quarantine. For some, the mandatory hotel quarantine has been frustrating, but many have

enjoyed the forced quiet after the stress of packing up and leaving loved ones. For them, it’s a welcome break before they begin tackling the next stages of their Aliyah journey — an opportunity to catch their breath.”

Large group flights have created opportunities to connect with others making Aliyah at the same time through WhatsApp groups (initiated by the Israel Centre), providing a platform for sharing practical advice and helpful information. Telfed’s Klita Advisor, Daniela Shapira, joins the groups and answers questions along the way. These questions range from ‘Is this yogurt or sour cream?’ to ‘When can I apply for an Israeli passport?’

Following the arrival of 87 new Olim, Telfed prepared a series of practical webinars and virtual get-togethers. These webinars dealt with the initial bureaucratic requirements, employment, housing, support networks and more. Our newest young Olim were invited to participate in fun virtual afternoon activities led by Telfed scholarship recipients, and the community was invited to participate in a virtual musical Kabbalat Shabbat.

The next group flight will be landing in Israel shortly before Rosh



Telfed staff delivered welcome packs to new Olim in mandatory hotel quarantine in Tel Aviv.

Hashanah and will be invited to participate in Telfed’s virtual Klita webinars. “These webinars will not only provide practical guidance, helpful advice and introductions to our team, but will make sure our new arrivals feel connected. As a community organisation, we see the positive influence that a strong, connected community plays in a successful absorption. Our ultimate objective is for Olim to integrate fully,

to contribute to the country, but not to forget their roots because being a part of a connected and dynamic community is empowering,” said Robby Hilkowitz, Telfed Chairman.

“As we head into the new year and prepare to welcome a new group of South African Olim, the significance of Israel, Aliyah and a home for the Jewish people remains as relevant today as ever.”



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



Highlights from 2021



Lance Katz
12 Jewish Rules for Business



Dawn Nathan-Jones & Lesley Waterkeyn
Over The Rainbow training course



Shannon Pam
How to be efficient by working SMART!



Justin Cohen
The 3 X Factors of Success

“ORT Jet is the most phenomenal group I have ever had the pleasure of being involved with. Their commitment, guidance in all areas of one’s life as well as introducing you to collaborate with others is life changing. I am filled with gratitude and advise everyone in our community to join.” - Di Rosen, Di Rosen Productions

L'Shanah Tova U'Metuka

Wishing you and your families a healthy, happy, and peaceful New Year and well over the Fast.





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בדרום אפריקה
CAPE COUNCIL

A time to focus on the Mitzvahs we do

RABBI DANI BRETT
Education Officer, UOS and Director of Torah City Wide

On Rosh Hashana new spiritual accounting books are opened to track our income and expenses in the realm of the soul. And it's not up in the sky but very much about productive day-to-day lives here on earth, but elevated lives at that. The month of Elul, Rosh Hashana, the Ten Days of Repentance and Yom Kippur are a time to reflect on the year that has been and to review and analyse our personal and communal spiritual income statements and balance sheets, and then to budget our time, energy, resources and aspirations for our fullest Jewish life in the year to come.

Given that the role of the UOS is to provide a framework for *Mitzvah* performance, this is a great time to point out current opportunities that are yours for the taking. Although there are other areas of important functional Jewish life that the UOS oversees - with many rabbis and professional staff playing varied vital roles - given the limitations of space, we will focus on five.

KASHRUT

Rabbi Yochanan Ziegler has been appointed as the Head of the UOS Kashrut Department. In addition, he has assumed the role of local shochet. Systems are being reviewed and the way forward being explored. The relationship with the Johannesburg Kashrut department is being streamlined. "I feel blessed to be working with the capable Kashrut team in Cape Town," says Rabbi Ziegler, "and am looking forward to the sacred task of maintaining and growing the organisation that Rabbi Maizels obm headed and gave all of his energies to." Rabbi Ziegler is well-positioned to do just that.

Opportunity: Consider *kashering* your kitchen, buy Kosher - with the famous BD diamond, support local Kosher establishments or join the Kashrut Department WhatsApp group to keep up to date with current information.

BETH DIN

When a dispute occurs and Jews require mediation or arbitration, Jewish Law mandates that they approach the Beth Din. The process is streamlined, effective and in line with Jewish ethics and perspectives. Currently, Rabbi Yoel Smith travels to Cape Town monthly to oversee Beth Din proceedings, which, in addition to mediation and arbitration, include marriage applications, divorce, conversions, certificates of Jewish status for *Aliyah* and other purposes, *Halachic* oversight of the Kashrut Department and other aspects of communal Jewish life such as the *Mikveh* and the cemetery. Rabbi Matthew Liebenberg has been appointed Registrar of the Beth Din and resident Cape Town *Dayan*. He brings a wealth of rabbinic experience, organisational and communication skills and broad *Halachic* knowledge to this vital role.

Opportunity: The community is encouraged to adhere to the age-old Jewish practice of approaching the Beth Din for mediation and arbitration.

MIKVEH

After many years of incredible effort on the part of many, the dream renovation of the Sea Point Mikveh has now become a reality. The facility of a Mikveh, which enables the practice of Family Purity Laws, is of the highest priority for any Jewish community. A state-of-the-art facility makes the opportunity to embrace this special *Mitzvah* all the more appealing. With a refurbished facility and streamlined modern booking process (which are also Covid compliant), the *Mikveh* experience is both spiritually and physically uplifting.

Opportunity: Those women who have observed these laws previously but have become distracted from them are encouraged to use this fresh opportunity to recommit to this special aspect of relationship enhancement. And, for those who have never done so other than possibly prior to their wedding, now's a great time to consider 'taking the plunge'.

MEZUZAH CHECKING

The UOS is concerned with all aspects of Jewish practice. There are times where a specific *Mitzvah* does not fall squarely under the auspices of any of our departments, but we support such initiatives to the greatest extent possible and are ready to promote and facilitate any specific need or opportunity. One such void that currently exists in Cape Town is the checking of *Mezuzot*. These holy scrolls are the mark of Jewish homes, and the correct performance of this important *Mitzvah* provides protection to our homes. But, they need to be checked regularly (generally, twice every seven years) by a qualified

and competent individual. Rabbi Hillel Bernstein has thankfully stepped up to the plate to provide this service. All that is required is to detach your *Mezuzot* and hand them over to Rabbi Bernstein for checking. The UOS is also able to act as a depot for this service. Alternatively, you can contact your own Rabbi who will arrange for them to be checked.

Opportunity: Elul and the Ten Days of Repentance (between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur) are traditionally a focal time to check one's *Mezuzot*. If you haven't done so in recent years, now is the time to have them checked.

PRAYER

Daily *minyanim* are the lifeblood of a community. In spite of the pandemic making the communal task of maintaining these minyanim extremely challenging, rabbis, lay leaders and community members have risen to the challenge. Every effort has been made to maintain spaces that are spiritually pristine and physically safe. In addition to the sustaining of communal life, shul provides each of us with the opportunity to develop a keen awareness of *Hashem's* hand in our lives.

Opportunity: Re-invest in the power of *Tefilah* (prayer) on a personal and communal level.

Whether it be *Kashrut*, correct *Halachic* business processes, *Mikveh* observance, *Mezuzah* checking, prayer or *minyanim*, may we as a community continue to enhance the spaces in Cape Town for Jews to have such opportunities.

As Jews, we appreciate that failing to continuously build is a form of self-destruction. Stagnation results in decay. Regardless of age or stage, each Jew is constantly encouraged to strive to grow each and every day - through the priceless guidance of Torah wisdom and Mitzvah platforms. These last few days of Elul and the High Holidays are the right time to reflect, take stock, do an accounting and make renewed budgetary commitments - in terms of time, energy and priorities - to do Mitzvot.



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(JEWISH ECCLESIASTICAL COURT)
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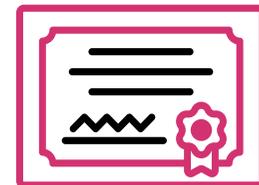
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Consider This

G-d full of mercy

By Rabbi Greg Alexander

As I write this, Cape Town is still staggering under the weight of the third wave.

We are all counting the losses and every day brings yet another funeral, another zoom shiva prayers. The month of Elul is always a time of introspection and reflection as we prepare for the High Holy Days, and in an ordinary year, many of us have the custom of coming to the cemetery to visit graves of family and friends. This year, not only are these visits forbidden by the COVID restrictions, but we are here in Pinelands Cemetery too often for funerals instead. The dusty mounds of new graves at the cemetery's edge are a grim symbol of what our small community has been through in the past year and a half.

The incomparable Israeli poet, Yehuda Amichai, wrote a disturbing poem titled El Malei Rachamim – (G-d Full of Mercy), the only too well-known opening line of the hazkarah, the traditional memorial prayer chanted at Jewish funerals. In his poem, Amichai accuses G-d of hoarding all the mercy for Herself. As Amichai puts it, "G-d Full of mercy/ If God was not full of mercy/ Mercy would have been in the world/ Not just in Him." In other words, the poem condemns Gld for the lack of compassion in this world. By being "full of mercy," G@d left no mercy for everyone down here on Earth. Amichai continues, "I, who brought corpses from the hills/ Can tell you that the world is empty of mercy."

Amichai lived through World War 2 with all its horrors and fought there and in the many wars of Israel's early years and when he says that he "brought corpses from the hills" he is speaking not just as a poet but also from experience. It's a bleak outlook on the world and if we take this approach that the world is "empty of mercy" how do we find the strength to get up in the morning? How can we see a way forward when the next strain of Coronavirus forges through our community?

We must be able to counter this grim picture of our lives and seek to answer the question of how a G-d of Mercy can allow the Coronavirus to do what it has to our world. It is surely the greatest question of our times.

There are generally three ways that I hear people answering this question and I want to suggest a fourth. The first is that G-d is punishing us for something (add in here for our sins, for our lack of faith, for our 'corrupt world' that permits abominations like abortion and same-sex marriage or even to tell the world that [insert name of religion] is the true one etc) and I have to say outright that the G*d that I believe in does not work this way, and that these explanations are usually less about Gld and more about our own human prejudices. Not only has the virus not 'punished' any specific group, but those most brutally affected have been those who were most vulnerable physically and economically when it began, and a Gld of justice and mercy is not going to do that.

The second answer is that this is just the way of the world. In the words of the Talmud, 'Olam k'minhago

noheig – the world goes according to its custom' (see BT Avodah Zarah 54b). This is a logical answer, but it leaves us feeling pretty ambivalent about G-d, a distant, uncaring Ruler of our world. Would a Gld of Mercy allow something like Corona to just rip through the world because that's the way of disease?

Thirdly, there are those who will say, "You can't understand G-d – it's a mystery beyond us." Or, in the words of the prophet Isaiah, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Eternal. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." (Isa. 55:8–9)

While of course, we are limited in our human ability to know the Divine, the problem with this thinking is that it ignores the entire project of Judaism which is to try to understand the meaning of our lives, why we exist. And here lies the fourth approach to this question.

There is a reason that G@d bothered to reveal Herself at Mt Sinai and that we have made study of Torah the core activity of Jewish life for the 3500 years since then. That is surely that there is a way to understand (at least something of) this world. That our lives have meaning and purpose and that we have been given the ability to reason and think and speak and read to decode the mystery. While we might not get to all the answers, we have to strive towards trying. Why was our world so susceptible to this virus? Has it not exposed the wide gaps between those who have access to medical care and those who have not? Those who have the ability to stay home and order food online and those who stand on the street corners desperate for handouts?

The world is challenging, it always has been, and the Coronavirus has not left any corner of our planet immune from its devastation. Our response is surely to be partners with G-d in responding to it. We have to rise to the challenge to reset our priorities, to recreate society as a kinder, fairer, more compassionate world for all its creatures. To use the opportunity now to make positive changes to the way we look after our Earth and each other. And to see the beauty and possibility about us everyday, every moment.

The world," said the Baal Shem Tov, "is full of miracles, but we take our little hand and cover our eyes and see nothing." As we prepare for these Highest and most Holy Days, let us seek to be the partners that G@d needs to repair our world.

Mazaltov to last month's Bnei Mitzvah



Jarred Kowen
5 August



Zach Rothschild
7 August



Max Schewitz
28 August



International 67-minute Mandela Day walk

On Mandela Day members and friends of our congregation — from Cape Town to Jo'burg and as far afield as Hungary and Washington DC — walked for 67 minutes and joined up on Zoom to support Little Hands Baby Home, our chosen beneficiary organisation. Thanks to the wonderful contributions of many we were able to raise R12,000. We are very grateful to all involved for making this day so successful.



Mel Beswick handing over the donation to Genevieve Bootcov, founder of Little Hands Baby Home



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ABOUT OUR PROGRAMME

THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (LDP)
is our flagship bi-annual year-long leadership programme

ABOUT US

OUR VISION

The **Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute (EOLI)** has been established as a legacy to the visionary leadership and strategic foresight of Eliot Osrin (z"l), for the benefit of the Jewish community. By investing in current and emerging leaders, **we aim to people-proof the community, and create a pipeline for leadership succession.** The Institute promotes a culture of bold, adaptive and ethical leadership, modelled on Eliot's values of humility, integrity, compassion and benevolence.

The **EOLI commits to leadership development programmes and workshops that will grow and transform leadership,** in order to ensure that the future of the Jewish Community is vibrant, resilient and sustainable.

OUR MISSION

The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute is a non-profit, community organisation. The Institute serves to upskill, develop, and empower current and emerging professional and lay (volunteer) leadership. The Institute designs fully customised bi-annual, year-long Leadership Development Programmes (LDP's) for the Jewish Community, incorporating local and global best practice, and world class faculty. The EOLI also offers workshops and short courses; identifies and recruits leadership talent; and provides training, mentorship, and coaching, all of which will serve to shape communal leadership trends. EOLI facilitates cross communal collaborations and enables innovative solutions to communal challenges.

OUR VALUES

Integrity

Ethical leadership

Inclusivity

Investment

Resilience

Professionalism

Innovation

Empowerment

Volunteerism

Consultation

“ We are excited by who EOLI has attracted to its year-long Leadership Development Programme (LDP), and the impact each participant makes in community organisations thereafter. We are seeing very diverse applicants with a wide range of skills and talents. It has been rewarding to monitor the professionals who transform their organisations post the LDP experience, plus the embracing of new and emerging lay leaders who put up their hands to serve on committees across the community ”

Ronnie Stein, EOLI Chairman

THE LDP

EOLI recruits emerging, professional, lay (volunteer) and executive leadership for a pipeline of succession.

2018: A total of **32 participants** – includes **11 lay** and **14 professional leaders** from the community

2020: A total of **26 participants** – includes **7 lay** and **9 professional leaders** from the community

5 MODULES

The LDP sets itself apart with theory, immersion and experiential learning across all modules:

- ◆ Leader as Self
- ◆ Community History & Context
- ◆ Skills Toolkit
- ◆ Action Learning Community Projects
- ◆ Ethical Leadership

POST LDP 12 MONTH COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The impact of the LDP is measured by the pipeline of graduates who serve organisations in roles on committees or as professionals. For some, the LDP has kickstarted their leadership journey, while for others it has enriched it.

2018: 80% of cohort serve organisations
40% as lay leaders / **40%** as professionals

2020: 88% of cohort serve organisations
62% as lay leaders / **26%** as professionals

35 EXPERT FACULTY

Our faculty bring MBA executive level teaching and curricula to our Institute.



DIVERSE WORKSHOPS

Delivered by global thought leaders and national experts. Open to leadership across community roles and organisations **OR** Targeted audiences:

- ◆ Personal, team & organisational development
- ◆ Professional/leadership skills
- ◆ Strategic, adaptive & transformative leadership
- ◆ Leadership trends & best practice

WORKSHOP ATTENDEES

2018 -2021: **500+**

STAKEHOLDER MANGEMENT

across 56 Jewish community organisations.

ADVISORY BOARD

Our Board is made up of leading members of the Cape Town Jewish community who care deeply about investing in the future of the community, anchored by strong, visionary and values-based leadership.

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Adam Mendelsohn • Alison Berk Katzeff
Bernard Osrin • Marco van Embden
Myra Osrin • Natalie Barnett
Philip Krawitz • Tamar Lazarus

Professional Team

Viv Anstey (**Director**)
Melissa Zolty (**Project Manager**)

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info@osrinleadership.org

www.osrinleadership.org



Watch this space for the launch of the 2022 Leadership Development Program. Connect with us at applications@osrinleadership.org to find out more.

The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute is POPI Act compliant and is committed to protecting your information on our records.

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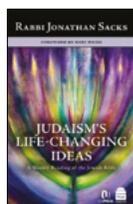
THE NIGHT SWIM by MEGAN GOLDIN. Rachel Krail, a true crime podcast host of *Guilty or Not Guilty* comes to the small town of Neapolis to cover a devastating rape trial. Champion swimmer Scott Blair is to be tried for the rape of high school student Kelly Moore. Rachel struggles to remain impartial, and when she receives notes from the sister of another murder victim she realises that these two assaults might be linked.



THE LOST SHTETL by MAX GROSS. The tiny Jewish shtetl of Kreskol that has lived for decades in isolation, escaping the devastations of the Holocaust and the Cold War, is forced into the 21st century. Following the disappearance of Pesha, and then her husband, the Elders send outcast Yankel to alert the Polish authorities. He is confronted by a modern world and met with disbelief. The village makes headlines worldwide and the townspeople face the challenge of holding onto past traditions. Entertaining and imaginative, reminiscent of Sholem Aleichem.



FRIENDS AND ENEMIES by BARBARA AMIEL. After a childhood in London during the Blitz, Barbara settled in Canada, becoming a respected columnist and broadcaster, and befriending many, including Nancy Kissinger, Elton John and Oscar de la Renta. Barbara's press quotes and extravagant lifestyle made her a subject of fascination over four decades. A brutally honest, richly detailed memoir.



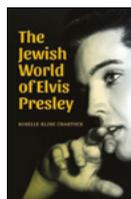
JUDAISM'S LIFE-CHANGING IDEAS by RABBI JONATHAN SACKS. A captivating book providing insightful lessons from each Torah portion. Rabbi Sacks includes topics such as prejudice and genocide, marriage and communication, emotional intelligence and gossip. Every sentence rings true in this COVID-19 world in need of repair. Sacks covers the full range of human experience with passion, humour and wit.



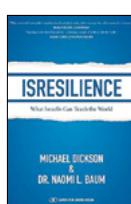
AGENT SONYA by BEN MACINTYRE. Born to a secular Jewish family from Berlin, Ursula joined the Communists in her teens. Her career in espionage began in 1930 under the code name Sonya, after she relocated to Shanghai; and took her to Poland, Switzerland and eventually England. A story of ambition, romance and adventure about a spy who influenced the Cold War.



THE PARIS LIBRARY by JANET SKESLIEN CHARLES. Paris 1939, Odile Souchet has a dream job at the American Library. When the Nazis invade, she endangers herself by delivering books to Jewish patrons. She joins the Resistance, and after the war, experiences betrayal. Odile teaches French to Lily, a lonely teenager living next door to her in Montana in the 1980s, and reveals details of her life in Paris. Lily finds that they share more than a love of language.



THE JEWISH WORLD OF ELVIS PRESLEY by ROSELLE KLINE CHARTOCK. The author shares the deep affinity Elvis had with Jews. At a young age his mother Gladys told him of his Jewish great-great grandmother Nancy Burdine, an immigrant from Lithuania, but warned him to keep his lineage to himself. Chartock discusses his personal relationships with Jews in Memphis including merchants and those in the music and film industry. A captivating read for fans of this 20th century icon.



ISRESILIENCE by MICHAEL DICKSON and NAOMI L. BAUM. The study of a nation that thrived despite significant challenges. Featuring inspirational Israelis including human rights icon Natan Sharansky; Holocaust survivor Rabbi Yisrael Meir Lau; the first Druze woman elected to the Knesset Gadeer Kamal Mreeh; and others, who honour both their Israeli identity and their ethnic origins.

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Happy Rosh Hashana!

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To all members of Chabad's 'Chai Club':

**Thank you for investing in
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priceless gift, **to belong!****

**We wish you a Happy and
Sweet New Year.**

**- Chabad on Campus
students '21**



MENSCH THOUGHT-LEADER OF THE MONTH

By Mensch Network Member, Kerry Hoffman, Founder of Souper Troopers and The Humanity Hub

New year, new beginnings

We believe that everybody deserves a new beginning and are proud to offer our clients a space in which to find theirs.

As we approach Rosh Hashanah, we are thrilled to introduce our new project, *The Humanity Hub*, which facilitates new beginnings for our homeless clients. The *Humanity Hub*, situated on the ground floor of the Community Chest building in the CBD, was launched earlier this year by *Souper Troopers* in collaboration with *Mini Meltdown*, *Ladles of Love*, and *Community Chest*.

We offer a full range of services aimed at helping people living on the streets to improve their lives and, where possible, find permanent accommodation. Using our C.A.S.T model (Connect, Assess, Support, Transform), our compassionate fieldwork team works with each person individually, to provide these services with dignity, love and respect.

Connect

The CONNECT stage is the foundation of our work during which our team establishes a relationship

of trust with the client. Often this requires a series of interactions as most of our clients have experienced deep trauma and have been disappointed so many times before.

Assess

Once the client trusts our team, the work moves to the ASSESS stage. Our team takes an in-depth history of the client's life, which includes their family situation, level of study, work experience, reasons for being on the streets, skills and talents, medical history, mental health, and other obstacles standing in their way. Most important is for the client to express their hopes and dreams for how they would like their life to evolve.

Support

The fieldworker and client then work out a series of steps the client can take with our SUPPORT. Sometimes, this requires our fieldworker to mediate between the client and their family to see if reconciliation is possible and whether the home is a safe space. We then arrange and pay for the client's transport (to another province or country), prepare them

for the journey and send them off with groceries and other basics.

Often the client needs an ID card before they can take other steps and we help them get their documentation in order. We can sometimes connect the client with a work opportunity or support them as they learn a new skill, to increase their opportunities. Many clients need trauma counselling or addiction support, and we work within a network of service providers, always keeping in touch with the client and walking the long and often painful journey with them.

Transform

Each journey is unique and, even once they feel their life has TRANSFORMED, our fieldwork team remains in touch because transformation is an ongoing process of rebuilding a life.

Meet Tanya

Tanya* left her home in Zimbabwe to find work in Cape Town to support her son. She did not know that she would soon start losing her sight. She found herself on the streets — and

despite three surgeries, her sight continued to deteriorate, making her very vulnerable. She was harassed and threatened. She reached out to our

fieldworker at *The Humanity Hub* who found placement for her in a shelter, while we attended to all the logistical arrangements for her return to Zimbabwe. Thanks to our generous and compassionate community, Tanya is now home with her son and mother, grateful that she can see her son before she goes completely blind. (*Not her real name)

We believe that everybody deserves a new beginning and are proud to offer our clients a space in which to find theirs. We are always looking for toiletries, and good quality clothing and shoes. Please be in touch with us if you would like to visit *The Humanity Hub* or support us in any other way.

We are all human. We all have a story. Together we are the change.



For more information or how to help, email: info@soupertroopers.org. For more about Jewish Social Justice NGO, Mensch, go to www.mensch.org.za



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SHANAH TOVAH U'METUKAH

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Lance Katz, Chairperson, United Jewish Campaign (UJC)

In Jon Krakauer’s non-fiction novel, “Into the Wild”, the central character Christopher McCandless gives up mainstream life after graduating from college and journeys into the vast Alaskan Wilderness to find what he hopes will be blissful solitude. After mistaking a poisonous plant for a safe-to-eat variety of almost identical description, he dies alone in an abandoned trailer. However, before his death, McCandless comes to a grand realisation which he pens in the diary that was found with his body – “True happiness is shared”.

Since March 2020, days, weeks, and months seem to meld into one indistinguishable COVID blur, and yet without skipping a beat, the Jewish calendar has continued to punctuate our individual and communal experience, bringing rhythm and meaning to what might otherwise have been a mundane existence.

The High Holy Days are almost upon us once again. The sound of the shofar calls on us to reflect on ourselves and our relationships, to make corrections, mend broken ties, and strive for personal growth and improvement. We are filled with a sense of trepidation and anticipation. In Cape Town the days are growing longer and the changing season mirrors the movement from the gloom and despair of Tisha B’Av (the saddest day of the Jewish year) in the middle of a cold wet winter, to the hope and optimism of the Jewish New Year in the spring, including the joyful festivities of Sukkoth.



The Rambam, the illustrious 12th century Jewish Scholar and Philosopher, wrote the following about enjoyment of the festivals: “Anyone who locks the doors of his courtyard and eats and drinks along with his wife and children, without giving anything to eat and drink to the poor and the desperate, does not observe a religious celebration but indulges in the celebration of his stomach”. By this measure, what would the Rambam make of the Cape Town Jewish Community in 2021?

Powered by the whole-hearted dedication of the professionals, volunteers and lay leaders that drive our various community organisations, and the remarkable generosity of our donors, all of our community organisations are putting every effort into ensuring that these High Holy Days and Festivals are celebrated by the whole community, including the most vulnerable. True happiness is shared. The Rambam would be delighted. Wishing you all a Shanah Tovah u’Metukah!

THE UNITED JEWISH CAMPAIGN (UJC) IS THE CAPE TOWN JEWISH COMMUNITY’S UMBRELLA FUNDRAISING BODY

<p>YOUR DONATION MAINTAINS: schools, welfare organisations, and other communal bodies.</p>	<p> R180 Covers 1 life-saving CSO medical call-out</p>	<p> R30 000 Covers 1 senior citizen for 1 month residing at Highlands House</p>
<p>  </p>	<p> R540 Covers supplies and PPE to protect a resident at one of our welfare homes</p>	<p> R2 350 Covers 1 family on our Tikvah feeding scheme</p>

WE SUPPORT 35 CAUSES 3 DIVISIONS

- Welfare
- Communal
- Israel

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

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

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY FUND SAVING LIVES

The funds raised in 2020 covered the most immediate and vital needs in our community including food, COVID-19 testing, PPE, extra staffing of facilities and financial relief for organisations & families.

VISIT ujc.org.za for the complete annual report





MEET THE WOMEN BEHIND THE CHANGE.

So often people can get wrapped up in the big moments and the grandiose gestures, that we forget how “smaller” moments of kindness and compassion are what makes the grandiose possible. This Women’s Month we’re celebrating and honouring the unseen faces behind the biggest change. The women who show up and make it happen, again and again...our **volunteers!**

They have sorted, packed, schlepped, monitored, mended, called, carried, fed, fundraised, dressed, driven, counselled and even rescued. They have been there through it all; the heartaches and the triumphs - committed to our precious Jewish community at the tip of Africa.

Head to our [Facebook page](#) to read the stories of over 30 powerful women determined to make a difference.



Meet: Janna Spiro
Changes lives at: CSO Cape Town



Meet: Rebbetzin Esther Maizels
Changes lives at: Melton Midrasha



Meet: Elisheva Jubiler
Changes lives at: Bnei Akiva Cape Town



Meet: Reviva Hasson
Changes lives at: Phyllis Jowell School



Meet: Karen Tollman
Changes lives at: Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute



Meet: Tamara Davidson
Changes lives at: Oranjia Children's Home



Meet: Janet Gelgor
Changes lives at: Cape Town Torah High

Want to get involved?

Once off, once a month, once a week? If you’d like to join these incredible women in supporting one of our 36 partner organisations, get in touch: info@ujc.org.za

SORTED, PACKED, SCHLEPPED, MONITORED, CARRIED, FED...



Meet: Gabi Saven
Changes lives at: Limmud



Meet: Bev Wynne
Changes lives at: ORT Jet

These women ensure that what needs to get done, is done. They show up. Again and again. They push the agenda forward. They preserve and they innovate. We are immensely grateful!

Women supporting women is essential. It is powerful. And, it's what our community needs.

#WomensMonth



Meet: Joan Alpert
Changes lives at: Highlands House



Meet: Debby Jowell
Changes lives at: Nechama



Meet: Lauren Joffe
Changes lives at: Moishe House



Meet: Beryl Eichenberger
Changes lives at: Jewish Literary Festival



Meet: Gill Saks
Changes lives at: Cape Jewish Seniors Association



Meet: Jacqui Benson (they/them)
Changes lives at: Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Did you know?

The frontlines are overwhelmingly represented by women who selflessly undertake this essential work, despite obstacles and inequalities.

In our Cape Town Jewish community:

- 80%** of our nurses, carers, cleaners, teachers and support staff are women.
- 70%** of our community organisations and institutions are run by women directors.
- 75%** of volunteers at our welfare organisations are women.

The United Jewish Campaign (UJC) is the Cape Town Jewish Community's umbrella fundraising body.

 UJC Cape Town  UJC_cpt

Family Announcements

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

ELEANORE SYLVIA CHINN NEE FABIAN

We would like to thank all family and friends in the USA, UK, Israel, Canada, Australia, Pretoria, Johannesburg and Cape Town and Nora's carers for the outpouring of love, concern and support in these trying times.

Nora, as many of you knew her, passed away peacefully from natural causes on 22 July 2021 having turned 88 years old on 26 June. She fought a number of health issues over the last 24 months like the good trooper that she always was, still thankfully with a clear, contented and joyful mind-set right until the last few days. She still played her World Wide Bridge games on the computer as well as her Facebook searches.

She missed both her late daughter, Stephanie, and her long-time partner, Hans, who had both left such a huge void in her life until the end.

With sincere gratitude to Rabbi Wineberg, Cantor Ivor Joffe and Rabbi Ziegler.

Thank you all from her son, Howard, her brothers Henry, Frank and Selwyn, her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

SAM KASSEL

My beloved partner Sam passed away peacefully on 28 July 2021.

Thank you for so many happy years and memories.

You have left an enormous void in my heart and in my soul.

Much love, Ray
MHDSRIP

SAM KASSEL

Cherished and loving partner to Ray, adored father to Arlene, Jacqui and Ilana, father-in-law, grandfather and brother, passed away peacefully on 28 July 2021.

The outpouring of love and support from family and friends was a great comfort during this traumatic time and we thank you all sincerely.

A very special thank you to Rabbi Oshek and to Dr Leon Geffen for their constant caring support.

Sam is deeply mourned and forever in our hearts.

MHDSRIP

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

astrajewishshelteredemployment Vaccinations: the mitzvot of the moment

On 2 August, the garage at Rosecourt House became a pop-up vaccination site, where 40 residents and workers received their second jabs.

The excitement among the recipients was palpable, as it was also a 'social event' — all of them having been in lockdown, it became an opportunity to reconnect with friends.

Hopefully this will enable our programmes at Astra

Centre to soon resume fully.

This was the culmination of social worker, Melanie Shapiro's determination, perseverance and superb role in facilitating it. The Department of Health team are to be commended for their wonderful sensitivity, and the efficiency with which they managed all recipients.

To quote Rabbi Goldstein, "Offering vaccinations is the Mitzva of the Moment."



SAZF and Israeli Embassy donate emergency medical kits to the Western Cape Association for Persons with Disabilities

On Thursday 12 August, the Israeli Embassy chargé d'affaires Hila Friedman and SAZF Cape Council Executive Director Chaya Singer handed over a donation of specialised Israeli emergency medical kits to the Western Cape Association for Persons with Disabilities.

This initiative was facilitated by the Western Cape Provincial Minister for Agriculture Dr Ivan Meyer, Executive Mayor of the Cape Winelands District Municipality Dr Elena Von Schlicht, Councillors Thys Blom and Payless Ramakhabi, and Louine Griessel CEO of Breede Valley Association FPD.

The kits will be distributed to community care-workers who help support physically disabled citizens in the Cape Winelands.



Israeli Dep Amb Hila Friedman and SAZFCC Executive Director Chaya Singer with Western Cape Provincial Minister for Agriculture Dr Ivan Meyer, Executive Mayor of the Cape Winelands District Municipality Dr Elena Von Schlicht, councillors Thys Blom and Payless Ramakhabi, and Louine Griessel CEO of Breede Valley Association FPD

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How we learn at Salisbury House

At Salisbury House we are focusing on STEAM this term.

Our theme is *How Things Work*. At the beginning of the term, each child wrote down questions they would like to know the answer to. We are spending one week on each question.

So far we have looked at the following questions posed by the children:

- How does the human digestive system work?
- How do human emotions work?
- How do people get sick?
- How do toilets work?
- How does a rainbow work?
- How do lights work?

We have undertaken numerous science experiments and done many internet searches in order to answer these questions. This has resulted in a lot of laughter, disgust, and plenty of dirty hands!



Ms Aimée Chiat looks on as Endinalo Mhini passes food from the "stomach" to the "small intestine".

Let's focus on our week learning about rainbows:

We learnt about the science behind how a rainbow appears in the sky. We discussed the concept of a 'monkey's wedding' too! We googled rainbow science experiments and followed several Youtube tutorials in order to see how water splits light into the seven colours of the rainbow.

Then it was time to use our imagination. We listened to folktales from around the world relating to rainbows — think Irish leprechauns and Greek mythology! The children then composed their own stories about the end of a rainbow.

While learning about rainbows we studied the story of Noah's Ark and Hashem's promise to never send a catastrophic flood to the world again. Finally, we painted rainbows which were labelled in Hebrew.

SHANA TOVA U'METUKAH TO THE WHOLE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF CAPE TOWN!



Tayah Weir examines an engineering drawing.

Follow the Chronicle online



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

Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services at the Middle School Atrium

Yomtov is still happening, even in this crazy year.

Please join the Tikva Tova congregation at the Herzlia Middle School Atrium for COVID-compliant Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur 2021 special short-services

Each service is only 30 to 40 minutes, and seating will be socially distanced. On Rosh Hashana there will be shofar blasts, short pieces of the shul liturgy, and a mini-sermon.

Similarly on Yom Kippur, each service is 30 to 40 minutes, so please come on time. Those attending must conform to Covid regulations. All are welcome, no booking or notification needed.



Bennie Rabinowitz with Tikva Tova's torah

In ritual and liturgical matters, Tikva Tova follows the orthodox normative practice, except that no distinction is made in status or participation between women and men.

Rosh Hashana 1st night: Monday 6 September 18:30pm – ending 19:00
Rosh Hashana 1st day with shofar: Tuesday 7 September 11am – ending 11:40, including shofar

Rosh Hashana 2nd night: Tuesday 7 September 18:30 – ending 19:00

Rosh Hashana 2nd day with shofar: Wednesday 8 September 11am – ending at 11:40am, including shofar

Yom Kippur Kol Nidrei: Wednesday 15 September 18:30 – ending 19:10

Yom Kippur morning including YIZKOR: Thursday 16 September 11am – ending 11:40am

Yom Kippur late afternoon: Monday 28 September 18:30 s – ending 7:15pm with a shofar blast

More info at www.tikvatova.co.za

Rice-Tic South Africa celebrating our 50th year of providing quality products wish all our Jewish Customers Happy New Year & Well over the Fast

Enquire at your local supermarket now!
Tel: 021 511 0806 info@ricetic.co.za www.ricetic.co.za



Teamwork at the CTHGC

The CTHGC Education Department reaches thousands of learners across the Western Cape.

It is only through our remarkable team that we are able to do this work successfully. A vital part of this team are our volunteer guides. We would like to highlight Ivor Shaskolsky as one of our longest-serving guides.

Ivor has been guiding learners at the centre for eighteen years. He has a Socratic style; questioning learners, making them think and encouraging discussion. Using the images in the exhibition he asks probing questions and allows the learners to draw their own conclusions. Ivor never talks at the learners. Over the past six months when we were able to accommodate school groups, we did, and despite the threat of COVID, Ivor was always keen to work with the learners. We knew we could rely on him, and we did! At every possible opportunity he gave of his time, knowledge and expertise. Socrates' quote sums up Ivor's approach to teaching Holocaust history:

"Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel."

We thank Ivor Shaskolsky for his dedication to the centre and to all the learners who enter it.



Ivor Shaskolsky taking one of the many visiting school groups through the exhibition.

Bringing Shabbat to Sea Point Place

Hymie Dorfman is a long-time and well-known resident of Sea Point.

He recently moved to Sea Point Place, and was struck by the fact that although a fair number of Jewish residents live there, supper in the communal dining room on Friday evenings were no different to any other day of the week. He mentioned to his daughter, Martine Chait, that it would be nice to do something to make Friday nights special for the Jewish residents.



Together with Norrie caterers, they came up with a plan — and Martine and her husband Louis arranged for Norries to deliver something special every Friday, before Shabbat, to Sea Point Place. Thanks to Hymie, they now enjoy a weekly Shabbat meal, complete with Kiddush (recited by Hymie), candles, and treats such as challah rolls with chopped liver, mock-crayfish or chicken soup and perogen.

This will continue weekly on rotation and has certainly brought joy to the Jewish residents of Sea Point Place. Thanks to Hymie, Martine and Louis, and Norrie's for making this happen.



Register for one or both of these 2 upcoming courses

For far too many of us, Jewish education stops in our teen years. At the age of intellectual maturity, when we're able to explore and understand the most complex and noble parts of our tradition, we often disengage. We utilize the world class Melton program to bring thousands of adult congregants on a journey into the wellspring of our heritage.

And here's the part every educator wants to hear: We've seen time and again that after engaging in high-level learning in a community, students become more involved synagogue members and, in many cases, assume leadership roles.

Giving people access to a community of learners creates shared experiences, and tethers them to that community.

Today, as we grow more polarized as a nation and as a people, the ability to engage in civil discourse is more important than ever. The Talmud provides a model for it: the ethics of disagreement, for respectfully exploring divergent viewpoints. So, learning together is also a workshop in getting out of our echo chambers and speaking to each other in substantive ways.

David J. Skorton wrote that higher education is the gateway to a more tolerant world, while community study revives the notion of "township democracy": When we learn together, we practice communication, togetherness, reason, collaboration, consensus. Adult Jewish learning has a domino effect, providing our students with the literacy, the tools, and the understanding to be more deeply connected Jews."

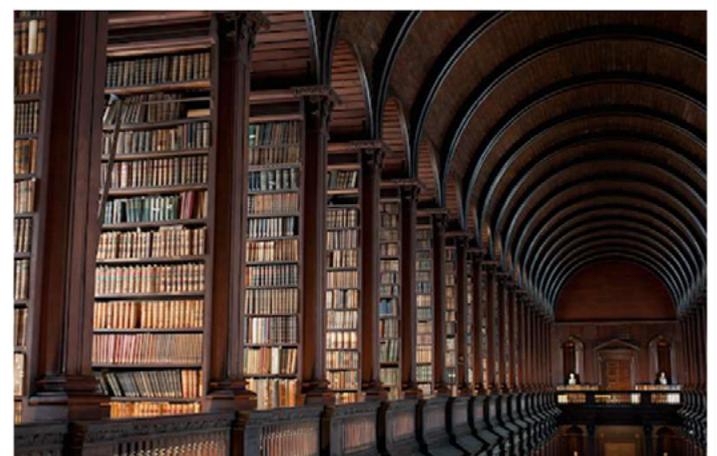
Extracted from Rabbi Neil Zuckerman, Park Street Synagogue, New York & Melton Educator.

Viv Anstey, Director: vivanst@iafrica.com 0828095414
Lauren Snitcher: lauren@snitcher.org 0828802257

www.meltoncapetown.org



From Sinai to Seinfeld: Jews and Their Jokes
A Melton Curriculum
10 Tuesday evenings starting 5 October



Highlights of SA Jewish History
A Prof Richard Mendelsohn Curriculum
10 Monday evenings starting 4 October



Bnoth Zion WIZO celebrates 120 years

There is a wonderful expression used in Hebrew and Yiddish, when congratulating a person on an amazing effort or achievement: "Ad me-ah v'esrim, k'esrim."

Loosely translated, it commends one by wishing them to live to 120 years, but to have the drive and energy of a 20 year old!

With much pride and excitement, Bnoth Zion WIZO celebrated its 120th anniversary on Thursday, 19th August 2021. This significant achievement, would, in 'normal times', have been celebrated in a "non-masked" gala event.

This year, however, we combine our 120th anniversary and annual Rebecca Sieff awards, virtually, on zoom, and with pre-taken photographs of the recipients proudly holding their well-deserved certificates of recognition for the many years of devoted and inspiring

commitment to Bnoth Zion WIZO, The Women's International Zionist Organization and in particular our WIZO South African projects in Israel, contributing to making a positive and life-changing difference in the lives of children, youth and empowering women to meet and adapt to change and challenge.

Bnoth Zion WIZO was deeply honoured and motivated by the warm messages of mazal tov and recognition of our ongoing achievements received from President, World WIZO, Esther MOR, World WIZO Chairman, Anita Friedman and President WIZO, South Africa, Shelley Trope Friedman.

In celebration of our 120th anniversary, our guest speaker was renowned presenter, Gwynne Robins, a WIZO member herself since 1973, author and historian, who shared fascinating stories about the remarkable WIZO pioneers and some interesting South African connections. As always, Gwynne

Robins enthralled us all!

Janine Currie, Chairman of Bnoth Zion WIZO presented the Rebecca Sieff award and Certificates of acknowledgment and congratulations to the recipients.

Despite being virtual and on Zoom, just watching, one 'felt' the emotion and excitement of the occasion!

What an extraordinary achievement, both for Bnoth Zion WIZO, and especially for the *neshot chayil* (women of worth) WIZO women; caring, determined, motivated, empowered, creative, resilient, inspiring and generous of spirit.

MAZAL TOV V'SIMAN TOV to Bnoth Zion WIZO on its 120th anniversary!

MAZAL TOV V'SIMAN TOV to our

70 YEARS SERVICE



The 70 years award was presented to Ruth Katzeff by President WIZO SA Shelley Trope Friedman

remarkable WIZO Women!

May Bnoth Zion WIZO and WIZO worldwide, operating in 50 Federations around the world, and holding status at the U.N continue to grow from strength to strength, and via its impactful projects contribute to making a difference in the lives of the hundreds of thousands of Israelis, of diverse backgrounds, ensuring and enhancing a vibrant and dynamic Israel.

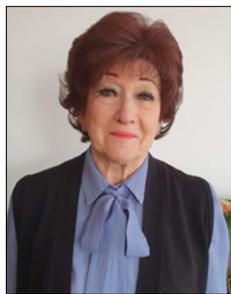
60 YEARS SERVICE



Janice Bloch



Paula Goldblatt



Muriel Sendzul



Cecile Barnett



Li Boiskin



Lorraine Gurwitz



Felicity Isserow

50 YEARS SERVICE

50 YEARS SERVICE



Juliet Katzenberg



Michelle Miller



Sarah Morris



Myra Osrin



Rose Radowsky



Linda Saban



Leina Sank

40 YEARS SERVICE



Joan Alpert



Angie Alperstein



Marcia Faktor



Ettie Flax



Anita Greenstein



Sheila Huth



Millicent Levin



Ros Lewenson



Sylvia 'Bubbles' Roberts



Cheryl Salkinder



Sally Singer



Brenda Spilkin



Lorraine Zive



Phyllis Miller

Photos with WIZO banner, by Yolande Kretzmer Keys



**JEWISH
COMMUNITY
SERVICES
CAPE TOWN**



www.jcs.org.za

JCS @ WORK

COVID-19 and Prioritising Our Children

Charmaine Nicks
Senior Social Worker

Recently the Children's Institute at The University of Cape Town, published and presented a series of Children's Advocacy briefs which focussed on the theme of "From Response to Recovery". The series outlined the challenges that COVID-19 has placed on systems and aimed at strengthening these systems in order to better support children.

One of the myths that is circulating and has been debunked is that children are not affected by COVID-19. While children can get seriously ill, there are fewer deaths than seen in adults. However, children are affected in many other ways due to the impact of COVID-19. Their mental health can suffer due to being isolated during lockdown or isolation. Routine medical assessments for childhood illnesses have been disrupted or suspended leading to children's health deteriorating. Nutrition and food security has been threatened in many indigent and vulnerable families. Incidences of violence and injury increased in the home, especially during the periods when alcohol sales were allowed, there was loss of employment and a decrease in family finance. Child-care was also affected with parent's needing to be at work while children had to stay at home and schools were locked down. This placed unbearable pressure on parents, especially single parents. At times a single parent had to call in an ex-partner or grandparent, who may have been controlling and violent in the past to come and assist with the care of children. This allowed manipulation and coercive control back into the home, placing pressure on the children concerned. The Children's Institute promotes the idea that not only should communities

be child-centred, they should be child-focussed. Children should not only survive but rather thrive.

At Jewish Community Services we are fortunate to have an excellent Food Bank to feed families and children, as well as the ability to ensure all families have shelter, if required. JCS is very grateful for the many volunteers and full-time staff who ensure food parcels get delivered to the families we support. Many families in need also receive Meals on Wheels, providing a cooked meal, ensuring children's nutrition and food security.

As community members we have a responsibility to be aware of the needs within our community of children and parents who might be under duress.

There is support available through JCS social workers, school counsellors and other social service and mental health care professionals. We need to ensure all our children not only survive but thrive.

Should you require further information or assistance from a social worker, please contact JCS on **021 462 5520** or email info@jcs.org.za.

"One of the myths that is circulating and has been debunked is that children are not affected by COVID-19. While children can get seriously ill, there are fewer deaths than seen in adults. However, children are affected in many other ways due to the impact of COVID-19. Their mental health can suffer due to being isolated during lockdown or isolation."



Photo by Kelly Sikkema on Unsplash.

#JewishCommunity #FamilyServices #ChildProtection

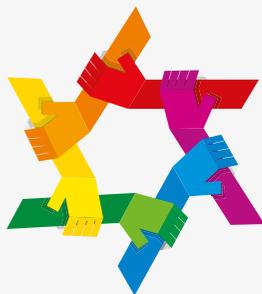


A COVID-19 Financial Relief Fund

The financial and socio-economic strain associated with the COVID-19 pandemic has presented an enormous economic challenge to many previously financially sound and viable businesses. This has led to significant financial pressure for many individuals and families in the Cape Town Jewish Community.

The CTJERS relief fund is here to support you through these difficult and challenging times, providing relief by offering financial assistance.

Simply send an email to admin@ctjers.com and use your Name and Surname in the subject line. Include your contact number, email address and ID number in the email body and you will receive confirmation of your application, as well as documentation to be completed and submitted for consideration.



CTJERS

Cape Town Jewish
Emergency Relief Scheme



admin@ctjers.com

The Cape Town Jewish Emergency Relief Scheme (CTJERS) is a financial scheme for members of the Cape Town Jewish Community who were sustainably employed up to the commencement of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The scheme has been mandated to provide financial support for people who, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, were employed and whose earnings have been substantially diminished by the COVID-19 crisis and are now suffering financial hardship. An important principle of CTJERS funding is providing a mix of financial and non-financial assistance to assist affected people to get through the COVID-19 financial crisis. Terms and Conditions will apply.



THE HIGHLANDS HOUSE NEW BEGINNINGS

By Mathilde Myburgh

Keeping busy, vaccinations and freedom in time for Rosh Hashanah

Highlands House was properly abuzz when news started spreading that residents had regained some of their freedoms on Wednesday 28 July, after nearly 18 months of lockdown in one or another form.



Mandela Day: Esmé Jacobson made sure that One To One was included as a beneficiary in the knitting drive. On Friday 16 July, residents volunteered to pack knitted items to go to various beneficiaries, each with a 'Made with Love by the Residents of Highlands House' card in.

We announced increased freedom of movement, letting our residents leave the premises to visit family and friends, visit the bank and go shopping, with no isolation period upon their return. Some couldn't believe it.

"Well, I was lying down, and somebody came in and told me that we can go out tomorrow, or even this afternoon, and I said, isn't it 1 April, April Fool's Day? Everyone's on a natural high. Never heard or felt such a buzz in Highlands House," said Charlie Phillips.

"Well, it's thrilling news. I think it's absolutely wonderful. Thank you, Highlands House, for all you've done," said Myra de la Harpe.

The news followed President Ramaphosa's announcement of an adjustment to Alert Level 3 the prior Sunday evening, and our management team's careful deliberation over the latest regulations. Changes at the Home included arranging a single sitting per breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the dining room, and resuming controlled (scheduled) visits at the Home.

"Our last resident case was in April, and our last staff case in May. All

our residents are fully vaccinated as part of our preparation for a return to normalcy. At this point, there's no reason to keep a lockdown, considering the latest regulations and the careful advice of the Western Cape Government's Older Persons Programme. We're mindful that the COVID status of the Home may change, and we'll adjust our protocols accordingly," said Dr Leon Geffen, Executive Director.

"Some of our residents are hesitant to go out and fearful of the recent surge. They may choose what they're comfortable with, of course. Others are over the moon," said Delia Kaplan, Deputy Director.

Many residents are excited over the prospect of sharing in life occasions in-person again, and spending Rosh Hashanah with family and friends. It's also exciting to be able to enjoy dining together.

Meanwhile, our Lifestyle Coordinator Lesley-Anne Knoll has ensured a packed and

exciting programme in the Lifestyle Centre over recent weeks — from a knit-a-thon of beanies and clothing for Mandela Day, to a mini-Highlands Olympics.

The knitted and beaded items for Mandela Day benefitted One To One, Red Cross Children's Hospital, Souper Troopers, Reach for Recovery, Somerset Hospital and Divote, among others.



Judy Kramer won the "Best Dressed" prize at Highlands House's in-house Olympics. Residents represented various countries, and she participated for her 'English' Team.

At least 1500 benefit from #HighlandsHeroes vaccination help

During the months of June, July and August as part of an ongoing initiative, Highlands House has partnered with the Department of Health to aid the local vaccination rollout.

We've sent our qualified team of nurses, doctors and administrative personnel — by this time well-versed in all things COVID-19 vaccine, given our successful rollout at the home — out to various sites.

At each aged, frail or other care facility, we vaccinated their residents whether with the first or second dose of the Pfizer vaccine — or both. For the past 12-week period, every week and sometimes twice a week we've attended another outreach vaccination session. By the end of August, we would have vaccinated 1,085 residents of care facilities beyond Highlands House. And that's not counting the additional vaccinations we've done at our premises in this 3-month period, roughly 420 people.

"It's a long, but fulfilling and rewarding exercise," said Jacqui Cupido, the Nursing Administrator.

Some of the facilities to benefit from this outreach programme to date include Huis Ria Abel, Nazareth House, Musgrave Park, Glendale Home, Plumstead Roosoord, Elizabeth Roos Home, Kensington Old Age Home, NOAH Woodstock and ACVV Zonnebloem.



Freda Kahanovitz was the first resident at Highlands House to receive her vaccination, which was handled by Nurse Joan de Villiers.

"It's been a heartwarming experience that I thoroughly enjoyed, and we've met lovely people in the process who are really appreciative of our services," said Colette Longworth, our Medical Services Manager.

Chasing #NewBeginnings at the Home

New Beginnings are what we are all about — and a lot is changing in and around our premises over the next six to nine months. Plans are afoot for a refurbishment of the entire third floor to incorporate our Special Care Unit (SCU), landscaping of the garden terrace outside of the coffee shop, and other changes to the grounds.

The biggest undertaking in recent weeks, however, was the kitchen upgrades that saw us working out of the milk kitchen exclusively for a couple of days and the meat kitchen exclusively for a couple more. We pride ourselves on being a Kosher home, and it was important that food operations continue to the standard our residents expect during this period. Renovations commenced in June, and included replacing certain kitchen appliances and equipment, installing new extracting ventilation canopies, upgrades to the cold rooms, installing a polyurethane floor and painting out the entire kitchen, as well as some electrical work.

Towards the upcoming third floor refurbishment, under the compassionate leadership of Maureen Tuck, our Care Services Manager, some residents have been relocated in the home to minimise the inconvenience they'd be exposed to during construction. The vision is to complete the third floor in the first quarter of 2022.

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Cape Jewish Seniors Association

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

The comfort of being informed and able to make choices

The third wave has, once again, made it necessary for all of us to be extremely careful and to isolate ourselves as much as possible.

Hopefully all CJSA members and senior citizens have received their vaccinations. This does not prevent anyone getting COVID, but it is hoped that if you do, it won't be as severe as for those who have not had the vaccination. We will continue to assist those who are isolating in every possible way, with Shabbat meals, our variety of daily Zoom programmes and regular interaction with the social workers.

Our new weekly music programme is proving to be a hit. Each week the group enjoys getting together to practice, and after a few weeks we are hoping to join up with a similar group in the UK to share a special virtual concert. We know that it is not the same as being together as a choir, but the challenges are exciting and, most importantly, the participants are having a good experience.

The Annual Ot Azey week has been enjoyed by our Yiddish group for 13 years. We have been hosting wonderful Yiddish mornings on Zoom with our beginners and intermediate members who share a love for the language. With Zoom we are able to grow the group, and we now have people joining from the all over South Africa, UK, Belgium and Lithuania. The 14th Ot Azey celebration included participants from previous years as well as the team who have previously hosted the week.

The Zoom classes have opened

many doors, and members are finding their roots and having discussions about where their family members originated.

Getting your affairs in order is a document that our team has been working on for a while. Unfortunately, during the last 20 months we have witnessed a number of people losing a loved one. End-of-life issues is not a subject that anyone really wants to face, but as hard as this is, there are ways to make the topic easier to address. This can be done by taking steps to ensure that both you and your family are prepared, and that all important issues are addressed. The prepared document is fairly long, and it is suggested that you take the time to go through it, preferably with a family member or close and trusted friend.

To make the task easier, we are preparing to set up at least one Zoom session to go through the document and answer questions about the content. This will be advertised in our weekly schedule of events.

Some of the information given in the document is:

- How to get your important papers in order, discussing your health issues with trusted family members.
- Put your important papers and copies of legal documents in one place.
- Discuss end-of-life preferences with your doctor and family.
- Give permission in advance for your doctor or lawyer to talk with your caregiver or family as needed.

- Making informed decisions and giving directives.
- Consider your personal values and medical priorities
- Appointing a medical proxy
- Important legal documents you might need
- Understanding treatment options that might be needed.

We know that all of our members really want us to open our doors so that we can once again meet in person. As much as the Zoom meetings are enjoyed and the team constantly strives to improve each session, we know that it is not the same as sitting and chatting face-to-face whilst enjoying a cup of tea with a friend. We are hoping that this wave will subside soon and also that the majority of our members will be vaccinated, which will enable us to open up shortly. We promise that as soon as it is safe to do so, it will be done. We are guided by CSO and the team of doctors who are COVID experts.

Rosh Hashanah and the High Holy days are upon us. The CJSA team joins me in wishing each member and our Executive Committee a Happy and Healthy New Year. While I am sure that we won't be celebrating with large groups as we have done in the past years, we can certainly enjoy the festivals, focusing on the importance of them. May the year 5782 bring good health, prosperity and happiness to all.

Diana Sochen – Executive Director.

Social and Personal

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

We welcome new members:

Daylene Segal, Arthur and Ruth Hovis, Jeff Marsden, Jose Morris

Births: Welcome and Mazaltov to the families celebrating births.

Sadie Grazziani — Great-grandson

Barmitzvah mazaltov to families celebrating Barmitzvah:

Rabbi and Rebbetzin Deren Family on the Barmitzvah of Menachem

Special Birthday:

Alec Cohen

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

Eileen Braudo on the passing of her husband, Cedric

The family of Noel Cohen

Eunice Mofsowitz on the passing of her husband Leon

Louis Wachtel, husband of Jeanne and brother of Freda Kahanowitz

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Daily Zoom programme

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.



Yiddish machzor makes its way home

By Tali Feinberg *This article first appeared in The South African Jewish Report, 12 Aug 2021*

In a string of beautiful coincidences, a machzor that was printed in Yiddish in Vilna in 1876 has resurfaced in Cape Town just before the high holidays.

Not only that, but the address of the owner is written inside, and it's the same address that now houses a section of Cape Town Torah High (CTTH).

"The book was given to me by Peter Greenberg. He found it in a box of old Jewish books belonging to his late grandfather," says Rabbi Levi Silman, who collects old books and connected the dots between the machzor's owner and CTTH's address. "In this collection, some weren't in good condition, some were sent to be buried, and some were given to charity. This was the only one of the very old books that was still intact."

When opening the machzor, Silman noticed that the owner had written his name, J. Dick, and his address: 29 Maynard Street. The address jumped out at Silman, because his daughter attends CTTH, and that address is part of the CTTH Girls Campus where she spends much of her school day. Finally, the machzor was back in its original home.

Shlomo, the principal of CTTH, says he was "really amazed" when Silman told him about the machzor, and "the fact that it came to him of all people", who is a parent at the school, with a daughter studying in that precise schoolhouse, made it all the more meaningful. Part of the school

curriculum is learning the meaning and structure of the High Holiday prayers, but now the students know they are doing it in the exact same spot as another child many decades ago, whose primary language was Yiddish.

He shared the discovery with pupils in the very house where it had originally been located. "They were blown away. It's surreal that there's a connection to this house. We rent the house from the City as part of our campus, and we never knew it had any Jewish history. This machzor made us aware of that. It looks like the machzor was given as a gift, possibly to a child, as there is also a child's handwriting and even doodling in it."

They plan to make some kind of display box to hold the machzor, which is very fragile. Leila Bloch of the Jewish Digital Archive Project at the South African Jewish Museum confirmed that it is "a very rare find".

Meanwhile, Greenberg says, "I had an old suitcase filled with Jewish books which were in my grandfather's possession which I gave to Rabbi Silman. My grandfather was well known in the area, but I cannot say how he came to be in possession of this machzor. However, I recall that my maternal grandparents, Major Jacob Potashnik and Penina Potashnik, were friendly with the Dicks. My grandparents lived in Buxton Avenue in Oranjezicht. I asked an old family friend if she could remember anything about the Dicks. She couldn't remember their first names, but said that they had a daughter, Leonie, and that they also lived in Buxton Avenue.

I cannot say whether this Dick family is the same as the one who lived in Maynard Street."

The coincidence is even more meaningful as CTTH is based in and around the former Ponevezh Shul — a tiny beit midrash that was the spiritual home to the small number of Jews who came to Cape Town from that shtetl in Lithuania, escaping Nazi destruction. In fact, this week, CTTH learners commemorate the annihilation of the Ponevez Jewish community during the Holocaust.

"The Jews of Ponevez were taken out of the city and killed between the first and the fourth of Elul," Shlomo says. "The shul was established a year before that happened by relatives who had fled Europe."

"The Ponevez community in Lithuania was known as a centre of great Torah learning and produced some of the greatest works of law and literature," CTTH founder Sheila Valentini told the SA Jewish Report. "The entire community was massacred by the Nazis in 1941. The memory of these martyrs is now fortified by young Jewish adults learning Torah in a synagogue that's named after them at the tip of Africa." In addition, the distance between Vilna (where the machzor was published) and Ponevezh is only 130km.

This isn't the first time that Valentini has come across a Jewish coincidence. She started the first CTTH class at her dining room table in Fresnaye, Cape Town. Soon after she moved out of that house, the driveway was dug up. "A community



member was walking past and noticed that underneath each brick was an engraved Magen David," she says.

The fact that the school landed up finding its first home in a synagogue was also meaningful, as the Ponevez Shul membership was dwindling and the school occupying the building gave it new life. Now, the shul is in its best shape yet as it was recently restored by a school family in honour of a mother and grandmother who passed away within two days of each other from COVID-19 last year.

The school has come a long way since those dining room table classes in 2013, and now has "an unconventional campus" that has expanded to four school houses around Ponevezh Shul, and boasting sixty pupils. The school anticipates close to seventy pupils in 2022, and is working on securing yet another schoolhouse on the street.

"We've never wanted to move, as we love the shul, the central location, and the proximity to Herzlia where our students can attend extra murals," Shlomo says. As they have grown, everything has fallen into place. For him, the connections and coincidences are a glimpse into "divine providence, reiterating that we are exactly where we are meant to be. It's like a little pat on the back from G-d, reinforcing that we are in the right place, doing the right thing."

ADVERTORIAL

Charting your way to the top – how to strategise your career trajectory

The good news from the jobs marketplace is that top companies are starting again to search for top talent after last year's hiring hiatus.

But it is important for students, and young professionals in fields such as brand strategy, communication and business to be clear about their talent trajectory and the skills companies are looking for, because competition is fiercer than ever.

"Your studies will be a major investment of time and money. Understand from the start where you want to go, and what will be required of you to get there," says Dr Carla Enslin, co-founder and Head of Postgraduate Studies and Research at The Independent Institute of Education's Vega.

Prospective students too often sign up for a first degree, thinking they'll consider what comes next at a later stage. But it's important to

understand that the point of a first degree and later qualifications is not just to notch up qualifications. Each degree has a specific function which relates to competencies required for progressively more senior roles. "Top talent is in high demand. To become a leader, you will have to compete not just FOR a position, but AGAINST other very talented people."

FIRST DEGREE OR DIPLOMA: Equips you to do certain tasks and enables you to become competent in delivering on the key outputs.

HONOURS DEGREE: Allows you to level up by learning how to use different tools at once, particularly in relation to one another. This brings a new level of maturity within the field.

MASTER'S DEGREE: Develops ability to synthesise and develop independence. You are able to stretch a brand's identity into mergers and acquisitions and product portfolios.

DOCTORATES: enable you to contribute to thought leadership and

development of the field.

"Before setting out on your studies, or when considering postgraduate study, understand where it is that you want to go, how your degree will help you get there and what companies are expecting; then determine what you need to study and where."

Companies seek talented, innovative, and original solutions to challenges, and work hard to find qualified, and talented professionals with a proven track record. "You have to level up to reach the top. Even for junior positions, companies interview a range of talented individuals. In today's world, you need to be mindful of what it will require to land a position amid tough competition.

"Do your homework — look at the websites of top companies and see what they require from candidates in specific positions. Speak to industry insiders. Find out which qualifications and institutions are rated in that industry. Speak to alumni, and to

the institutions themselves about the programmes and skills you will acquire over and above academic skills, which are not sufficient in today's environment."



Dr Carla Enslin

"Every individual has something they can do uncommonly well. Their job is to find what that is, and to grow and develop strategically to have a competitive advantage. Creatives' jobs are less readily automatable, so this remains a vibrant and viable career field.

"There is tremendous opportunity out there. Harnessing this requires a solid strategy based on where you want to go, and how to get there."

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USING MY NUDEL

Is change as good as a holiday?

by Craig Nudelman

When I was 14 years old, I moved from King David Linksfield to Crawford College.

The night before school started, I was really nervous. I was worried that I wouldn't do well at school, I wouldn't make any friends, I wouldn't get on with the teachers... There were lots of 'I wouldn't' ideas floating through my head that night. But that fresh start was the best thing that could have happened to me (I think). Even though my school days weren't the best years of my life, changing schools was excellent for me. And since then, most of my fresh starts have been great for me, even though a bit scary at first.

On 1 September I am changing my career, yet again! I am leaving the education sector and going back to my roots; that of a Jewish professional at the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies. Now, those of you who have read my column for the past few years may think that this is a step back — I am going back to the same place I was at five years ago! But, like everything in life, it, like me, has changed. And change is a good thing.

Change can either be forced upon or initiated by us. For example, when I was retrenched from Herzlia last year, I was forced to change. In the months leading up to my date of unemployment, I was dreading what was coming next. I kept on thinking what I was going to do. How would we pay for those school fees and medical aid! Luckily, I found work as a learning designer at the Valenture Institute, but every day before that call

to say I had a new job was petrifying. My predictable way of life — walking up and down the stairs between the then-Middle and High School (now the Junior High and Senior High) and going to class according to the bell — was now gone. And the question became, how was I going to embrace this change when I really didn't want to?!

There are many different blogs, books, and podcasts that are dedicated to showing why change is good (which you don't really want to read or hear about when you're being forced to change). But in retrospect that sudden change has been good for me.

These are just four good things about change, according to Amber Rose Monaco who wrote about it in the *HuffPost*:

The first is that you're pushed out of your comfort zone. My daily routine — getting up, going to school, sorting out my classroom before the next group of kids came in, marking, writing reports, and other tasks that teachers do which go unnoticed and under-appreciated — changed when I moved to my new position (where my office became my study just off my bedroom). Although I may have been comfortable in my tracksuit pants, it was very different from my school environment.

You also get to experience more. I was introduced to a whole new idea of what teaching is. Creating content for

an online school is very different (and extremely challenging) to teaching in a brick-and-mortar school. I met new people and made new friends. I was also able to spend more time with my Gabi (we're with each other nearly 24 hours a day, which has really been awesome) and my two girls.

Another is that you find out who you are and what you're capable of. Now, when I was a teacher there were deadlines, it's true. But at Valenture it was on a different level! I hit the ground running, creating a curriculum for a subject which was starting in January and had to be made

as soon as was humanly possible. It was hectic, but it did show me that I was able to do it — and do it well. I learned on the job, and although I made mistakes along the way, I grew and became a

good learning designer, if I do say so myself.

The last reason that Monaco gives for change being good, is that you can be flexible and adaptable and embrace chaos. Change is chaotic and really throws your world upside down and inside out. But it prepares you to handle change well in the future, and, as Monaco says, "you are armed with more confidence as you walk into the next uncomfortable position."

With Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur coming up, it's also a time of renewal, change, and being in

an 'uncomfortable space'. We get the opportunity to look at what we've done in the past year and see areas for growth and improvement to take into the next year. As Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, the first Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Palestinian Mandate Israel, said, "the human tendency to cling desperately to old ways and ancient habits is the sign of a spiritual malaise."

When I was pushed into change, I really did not want to change my habits. It was comfortable. In fact, I think I could have stayed at Herzlia for a long time, growing as a teacher, becoming a better educator, maybe even becoming a leader in a senior management position. But I realise now that that would have stunted my growth as an individual. I would have become discontented with my life, and maybe even resentful that I'd spent too many years being at one place of employment, teaching the same thing year after year.

Now, as I leave Valenture and make my way to the Board, I feel like I'm once again embracing change and beginning a new chapter of my life. How appropriate that this is happening just before Rosh Hashana.

I hope your 5782 will be meaningful and that you change for the better. As Heraclitus, the great Greek philosopher, said, "Change is the only constant in life."

Shana Tova U'metukah!



Change is chaotic and really throws your world upside down and inside out. But it prepares you to handle change well in the future.

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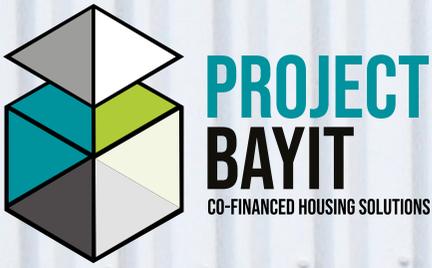


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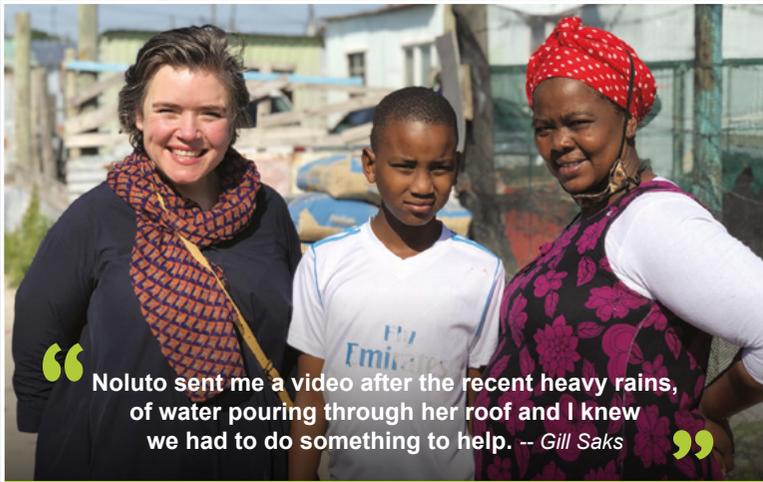
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“Noluto sent me a video after the recent heavy rains, of water pouring through her roof and I knew we had to do something to help. -- Gill Saks”

GILL SACKS & NOLUTO STATU WITH HER GRANDSON UBENATHI

We were going to try and help her fix the roof the next day, but we realised that this would just be putting a bandaid on a big gaping wound. I remembered there was a talk on Project Bayit at Limmud and I gave Gina a call. Ikhayalami came out the same day to assess the house and we had a quote within a couple of days. Our hands were held throughout this journey and here we are today building a new house for Noluto and her family! -- Gill Sacks



“I sleep easier at night knowing that Max and his family have a solid roof over their heads. -- Howard Richman”

MAXWELL & MELISSA DICKS IN THEIR NEW HOME

Mensch through Project Bayit, in collaboration with Ikhayalami, gave me a simple and achievable solution to a complex problem which I had been grappling with for some time.

-- Howard Richman



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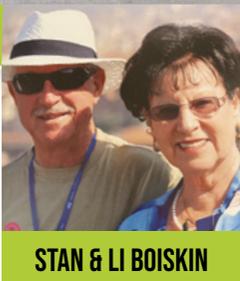


“I want to thank you for this house, its much bigger than what we had & the shower & toilet inside is a great convenience. -- Cedric May”

CEDRIC, ESTELLE & CEDWIN MAY

We are so grateful to Mensch and Ikhayalami for offering us the opportunity via Project Bayit to build and furnish a house for Cedric and his family, he has been my golf caddy for many decades and I've always done my best to support him however I could.

-- Stanley Boiskin



STAN & LI BOISKIN



“We are so happy that we could do something to uplift the living conditions of Blossom Mapeyi and her daughters. -- Boyd Family”

THE BOYD FAMILY AND BLOSSOM MAPEYI WITH HER DAUGHTER

Blossom has worked for us for 25 years, and Project Bayit has enabled our family to assist in providing a more permanent liveable structure which she says she is now proud to call 'Home'. Blossom and her daughters were living in a backyard structure without running water, electricity and any sanitation. The structure was severely damaged in a storm and partially collapsed. The upgraded home now includes running water and electricity throughout. -- Maxine, Victor, Jacqui & Ari Boyd

Project Bayit is a partnership between Mensch and Ikhayalami, made possible with the support of Schusterman Family Philanthropies.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW YOU, YOUR BUSINESS OR ORGANISATION CAN ASSIST SOMEONE TO UPGRADE THEIR HOME, CONTACT GINA@MENSCH.ORG.ZA OR FOR MORE INFO GO TO: WWW.MENSCH.ORG.ZA/PROJECTBAYIT

Apples, honey and the 24-hour rule

By Maiyan Karidi

So, this year feels different to me. It's just not normal. This Covid anxiety is taking its toll.

Some of us have experienced the worst of it and have lost someone we love.

Somewhere in the back of our minds we are convinced it will disappear soon. It surely must. This is just unacceptable. Living our lives like this is unacceptable. It's science fiction. It cannot be.

At the same time, all the signs were there. We knew we were taking things too far and exploiting too much as a human species. Something had to snap. A slap in the face. A punch in the gut. A pandemic.

Let's put the actual disease aside for a moment and think about all the other things this crisis has affected. We have lost our freedom, our livelihood, our social lives with friends and family, our movement, activities, travel, routine, our opportunities, our schools and universities, our security, our future.

Rosh Hashana for me, always comes with a feeling of celebration and hope for the future. It's apples and honey and a sweet new year. So, what do we do now? We know this heavy cloud of fear and dread is not going away any time soon. We cannot control the disease, but we can control our response to it.

So, here is my way of defying the darkness that just seems to suck us into a pit of despair. It's called the 24 hour rule.

For every disappointment, for every email beginning with 'Unfortunately', for every false promise, every 'sure thing' that amounts to nothing, for every obstacle in our way, every catch 22 situation where we feel there is no way out, every closed door, every unfair criticism and judgement for being in the situation we find ourselves, for every person who offends us deeply, every 'friend' who lets us down, for all the exhaustion of doing our best without results, all the lack of compassion, all the rude voices, for all the feelings of helplessness and hopelessness and anything else you would like to add, use the 24 hour rule:

We have 24 hours to be sad, to be angry, to curl up in our beds and cry, to give up, to surrender, to scream, to break something, to be miserable, to fall into that gloom lagoon.

But after 24 hours, we're done. We get up, it's recovery time. We shake off the mud, get cleaned up, dress our best, forgive ourselves and walk out ready to conquer the world. Stare at the ocean, walk in the forest, watch the sunrise, check on our friends and family, offer help to someone else struggling, appreciate everything we have, we are grateful and think about what is rather than what isn't. We look at the light. There is always some light.

24 hours.

So, maybe we should use this method to approach Rosh Hashana.

We clean up, prepare the meal, look our best, take out the apples and honey and make that table beautiful. We sit together, we say the blessing, we share a meal with people we love and we move forward without fear, towards the light.

SHANA TOVA

Maiyan is an artist and writer who has lived in and worked on creative projects in Cape Town, Israel, Fiji and Mauritius. She recently returned to Cape Town and continues her quest for artistic collaborations.

Anyone interested in creating art projects with Maiyan can contact her at kmaian@gmail.com.



Apples and Honey, by Maiyan Karidi. Acrylic on canvas, 100 x 65cm

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Meet disruptive technology data engineer, Benji Meltzer

By Leila Stein

Benji Meltzer is the co-founder and chief technology officer of Aerobotics, a company that uses data analytics and drone technology to provide intelligent tools for farmers across the globe. His work has helped farmers ensure better yields and tree insights.

Aborn and bred Capetonian, Meltzer made his way through the Herzlia system from Highlands Primary until he matriculated in 2007.

Straight after matric, he went on to study mechatronics engineering at UCT in 2008. It was in these lectures that he first met James Paterson, his Aerobotics co-founder.

"I didn't grow up knowing I wanted to be an engineer. I just enjoyed maths, science, and technology. I was super-interested in the sort of skills that you build in the process and learning more about it. I kind of got fascinated, specifically in the software and data spaces," he explains.

After graduation, Meltzer took on work as a consultant in the mining sector. In this position, he built mining operation software to help understand how the mines were doing and how best to optimise production.

"I was focused on analytics and reporting on historical trends of data, and at that time, machine learning and more predictive, forward-looking insights were becoming more and more of a trend," he says.

"I also worked for Uber, where I ran supplier operations for Sub-Saharan Africa," he says.

After a few years working in mining, he decided to study for a Master's degree at the Imperial College of London in neurotechnology, a biomedical engineering specialisation.

During his studies, he focused specifically on the brain, neuroscience, "and understanding if we can become more predictive in diagnosing traumatic brain injury using machine learning," he explains.

Starting Aerobotics

While at Imperial College, Meltzer's co-founder, James Paterson, was at MIT in the United States studying Astronautical Engineering.

"We'd always said that we wanted to come back to South Africa to start a business. He was sitting in Boston, and I was in London, and we both noticed that we were surrounded by pretty smart people. But back home, we believed we had access to just as smart people at a fraction of the cost, and it (Cape Town) is a really

good place to build a technology business," he says.

To get the ball rolling, the two began pitching ideas to each other to see where they could best put their energy and expertise.

Eventually, they came up with the concept of Aerobotics, driven mainly by Paterson's experience on his family's farm outside of Cape Town.

For the two co-founders, the benefits of drone technology combined with machine learning and analytics provided solutions to the challenges faced by the agriculture sector.

"He saw an opportunity to help farmers become more predictive with things like early problem-detection and diagnosis. So detecting exactly where pests or diseases are on the farm, and being able to suggest what recommendation to take off the back of that," explains Meltzer.

"The plan was to build a successful business, but if I think back to the early days, James and I wanted to make enough money to each buy a motorbike to ride through Africa," he explains.

"The way that we planned to solve it was quite a unique blend of our interests and skill sets. So, from a technical perspective from James' side, we decided to use aerial imagery from drones, which at the time was a very novel-use case for drones."

"From my side, my interest was really in taking this data and trying to build some sort of insight off the back of it, to be able to automatically say 'look this tree is sick, or this one's not sick. That's how the business started, and it's grown from there," he says.

Agriculture as a key sector

While agriculture may not be the first thought that comes to mind when people think of machine learning or drones, for Meltzer, the sector is ultimately fundamental to human survival.

"I think what interested me about agriculture is that I think [food production] is becoming such a major constraint globally, for example, food security with climate going the way it is. The need to optimise is massive," he explains.

"I care about domains where there are meaningful problems to solve, and you can actually help people

live a better life through this. I think, similar to the medical space. There's a huge opportunity for technology to be used to improve the way that things work."

Building off his experience in his Master's, Meltzer found similarities that ultimately helped him develop the models Aerobotics uses.

"Just completely by chance, a lot of the problems and techniques we use to solve those problems are very similar to those that are used in the medical space. For example, we were looking at brain imagery and using that to determine where there are problems in the brain. Instead of imaging brains and people, we're looking at trees, but it's a very similar sort of underlying technology that you use to do that," he says.

"It's a really interesting industry to dig into, and I really believe it is needed to improve the way the world works."

From a garage to a global success

Meltzer and Paterson have made incredible strides since founding the company in 2014. From working in Paterson's garage in Newlands seven and a half years ago to raising \$17 million in Series B funding this year, they have become a global success.

"We recently started growing a lot more quickly. We've taken on significant amounts of investment from different companies, and we're now at around 100 people," he explains.

While Meltzer aimed to build a viable business, the level of success has been a surprise.

"The plan was to build a successful business, but if I think back to the early days, James and I wanted to make enough money to each buy a motorbike to ride through Africa."

"It wasn't really to build some global technology business, and we just wanted to build something new and special and create something. I think we just got the opportunity, and it quickly became clear how big it was and how big the problem was that we were trying to solve. We just realised that there was a much, much broader opportunity."

Since starting with Paterson's family farm, the two have taken the company across borders and oceans. Currently, farmers in over eighteen countries are using Aerobotics' product.

"We're focusing almost entirely on growing that market. We are in places like Australia, Portugal and



others, but the real opportunity right now, we feel, is in the U.S.," he says.

Just the beginning

Alongside expansion into other regions, when it comes to Aerobotics' technology, Meltzer sees even more use cases on the horizon.

"We're just touching the surface. Currently, we can measure the performance or the state of the farm. We can measure on a tree by tree basis how that tree is doing, down to being able to estimate how many fruits are on a tree, which is rich analytics. At the moment, the core customer is the farmer, who use the information to operate and manage some parts of the farm," he explains.

"What we're seeing is that there's a huge opportunity for this information throughout the agricultural supply chain, outside of just the farmers."

These include areas like banks and insurers. Meltzer sees how, currently, the banks have very little information on the performance of a farm. With this kind of information, they can provide farmers with better financial products.

"Similarly, insurance providers in the financial services space could also offer better products. There are input companies like chemical companies (as well). There's a drive to become more sustainable and use fewer inputs," he says.

This is what Meltzer and his team are working on now. This expansion would position them as a data layer that enables transactions between different players in the industry, rather than just a farm management platform.

"That opens enormous opportunity throughout the industry," he says.

"We're just realising that this data is used sort of vertically, in every industry and trying to find out how to capitalise on those."

With such impressive success in under a decade, it is clear that Meltzer and Aerobotics are innovating the kind of solution-based technology that is needed for a more sustainable, optimised future.

ISRAEL: A JOURNEY MAKING MEANING

To be a Free People in our Land להיות עם חופשי בארצנו

Julian Resnick writes from Israel

I love Hatikvah, our national anthem.

When I was a small boy in Somerset West, my Hebrew was not very good. I could read from the siddur (in my case the Shiloh edition, which still lies in the drawer at home on my kibbutz, together with our supply of shabbat candles and kippot) but I understood not a word.

But back to the Hatikvah of my youth: because of the level of my Hebrew, I sang Hatikvah in a mixture of Hebrew and gibberish, and many years passed before I actually understood the Hebrew and corrected the gibberish. And when I did... I felt even more connected, partly because by then Zionism and a love for Israel was not only what I had imbibed in the Menorah Hall between the Purim Shpiel, table tennis and badminton, but it was also what I had taken on for myself as part of my own developing teenage Jewish identity (helped along by Habonim and particularly by the most wonderful of madrichim, Jeffrey Peires, who opened my eyes to the whole idea of a Jewish movement of National Liberation).

There was — and is — one line which has a special place in my heart:

To be a Free People in our Land
להיות עם חופשי בארצנו

On the surface it's totally clear; it's about Freedom and Land. But what fascinated me then and what still fascinates me, is the question of what it means to be a 'Free People'.

It resonated for me and, I believe, for Jews all over the Diaspora, which possibly meant it was something we did not have when we did not have our Land, this Freedom; or that we experienced a lack of it when we live/d elsewhere; or that we imagined a different state of being that would indicate the experience of freedom we felt was lacking in some way from our experience of this world.

Our dreams were answered; the State of Israel came into being 73 years ago after a bitterly contested War of Independence, so on one level this question became moot. We have an independent country, a parliament, a defense force, coinage, a jail system, courts.

But, how do we know when we are free? What does freedom actually mean? How do we know when we have it — not when we lack it, but when we actually have it?

I think back to the earliest times I sang that line of Hatikvah, not knowing, of course what it meant, but there is nothing for 20-20 vision like

hindsight. There we were, Sedley, Herzl, Sharon, Theo, Barry, Richard, Robert, Barbara, Colin, JJ and many others, in the Menorah Hall on the appropriately named Church Street (don't try and find it today as it is no longer there. It suffered a fate similar to the Shul and was absorbed into the new reality of Somerset West as most of us moved away to Cape Town, Sydney, London, Atlanta, Perth and even Israel).

In the same space where we had our Shabbat morning Kiddush (with kichel, herring and other foods I only learned to eat years later); where we played table tennis and badminton (gentle, Jewish sports, even though some of our number excelled in 'their' sports too, rugby, soccer and cricket); where there were occasional fetes for Bnoth Zion, and where we displayed our Purim costumes once a year. Jewish Space. For me in Somerset West that was Jewish Space. Inside the Menorah Hall. Inside the Somerset West Shul, sitting in the back row with the above-mentioned (boys of course).

And when did we sing this line? Well, on Yom Ha'atzmaut of course, and then when Habonim arrived in Somerset West, at the end of every meeting (any Youth Movement still do that?).

So, those were the time and space components connected to Hatikvah and of course to my favourite line from the anthem:

To be a Free People in our Land
להיות עם חופשי בארצנו

Fast forward. I am far away from the Menorah Hall, on my home Kibbutz, Tzora, in Israel where I have lived for 5 years longer than the time it took us to get from Egypt back to our homeland - remember all that wandering in the desert with one or two great distractions along the way, a burning bush or two and of course those wonderful moments at Sinai? — you must remember it as we were all there, or so we are told. So, both time-wise and space-wise very different settings for the continuation of my own personal Jewish story.

How different? Well consider this experience from Tisha B'Av just a few weeks ago.

I returned to the theater for the first time since the onset of COVID-19. Consider the evening; it was the end of Tisha B'Av. A day we Jews remember as the day of the destruction of both our Temples, by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar in 586 BCE and the Romans under Titus in 70 CE. A day which became the quintessential

day of Jewish mourning. A fact not lost on our enemies over the centuries who helped add to the list of tragedies connected to this date. The last day Jews were permitted to be in the Spain of Ferdinand and Isabella as practicing Jews before their expulsion in 1492, was Tisha B'Av; the day the transports began from the Warsaw Ghetto to Treblinka was Tisha B'Av 1942.

Tisha B'Av was coming to an end and the Khan theater ensemble were not using their home space at the Khan Theater, they were using the "Hansen House", former home of the Jerusalem's hospital for lepers which was initially a project of a German Protestant Church and therefore in Jerusalem, a city holy to them as well (there is a wonderful inscription over the front entrance: 'Jesus Hilfe', or in Shakespeare's tongue, 'Jesus Saves' — a reminder that not only we find Jerusalem to be of great significance).

So, here I am, going to a theatrical performance in Jerusalem in the former Leper Hospital, taken over by the new Israeli State. The Arab residents of the hospital are about to move to the leprosy hospital in the village of Silwan near the Dung Gate in Jordan, and the Jewish patients remain. Even though it is earmarked to be the new campus of the Hebrew University (remember Mount Scopus, site of the original campus, is now an island of Israeli territory within Jordan and not appropriate for a university campus) this never happens. With a small number of lepers, and only temporary, the hospital continues, but much longer than originally intended.

And the play itself? A story within a story within a story. The plot: the actors play the inmates and staff of the leper hospital, who, we are told, are putting on a play for us. And what play are they performing? A play by Y. L. Peretz the Polish-Jewish writer who wrote at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries in Hebrew and Yiddish. And the play they have chosen!!

Can there be a more appropriate choice in 2021 than *In the Time of Plague*?

Think of it: actors playing lepers, putting on a play relevant to their situation during the great Corona pandemic that we are living through right now.

And the audience was wonderful. They got every inside Jewish joke. Every flippant remark about the Anti-Semites brought up memories. Every insider joke about rabbis raised a laugh. Every time they mentioned having to quarantine, we thought about family and friends far away,

that we have not been able to see for the longest time.

And we remembered stories from Krakow, from standing

outside the Synagogue of the Remah and hearing about the way to break a plague. How? Oh you weren't with us outside the Synagogue of the Remah from the 16th Century which survived the Nazi occupation, and you did not hear the story of marrying off orphans to break a plague? But, perhaps you were with us in the Trumpeldor Cemetery in Tel Aviv, where we tell a similar story.

Time: Tisha B'Av and a Time of Plague and a pandemic.

Place: Jerusalem, and a hospital for lepers and a sign, 'Jesus Saves'.

Memories: Of the weddings of orphans and of the Remah Synagogue in Krakow and of the Trumpeldor Cemetery in Tel Aviv AND of a time before Corona when I could guide and teach and remembering ever so clearly, WHY I CAME HERE. IT IS ALL SO PUBLIC. Not behind closed doors in the Menorah Hall on Church Street

And it comes to me; one of the meanings of being a Free People is the ability to express oneself culturally in the most profound way. When we have the ability to control space, use our own understandings of what the difference is between time which is sacred and that which is ordinary and use idioms/metaphors/language which open the floodgates of both personal and collective memories.

Julian Resnick was born in Somerset West and grew up in Habonim Dror. He studied English Literature and Psychology at UCT, and made Aliyah to 1976. He's conducted numerous shlichuyot and educational missions on behalf of Israel, to Jewish communities in England and the United States. He currently works as a guide in Israel and around the world (wherever there is a Jewish story), including in South Africa. He's married to Orly who is an Educational Psychologist working with vulnerable populations in Israel. They have three children — Elad, a paediatrician at Hadassah Hospital, Maya, a teacher and a doctoral student at Hebrew University, and Daphne who works in digital marketing in Tel Aviv. He has five grandchildren (so far) and is, since 1987, a member of Kibbutz Tzora which is also home to all the grandchildren.



A VIEW FROM THE BAR

The pandemic and power

By Anton Katz SC

Whenever individuals band together, whether as a family, a social or sports club, a home-owners or sectional-title block, a street, a suburb, a village, township, a city, province, region, continent or the world they need administrators or governors to run the group's affairs.

The administration/governance requirement applies both to the internal dynamics of the group as well as its external relationship with other individuals and other groups. And it is humans, and only humans, who can play the role. But which persons are to manage the concerns of the collection of individuals? Is it those who volunteer? Those who are oldest in the group? Those who have accumulated the greatest wealth? The prettiest, the tallest, the strongest, the fastest or the fiercest? What about the wise in the group or the smartest — i.e. those with the IQ? What about the sons or daughters of the previous governor? And who is to decide who is to do the job?

Many different theories about the nature of humans abound. Some say that without proper rules, laws and effective leaders, life will be short, nasty and brutish. Others disagree — humans are good and care for each other. Not only that, but we are all affected by each other's conduct. If one does a good deed for others, it will be repaid many times over. The theories result in ideas like karma (for every action there is a corresponding result); what you reap you will sow; live a good life and heaven will be the reward. Whatever the truth is about the nature of the human spirit, there

are numerous neutral and simple administrative issues which require governance. An obvious example is which side of the road drivers are to use. It makes no difference morally or ethically whether we drive on the left or the right. But what is important is that there is uniformity, proper rules and enforcement of those rules. Or else chaos would occur and that is not in anybody's interest. So there needs to be a set of rules made by those who administer and govern.

Conventional wisdom holds that of the many different ways of determining who is to govern, the best is by way of democracy. And democracy is furthered by elections. Interestingly, even despots and totalitarian regimes will hold elections. They do this so that they can say that the people have chosen them to rule. Even dictators recognise or pretend to respect the conventional wisdom that electing leaders is the best method for administrators. So elections are important.

Recognising that elections are crucial for a fair society, two elements are at stake. The one is that elections must be held regularly. And regularly can mean different things. So, for the synagogue or a church committee, 'regular' means that elections should be at least once a year. But an election for a city council or national parliament may appropriately occur "regularly" every 4 or 5 years. The

second is that an election must be free and fair. It is of no value to hold an election regularly, if it is not free and fair. The choice of the leaders would not be respected by the people if the election is not free and fair. So what happens, if for whatever reason, it is impossible to hold a regular election which is free and fair? May an election be postponed, and if so for how long?

The coronavirus pandemic has thrown this challenge into sharp relief. Governments all over the world have struggled with the challenge of organising free and fair elections which were due, because to do so may have created super-spreader events leading to many unnecessary deaths and health emergencies. Health safety is paramount. It is all well and good to protect the right to vote and the right to choose one's leaders, but at what expense? There is no point in voting only to get seriously ill and possibly lose one's life because you stood in a long queue to register as a voter, attended an election rally or voted on an election day. Another conundrum is whether, in the interests of people's safety, it is lawful (free and fair) to permit only those who are fully vaccinated to register and vote.

And if there is to be postponement of the regular election, how long should it be for? Until after the pandemic? Until after the next wave?

These medical predictions are wholly unknown even to the best scientists and medical experts. Yet someone has to make these tough decisions. And the people in power are the ones making the decisions. It cannot be ignored that they have vested (corrupt?) interest in delaying elections for as long as possible. The longer the postponement, the longer those elected stay in office and enjoy the power. So, if a shul's AGM is postponed because of the pandemic or another reason, those elected onto the shul committee remain in office after their regular term has lapsed.

The coronavirus pandemic has been really tough for many all over the world. But it cannot be denied that in many ways the pandemic and its consequences have been useful to some. Certain industries, such as mask manufacturers, may have benefited financially by the pandemic. But what needs to be considered carefully is how power, that corrupts so easily, can be abused and skillfully played with during the life and after-life of a pandemic. And a postponement of a constitutionally and lawfully mandated regular election is as good as any place to start for those hungry for extended power.

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.



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SIMCHA PAGES



Arlene (nee Cohen) Minitzer to Dion Futerman. A home wedding under the Chuppah under Covid regulations with a limited number of guests

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SIMCHA PAGES

Babu's Footwear celebrates 100 years

By Jaime Uranovsky

Rohit Kooverjee, affectionately known as 'Roy', of Babu's Footwear is no stranger to the Cape Town Jewish community.

On the contrary, Roy says, "I don't believe there's one Jewish family that doesn't know who I am or has never heard of me". I am willing to bet that Roy's assertion is correct, having been a regular at Babu's during my own childhood. I remember the joy I felt upon my mom's telling me we were going to Roy's store and the many hours spent exploring the inside of the shop, salivating over one particular pair of bejewelled heels that I will never be able to forget, and which Roy kindly promised to put aside for me for until I was a grownup.

2021 marks an auspicious year for Babu's as it celebrates its 100th year. Babu's origin story paints a picture of resilience which explains how the store continues to thrive despite the immense challenges of COVID-19. In 1921, Roy's grandfather, Nagar Kooverjee, arrived in Lourenço Marques (as it was then) from India before ending up in Park Road, Wynberg, trading as N. Kooverjee Boot and Shoemaker.

After trading for 18 years, Nagar and his wife tragically passed away within two years of each other, leaving thirteen-year-old Babu (Roy's father) and his six sisters orphaned. To survive, the siblings went door-to-door looking for work to repair shoes. This was how the Kooverjee's shoe business survived.

Later, Babu and his wife, Prabha, ran the store. In the late 1970s Roy and his brothers joined the business. Sadly, Babu passed away aged 59 in 1987. However, Roy's mother, soon to turn 88, played a pivotal role in the business for 64 years until the



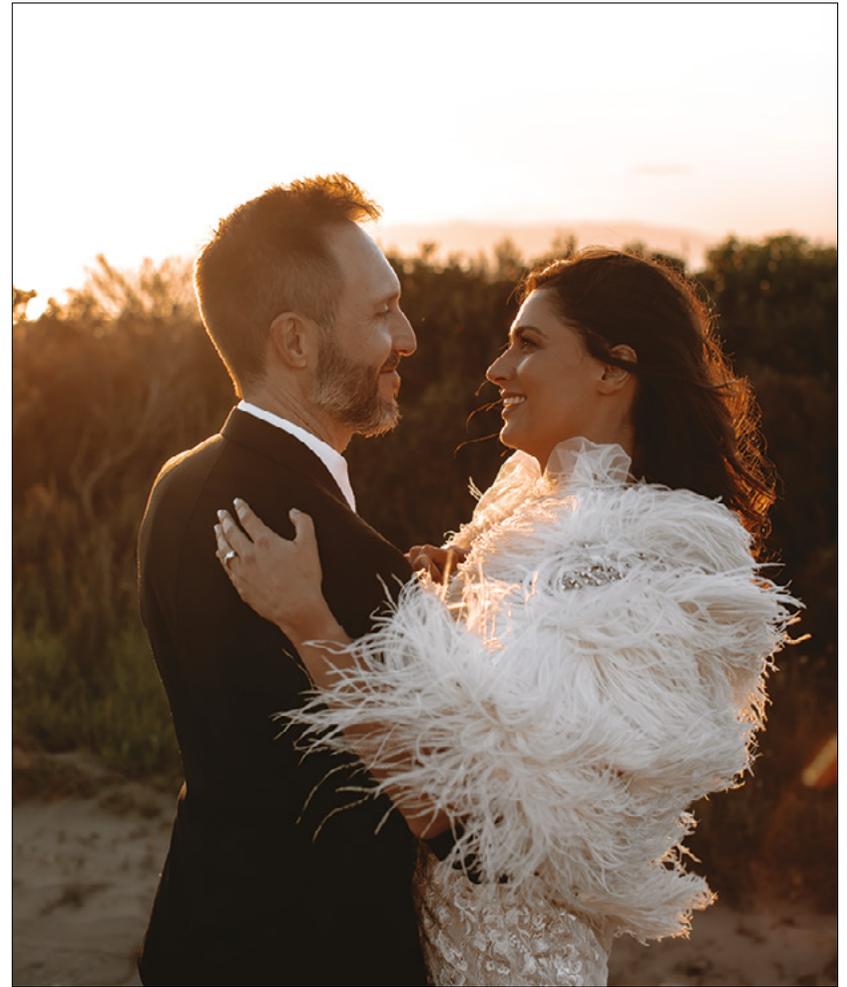
Rohit 'Roy' Kooverjee, of Babu's Footwear

advent of the pandemic when it was no longer safe for her to continue.

The business expanded in the '80s, opening a branch at the (then) Adelphi Centre in Sea Point. Rohit traded at the Sea Point branch, initially called Anthony's Shoes, for nearly 35 years. The business became Babu's and today the Gardens and Wynberg stores remain. Roy's nephew has joined the business, taking Babu's into its fourth generation.

Roy is grateful for the community's support, "Thank you to the Jewish community who were exceptionally patriotic towards me... I'm born a Hindu but I was nicknamed to be a 'Hind-Jew'."

While the pandemic has presented challenges, Roy credits Babu's ongoing success to various factors: "We have a very lucrative repair side



Kate Lewin and Warren Munitz were married on Lag B'omer. Even though the numbers were limited, it was a day filled with so much joy, hope and light. Photo: Ayeh Khalatbari

so that's keeping the fires burning, and we have people who send us work from all over the country. We run our business with a wealth of product knowledge, and service is our number one priority. Our family collectively go that extra mile to make sure that the client is satisfied and happy with what we offer, and that has helped us through this very trying period". Indeed, to assist his elderly customers Roy has used Uber and courier services so that he can repair footwear without customers needing to leave their homes.

On being asked to share his fondest memories of Babu's, Roy recalls the many hours he spent with his late

father at the workshop where he was taught the art of shoe repair.

To celebrate 100 years, the Kooverjee family is conducting a massive charity drive to donate scarves, blankets and beanies to underprivileged people. The family has donated a vast number of items and will collect at their Gardens branch until the end of 2021.

Roy adds, "Let me wish all my Jewish friends and family and clients Chag Sameach for Rosh Hashanah and stay safe — that's the most important."

To contact Roy, email babusfootwear@gmail.com or call 021 4651947



Mark Solomon

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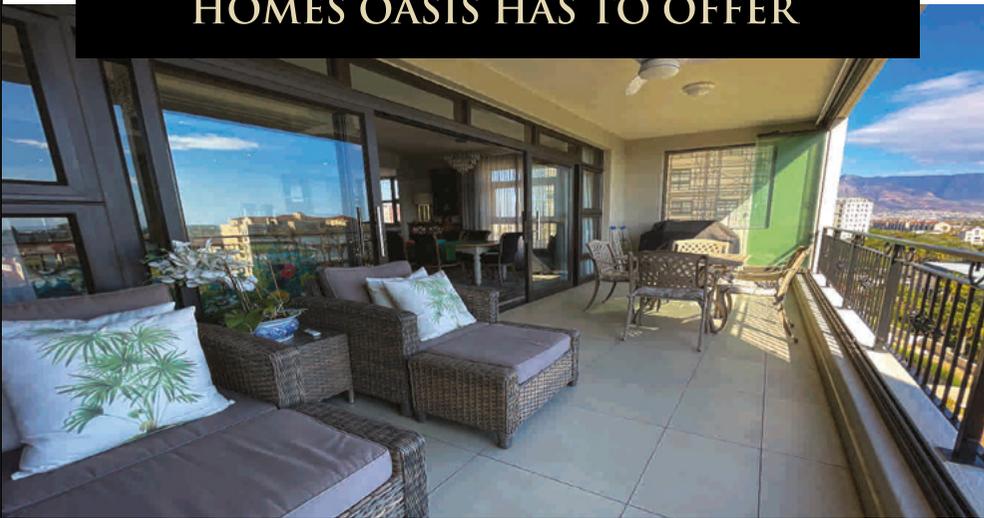
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