

# ★ JEWISH CAPE TOWN CHRONICLE

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## Congratulations to Viv Anstey!

**M**azaltov to Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies board member Viv Anstey, on receiving the Eric Samson and Mendel Kaplan Communal Service Award for a Professional.

This award recognises Viv's contribution to the South African

Jewish community over many years. The ceremony took place on Sunday 17 October in Johannesburg at the SAJBD National Conference.

The Cape SAJBD was represented by Tzvi Brivik (Chairperson), Daniel Bloch (Executive Director) and Viv Anstey (Cape Council member).



Award-winner Viv Anstey with Tzvi Brivik

## Bridge-building in the UAE

**L**ast month, SAZF Cape Council's Executive Director Chaya Singer travelled to Abu Dhabi and Dubai, as part of an official delegation of Jewish leaders from 20 countries to the United Arab Emirates. Among other things, she discussed Trilateral Israeli-UAE-SA/sub-Saharan Africa innovation economy and development opportunities. This World Jewish Congress Jewish Diplomatic Corps' engagement forms part of the historic conciliatory process of Arab-Israeli and Muslim-Jewish bridge-building efforts in the wake of the Abraham Accords signed in 2020.



SAZF CC Executive Director Chaya Singer in conversation with H.E. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade

## The Shining Light Awards 2021

**A**fter a very successful debut last year, Staffwise and ORT Jet Cape Town jumped at the opportunity to collaborate and create the Shining Light Awards 2021. The hybrid event, held

at The Studeo, Woodstock, was a slick and exciting show with Jaryd Raizon from The Knowledge Trust winning First Prize, and Sarah Feldman taking home both the Runner-up and the Viewers' Choice

Prizes. This year the stakes were high and each business had to showcase how they were shining examples of sustainability with regards to their people, profit and purpose.



Back (L-R): Oran Cohen (Gwork); Josh Kotlowitz and Harry Scherzer (Future Forex) Left to Right: Sarah Feldman (Sarah Feldman); Dena Lomofsky (Southern Hemisphere); Jenny Spiro (nurtureOne); Bev Sollinger (Datafin); Jaryd Raizon (The Knowledge Trust); Brad Stern (Superiate); Guy Greenblat (Outcast Foods); Danielle Klaff (Yummi Organics); Lindy Sollinger (Datafin)



Back(L-R): Liat Beinart (Staffwise); Lara Rosmarin (Judge); Sarah Feldman (Runner-up and Viewers' Choice winner); Dawn Nathan-Jones (Judge); Jaryd Raizon (first Prize winner); Avi Levy (judge); Seated (left to right): Caroline Kaimowitz (Staffwise); Richard Goldstein (judge) and Lisa Sandler (ORT Jet Cape Town)



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# Des Says...

By Desrae Saacks, acting editor Cape Jewish Chronicle



## On time...

**In just over a week, and before this paper is delivered to your inbox and/or postbox, Channukah 5782 will be here.**

I experienced a bit of a Channukah miracle myself this week. It was midday on Friday, and deadline day for this issue. And we were not ready to go to print! As the hours passed and the finishing line eluded me, I began to panic. I even left an urgent message for the printers, in the hopes of securing an extension. When my colleague Karyn came past my office at 1pm to say goodbye for the day, and “see you tomorrow”, I replied, “Don’t be silly, tomorrow’s Saturday!” It took a bit of convincing on Karyn’s part to get me to understand that ‘tomorrow’ would be Friday; today was only Thursday.

The relief was immense, I felt that I had been given a wonderful gift. While my pulse-rate gradually slowed down, I reflected on the enormity of my 24-hour reprieve. The possibilities were endless! Well not quite — but my world had slowed down to the manageable, and that was enough.

When turning my attention to this column, and the upcoming festival of Channukah, I found a parallel with our ancestors’ delight and amazement at the miraculous gift of light that they received, when one-day’s-worth of oil lasted instead for a whole eight days. The gift of time is a precious gift indeed!

And speaking of the passing of time, it’s already almost 2022. In fact, this is our last issue for this year.

While COVID has continued to dominate our lives and dictate our circumstances, it hasn’t been all bad. Certainly there has been progress where the pandemic is concerned. On page 4, read about the inspiring work of Dr Natacha Berkowitz, City Health strategic lead, in managing the response to the pandemic for the City of Cape Town.

This issue is chock-full of evidence of life slowly and tenuously returning to ‘normal’. Families are once again gathering to celebrate simchas; people are travelling; and community organisations are holding in-person events for the first time since COVID struck last year; all of this offering us a tantalising glimpse into what will hopefully be an increasingly COVID-safe 2022.

That said, it seems a fourth wave is on its way, so not yet time to unmask and let down our literal and figurative guard. Hopefully this wave proves to be milder than its predecessors, passing quickly and relatively uneventfully, so that we can continue on our current trajectory, and satisfy our oh-so-human need for social and cultural interaction.

Meanwhile, my best wishes for a relaxed, joyful and healthy December break, and a positive start to the new year.

And depending on when you are reading this, I hope you *will* have, *are* having or *have* had a Chag Channukah Sameach.

We’ll be back in the office in January, working on the online issue for February 2022.

*The Cape Jewish Chronicle invites and welcomes all engagement with our readership. Please make use of these pages to communicate anything that you think might be of interest to our community, by contacting us at [chron@ctjc.co.za](mailto:chron@ctjc.co.za).*

### Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		Earliest	Latest	
DECEMBER				
*3 Dec/29 Kislev	Mikketz	6.30pm	7.15pm	8.24pm
10 Dec/6 Tevet	Vayigash	6.30pm	7.15pm	8.30pm
17 Dec/13 Tevet	Vaychi	6.30pm	7.15pm	8.34pm
24 Dec/20 Tevet	Shemot	6.30pm	7.15pm	8.38pm
31 Dec/28 Tevet	Vaera	6.30pm	7.42pm**	8.40pm
JANUARY				
7 Jan/6 Shevat	Bo	6.32pm	7.43pm**	8.40pm
14 Jan/13 Shevat	Beshallah Shirah	6.31pm	7.42pm**	8.38pm
21 Jan/20 Shevat	Yitro	6.30pm	7.40pm**	8.35pm
28 Jan/27 Shevat	Mishpatim	6.27pm	7.36pm**	8.30pm

\*Light the Channukah candles before the Shabbat candles

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

\*\*Please contact your local Shul to determine their Shabbat acceptance time.

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## Dr Natacha Berkowitz receives award for her work during the COVID-19 pandemic

By Leila Stein

### The COVID-19 pandemic required massive response and coordination from the healthcare sector.

In Cape Town, Dr Natacha Berkowitz oversaw this incredible work by City Health.

Dr Berkowitz is a UCT MBChB graduate with a master's in public health, specialising in epidemiology. She works as an epidemiologist for City Health and was the strategic lead for the COVID-19 pandemic response in the City of Cape Town.

Recently she was awarded the City Health Director's Award for her work over the last 18 months. The award forms part of the City's award structure and recognises her leadership and work. In addition, her team also won the Mayor's Award from their executive director, further deepening the recognition for this vital work.

### Planning outbreak response

Dr Berkowitz explains how City Health operates as part of the public health authorities within the City of Cape Town Metro.

"We are part of the City of Cape Town structure, and we have over 100 clinics across the metro which provide primary health care to the most vulnerable in our communities," she says.

Due to her background in public health, when the COVID-19 pandemic reached Cape Town, she was put in charge of strategic guidance for the department for COVID.

"From planning how we respond to the outbreak, how we restructure our services to test and treat COVID and also to ensure that we carry on the rest of our services in a safe manner," she explains.

As seen from her use of 'we', Dr Berkowitz does not take all the credit herself. Rather she defers to the work of her team.

"What I do is at the management, strategic response level whereas my wonderful operational teams on the ground are the people actually doing the work," she says.

### Tackling the unknown

While Berkowitz has years of

experience with public health organisations, the scope and speed of the COVID-19 pandemic posed its own unique challenges.

When discussing what was different about the pandemic, she explains, "Dealing with the unknown, and things changing so quickly has really been the hardest thing."

However, Dr Berkowitz is not one to dwell on the hardships, explaining that the space for opportunity was also created within this unknown. Personally, Berkowitz explains that her experience in this role has helped her grow professionally and put her theoretical knowledge into practice.

"It sounds cliché, but I don't do the work for the recognition. The work these past two years has really created a sense of community within the organisation. It felt hugely rewarding to be recognised, and the fact that the recognition came from the Director of the department really had a huge impact."

"I feel like it's the teams on the ground that really should get the majority of the recognition. It made me consider that the work that was



done was valued, and that made me proud. City Health is a small organisation compared to the provincial Department of Health. We work closely together. I'm immensely proud to be part of the work that was done," she says.

### Coordinating the vaccine rollout

While the pandemic is not over, the arrival of vaccines has been a promising step in a positive direction.

continued on page 24

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

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

Jews of Sephardi heritage need no proof at all!

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



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

**Ashkenazi:** This ad refers to Jews of Polish & Lithuanian heritage only.

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

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



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

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

**Sephardi:** This ad refers to all Jews of Sephardi heritage – Jews who arrived from North Africa, the Middle East, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, as well as many descendants of Jews who arrived from Holland and the UK.

Most descendants of Sephardi Jews (who were exiled 500 years ago) are eligible to reinstate Portuguese citizenship and, accordingly, an EU passport. If applicable, Adv. Horesh will apply for (on behalf of the applicant) an official certificate confirming such eligibility, on the basis of which, an application for Portuguese citizenship is most likely to be approved.

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

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

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

My next visit to South Africa is planned for the end of January/beginning of February 2022  
Whatsapp me on +48 783 953 223 • Email Avi Horesh [adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com](mailto:adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com)





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## CONNECT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNITY

### Light at the end of the tunnel

By Daniel Bloch, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

**It's been an extremely long year and I am so tired. I am tired of talking about COVID-19, lockdown, Zoom and South Africa's downward spiral. After such a dismal year, there has to be some light at the end of the tunnel? Let's leave the darkness of 2021 behind and focus on what can be an incredibly prosperous 2022.**

Over the past year, our community has endured many challenges, one of them being shrinking numbers due to emigration and Aliyah. However, as Howard Sackstein said at our Cape SAJBD annual conference, "We have an unbelievable thriving community of 12 000 and will continue to have a thriving community even if it decreases to 10 000 or 8 000 people."

The shrinking numbers shouldn't dictate how we live and how vibrant our community can be. Those of us who choose to stay in Cape Town will need to work hard to ensure our way of life continues, and that our Judaism flourishes.

Also, during our annual conference, Standard Bank's Senior Political Economist, Simon Freemantle, shared some insight and observations regarding the recent anarchy which unfolded in parts of our country. Despite the many challenges we face, Mr Freemantle was able to offer an extremely positive outlook for South Africa — one of hope, growth and prosperity — out of the darkness and into the light. We were also able to hear from some amazing members of our community as to why they are staying put and investing in the Western Cape. Not everyone is fleeing the country for the so-called 'greener pastures'. Many of us are staying right here and together with our community, we will build an incredible life for our families filled with opportunities and endless possibilities. I know it sounds

too good to be true and some people may say I am being naive — however I am a glass-half-full-kind-of-guy. As Monty Python says, "Always look on the bright side of life."

Speaking of darkness, Eskom and lights, it is fitting that we will be celebrating Chanukah — the festival of lights. Chanukah is one of my family's favourite holidays. We enjoy huddling around the Chanukiah, lighting the candles and singing *Ma'oz tsur* and *Haneirot Halalu*. My kids love singing the songs however I am sure they love eating the doughnuts more! To be honest, I also enjoy eating a doughnut or two.



Chanukah is a story of hope and miracles. The Maccabees defeated the Greeks against all odds, and they were able to keep the Menorah alight for eight days with only one day's worth of oil available. We all know the full story but how can we

relate the story of Chanukah to our current lives?

For starters, the Maccabees had no electricity — fairly similar to our current situation. They were a minority fighting against a formidable enemy — on a daily basis we fight against another formidable enemy called antisemitism. One day we too will be victorious. The Maccabees never lost faith in Hashem and were rewarded with the miracle of Chanukah. We too have not lost our faith in Hashem and continue to practice our Judaism each and every day.

Just like the Maccabees were able to overcome insurmountable odds, our community too will endure and move forward. We will find our little bit of oil and keep the lights going for many a year to come (despite Eskom's best efforts to challenge this).

*Chanukah Sameach!*

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

### Brightening our future, together!

By Tzvi Brivik, Chairperson, Cape SAJBD

**Our Cape Conference, 'A Kaleidoscope of Views', was held at the end of October, and it was a resounding success.**

The professional team made up of Daniel Bloch, Tyla Dallas, Gwynne Robins and Craig Nudelman hosted a stellar lineup of individuals who demonstrated exactly what we want to hear during these 'dark' (thanks to Eskom) times. Instead of the doom and gloom we usually hear, we heard our keynote speaker, Simon Freemantle, as well as our panel, consisting of Howard Sackstein as moderator, Jos Horwitz, Lauren Joffe and Jaryd Raizon, give us a positive outlook on the future of South Africa as well as on our Jewish community.

The conference was one day before the local government elections — an election which showed voter apathy with only 45% of the registered population voting. It also demonstrated that South Africans don't see their leaders performing as they should in their respective municipalities and metropolises, with 66 hung councils around the country.

Perhaps our leaders should take a leaf out of the book of esteemed Labour Party leader in Australia, Gough Whitlam, who became Prime Minister five years after he asked, "Are we here to get elected and get things done? Or are we here to feel good about ourselves? Are we here to improve the quality of life for our citizens with all the compromises and risk that this entails; or are we here to split ideological hairs, denounce traitors and savour the view from the moral high ground?"

The Cape SAJBD rolled out an extensive voter education programme. Not only did we post information on social media showing why and how to vote, but we also gave people the opportunity to see who to vote for. As reported in previous editions of the Cape Jewish Chronicle, the Board, together with eNCA, hosted a Town Hall meeting with candidates and representatives

from political parties across the spectrum. This shows our commitment to our country and improving the lives for all its citizens.



*Tikkun Olam*

(healing the world) is a key tenet in our Jewish religion, and one which the Board takes on with fervour in our Social Justice subcommittee. With this in mind, we look to Channukah — the Festival of Lights — to show how we have a commitment to be an *ohr la goyim*, a light unto the nations. We are always conscious of the difficulties underprivileged communities face in South Africa. This includes those from other African countries, like our partners from Burundi, Congo, and Rwanda.

***Tikkun Olam* (healing the world) is a key tenet in our Jewish religion, and one which the Board takes on with fervour in our Social Justice subcommittee.**

Our recent drive for blankets and other important COVID-19 protection gear, (eg hand sanitisers) was a success with more than 100 blankets being donated to our

partners. This is just one of the many projects which shines some light, not just on the commitment of the Jewish community to assist those in need, but also on our resolve to work in intercommunity and interfaith projects in the Cape.

With the year coming to an end, we know that many of us will be going away, whether to Plett, Hermanus, or other more secluded areas for those who prefer solitude during the December break. We implore the community to continue to stick to COVID-19 protocols — sanitise, social distance and wear masks in public spaces. It is also imperative that everyone who is able to, get vaccinated! It is the only way in which we can return to some semblance of normalcy in 2022.

*Enjoy your break, Chag Chanukah Sameach, and see you in 2022!*





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## A kaleidoscope of views

By Craig Nudelman, Programme and Development Manager, Cape SAJBD

**Our 2021 Cape Conference, 'A Kaleidoscope of Views' was held on 31 October at the Pola Pasvolsky Conference Centre. It was great to be back in person, albeit with a smaller crowd, with a majority of the participants on Zoom.**

We had an excellent array of speakers. Our Chairperson, Tzvi Brivik, gave a full report on the Board's activities over the past year, and it has indeed been a busy 12 months. Two main events stood out during the report.

The Board's decisive leadership and response to the COVID-19 pandemic that used different means to steer the community towards health and safety during the different waves. This was done via various communal video updates and messages.

The second major issue was that of the May Gaza conflict. Not only did the intense rocket fire and devastation affect Israelis and Palestinians, but it also had ripple effects in various Jewish communities around the world, including our own. The Board dealt with many cases of antisemitic attacks on social media, WhatsApp groups and individual communities that were reported to our #ReportHate hotline. The BDS campaign intensified dramatically and we saw a wave of anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist sentiment, with the Jewish community being targeted as proxies of the conflict in Gaza.

The keynote address was given by Senior Political Economist for Standard Bank, Simon Freemantle, who spoke about the current state of our nation. Far from the doom and gloom we always expect to hear, he explained that South Africa is in a more stable position than we think,

with President Cyril Ramaphosa's consolidation of power.

The July riots were also touched upon. Freemantle said that although there was not decisive leadership at first, the administration has ensured that there will most probably not be future attacks in Kwazulu-Natal and Gauteng, where ex-President Jacob Zuma's supporters are mostly based.

**Unity is not just about conforming to one idea; unity is the collaboration and conversations that we have as individuals, in order to find common ground from which to create a unified community that will continue to be strong and successful.**

Other aspects, such as poor education and crime are deterrents to making South Africa a more stable society. But with all these issues, South Africa still has a positive outlook — a welcome change from the usual negative rhetoric.

Our panel discussion on the future of the Jewish community in the Cape and South Africa was moderated by Howard Sackstein, Chairperson of SA Jewish Report. The panel consisted of Jos Horwitz, principal of Alon Ashel Pre-Primary and head of Early Childhood Development (ECD) for the United Herzlia Schools; Lauren Joffe, resident of Moishe House Cape Town; and Jaryd Raizon, the Africa Head of The Knowledge Trust. Questions regarding the state of the community, what challenges we face as Jewish South Africans, and also as South African Jews, were asked.

When asked about how we can remain part of the greater South African story, all the participants said it was up to the entire community to get involved in projects which affect the greater South African community. Jos' comment at the end of the session remains most impactful — she stated that she is amazed at how the community wants to do things differently to effect positive change, but that they are looking to communal leaders to see how to create those initiatives. It is imperative that communal leaders assist in giving agency to those who want to grow in the South African community.

The consensus from the panel was that we have much to add to the broader South African community, as well as our own smaller Jewish community. Through our future-facing programmes, such as our 2040 vision and social entrepreneurial initiatives throughout the community, we can continue to create a vibrant and diverse society!

The comments made by both Rabbis Oshy Feldman and Greg Alexander were powerful. Both spoke about how diverse the community is and how our different voices are what makes it so successful. Unity is not just about conforming to one idea; unity is the collaboration and conversations that we have as individuals, in order to find common ground from which to create a unified community that will continue to be strong and successful.

Our community is once again beginning to see in-person events, and hopefully we can continue to expand and create open platforms for face-to-face engagement. We look forward to seeing you at next year's elective conference — hopefully with a full auditorium!



*Raymond Schkolne (Board member), Jonathan Silke (Board member), Simone Sulcas (Chairperson of our Antisemitism & Legal subcommittee), Daniel Bloch (Executive Director of Cape SAJBD), Glen Heneck (Vice-Chairperson of Cape SAJBD), Adrienne Jacobson (Vice-Chairperson of Cape SAJBD), Lester Hoffman (Treasurer of Cape SAJBD), Dawn Nathan-Jones (Chairperson of our Associate Relations subcommittee), David King (Chairperson of our Country Community subcommittee), Karen Marsden (Board member), Tyla Dallas (Marketing & Legal Officer of Cape SAJBD), Gwynne Robins (Senior Researcher of Cape SAJBD), Tzvi Brivik (Chairperson of Cape SAJBD) and Craig Nudelman (Programme & Development Manager of Cape SAJBD).*





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## 2021 Cape SAJBD conference



**Daniel Bloch** (Executive Director of Cape SAJBD), **Tzvi Brivik** (Chairperson of Cape SAJBD) and **Lester Hoffman** (Treasurer of Cape SAJBD).



**Daniel Bloch** (Executive Director of Cape SAJBD), **Jos Horwitz** (Principal of Alon Ashel Pre-primary and Head of ECD at UHS), **Jaryd Raizon** (Africa Director of The Knowledge Trust), **Howard Sackstein** (Chairperson of SA Jewish Report), **Lauren Joffe** (Resident of Moishe House CT) and **Tzvi Brivik** (Chairperson of Cape SAJBD)



**Keynote speaker Simon Freemantle** (Senior Political Economist at Standard Bank) and **Tzvi Brivik** (Chairperson of Cape SAJBD)



**Geoff Cohen** (Director of Education at United Herzlia Schools) and **Lauren Joffe** (Resident of Moishe House CT).



**Chaya Singer** (Executive Director of SAZF), **David King** (Chairperson of our Country Community subcommittee), **Craig Nudelman** (Programme & Development Manager of Cape SAJBD) and **Tzvi Brivik** (Chairperson of Cape SAJBD).



**Tyla Dallas** (Marketing & Legal Officer of Cape SAJBD) and **Lauren Joffe** (Resident of Moishe House CT)



**Tzvi Brivik** (Chairperson of Cape SAJBD) and **Adrienne Jacobson** (Vice-Chairperson of Cape SAJBD)



**David King** (Chairperson of our Country Community subcommittee); **Dawn Nathan-Jones** (Chairperson of our Associate Relations subcommittee) and **Howard Sackstein** (Chairperson of SA Jewish Report)



**Raymond Schkolne** (Board member) and **Jos Horwitz** (Principal of Alon Ashel Pre-primary and Head of ECD at UHS).





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## Know your Board

*We decided it's high time we spotlight the individuals who make up the Cape SAJBD! After all, they are there to represent you and ensure your voice is heard when engaging with leading figures in the political, media and administrative spheres. Each month, two Board members will answer a series of questions that shed light on their reasons for serving on the Board, and their response to key issues relevant to our community. So, keep an eye out, and get to know your Board!*

### Glen Heneck — Vice-Chairperson



#### Why did you join the Board?

Prior to joining the Board, in 2013, my only involvement in Jewish community matters had been through Highlands House and (long ago) an anti-Apartheid organisation known as Jews for Justice. I didn't think about the Board much, assuming that it busied itself with religious matters, get-togethers and fundraising. After learning what it actually does, and that being an all purpose sceptic didn't disqualify me, I stood for election and, to my surprise, got voted on!

#### What do you hope to achieve during your term of office?

I've enjoyed my eight years on the Board and like to think I've made a useful contribution in that time. Same as in previous years, I'll be trying to hold the sensible middle ground, on all serious issues. There are lots of divisions within the community — doctrinal, political, ethnographic, economic, generational etc — but I am confident that we can all co-exist, and flourish, within a broad Jewish 'tent', as long as we default to reciprocal respectfulness. I'm also keen to see and get involved in more successful outreach initiatives to external communities.

#### What other community organisations are you involved in?

I am chairman of the Trustee Board of Highlands House and I'm a trustee of ORT (which also does wonderful work). I was a former chairman of Highlands House and of The Open City Initiative and was on the committee of Jews for Justice.

#### What are your passions?

Watching sport, searching for meaning and sleeping (none of which I'm very good at).

#### What is your vision for the community?

Everyone talks about how amazing the community is, in terms of civic-mindedness and facilities, and I agree. I'm all for the initiatives aimed at consolidating that, to ensure that future generations are similarly fortunate. This while being hyper-mindful of the fact that we are a (mostly) privileged part of a far greater (and less well-placed) whole.

#### What do you think is unique about our Jewish community?

That's a good question. I don't have a good answer. I do though think a lot about the idea of better-than-ness (and originality sin). As in why do we have to be distinguished, why isn't it enough to just be okay?

### Adrienne Jacobson — Vice-Chairperson



#### Why did you join the Board?

I was at the Maccabi Games Opening Ceremony of 2017 in Jerusalem, when I answered my phone and was asked to stand for election to the Board. Jewish communities from all corners of the globe were celebrating and cheering and I was so swept up in the wave of South African contingent support and pride that I accepted immediately. On further engagement with leadership of some of these communities, I was saddened to hear of some of their challenges around civil liberties, curtailing of religious freedoms and the antisemitism they faced in their countries.

I realised how important the mandate of the Cape SAJBD is in safeguarding the religious and civil rights, status and welfare of our community! And, its role as a spokesperson and lobbyist platform building relationships based on justice equality, dignity and respect speaks to my values and skill-set.

#### How can one make a difference?

It is our generation's time now to step up, contribute and be actively engaged in the communal leadership space. We have a responsibility to ensure a sustainable, resilient Western Cape Jewish community, where there is freedom of Jewish self expression and Jewish identity; and which fosters mutual respect for race, religion, gender and identity amongst all South African citizens.

#### What do you hope to achieve during your term of office?

It has been a privilege for me to be part of the talented, experienced leadership that comprises the executive committee, the example set by the current Chairperson, the past Chairperson and past Vice-Chairperson, and the dynamic representation and formidable skill-set around the Board table. We have diversity of opinion, experience and expertise which provides for robust debate at times.

It is important to me that we frame discussion and examination of issues in a manner that reflects and considers all perspectives and angles with depth, nuance and sensitivity. Inclusivity, involvement, active participation and engagement of all Board members is an important leadership challenge. We need to stand up against prejudice, discrimination and racism and advocate for an inclusive and just society.

On our internal mandate, we need to step up our work within our community's affiliate organisations to promote cohesion and active participation. I am passionate that the voices of our young adult leadership are heard and valued, and that there are platforms for engagement, involvement and growth. I hope that my skill-set and leadership are helping to shape the Board into a relevant, contemporary and inclusive organisation.

#### What do you think is unique about our Jewish community?

Our communal organisations provide services from education to leadership development, welfare, aged and disability, and to social upliftment programmes external to the community. The unique blend of professional and lay leaders contributes to the success of each organisation. We are blessed with inspirational religious leadership across different religious experiences, shuls and learning platforms. We are vibrant, warm, passionate, outspoken, diverse, deeply caring of each other, connected and engaging. We have woven a rich tapestry of Jewish cultural life that we can be proud of.

#### What is your vision for the community?

At our AGM and Conference, we used the analogy of a kaleidoscope to reflect the multi-faceted shapes, colours and sizes of our community. With each turning they fall into different groupings, each creating a harmonious and beautiful pattern. The lens and cylinder of the kaleidoscope represents the strong moral compass of our Jewish religion, leadership and our community structure and service organisations.





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# Chanukah Sameach

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## Know your rights!



*Justin Asher, Chairperson of Generation Next, addresses Herzlia Grade 11s*

**Our Generation Next subcommittee recently rolled out its 'Know Your Rights' campaign to Herzlia High School and CT Torah High Grade 11 and 12 students.**

**W**hether you are studying, working or taking a gap year next year, it is crucial that you know your rights, the harms you may experience and the remedies available to you.

Cape SAJBD's Marketing and Legal Officer Tyla Dallas presented the *Know Your Rights on campus* booklet, which equips students with skills to respond effectively and appropriately to the variety of ways

in which antisemitism may manifest, from insensitive or biased comments to hate-motivated incidents. Although targeted to campus life, its 'Enforcement Process' and 'Speak Up Strategies' can be used to confront incidents that might occur in the workplace or any other public space.

"Where you experience antisemitism or anti-Jewish hate speech, prejudice, vandalism or other incidents, the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies (Cape SAJBD) is here to assist you! We can make a difference in your lives, and we want to be able to protect you," Tzvi Brivik (Chairperson)

*Go to: <https://www.capesajbd.org/.../my-rights-on-campus-for-.../> to learn more about this campaign. Do you want Gen Next to present this campaign to your school or tertiary institution? Email us at [sajbd2@ctjc.co.za](mailto:sajbd2@ctjc.co.za)*

## The Blanket Project

**During September and October, we partnered with Jewish Community Services, on The Blanket Project campaign.**

**T**he objective of this campaign was to encourage our community to donate blankets to those in need, both within and outside of our community. This project was in honour and memory of the late Eric Samson.

We would like to thank all those who generously donated. A special thank you to Pick n Pay and Feed

the Nation Foundation who donated 100 blankets, and the Pick n Pay School Club who donated more than 100 bottles of sanitiser. The beneficiaries of this campaign are the Congolese Civil Society, Umubano Foundation Rwanda, Western Cape Burundi Community, RAM — Rescue Among Others and Jewish Community Services.

If you would like to know more about these organisations and how you can donate, please email us at [sajbd2@ctjc.co.za](mailto:sajbd2@ctjc.co.za)



**The Blanket Project — Daniel Bloch (Cape SAJBD) with Lauren Cohn (JCS) and staff of Pick n Pay Ottery and Feed the Nation Foundation**





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## Keepsakes from our Country Communities

By Gwynne Robins

**Recently, our Chairperson Tzvi Brivik toured some of our country communities, accompanied by Executive Director, Daniel Bloch and Programme and Development Manager, Craig Nudelman.**

**T**hey visited Jewish sites and cemeteries in Ceres, Wellington, Stellenbosch, Hermanus, Strand and Somerset West, receiving a warm welcome everywhere.

In Somerset West they were given a wonderful artefact to add to the Board's collection of memorabilia of country communities — a solid brass key from the Strand-Somerset West synagogue, possibly dating to its erection in 1923. At 220mm long and weighing 220g, it was solid enough for a shammass to have been tempted to use it to brain a recalcitrant congregant!



*Daniel holding the key from Somerset West-Strand Hebrew Congregation*

It will join other country community memorabilia originally given to the Jewish Museum for historical and sentimental reasons, and then handed over to the Board (as Museum trustees) as these did not fit into the parameters of the new South African Jewish Museum. Today they are proudly displayed and beautifully mounted in purpose-built cabinets in the Samson Centre and in the Albou, honouring the memory of once-thriving communities.

There is a common pattern to most country communities. A smous visits a few times, sees economic possibilities, settles down, brings out his family, is joined by other Jews and within a short time the

village has a Jewish general dealer, hotelier, butcher, bottle store, doctor, pharmacist and lawyer. They consecrate a cemetery, build a synagogue and Talmud Torah. The children grow up and leave for university. With qualifications lacked by the immigrant parents, they settle in the cities instead of opening a small country shop, are followed later by their ageing parents and soon there are not enough Jews left in the village for a minyan. The Board then steps in to assist in closing down the congregation, establishing a trust fund with their assets according to their wishes. Often the benches, bimah, Sefer Torahs would be donated to other congregations in South Africa or in Israel, but some artefacts were donated to the Jewish Museum.

This is not the only key in our collection. We have the ceremonial key of the Malmesbury Hebrew

Congregation, presented to Rev A P Bender on 16 May 1912. First settled in 1880, with a cemetery donated by an Afrikaans farmer in 1922, its synagogue closed in 1974 and is today a museum. By 1890, Wellington had a sizable Jewish community with a cemetery consecrated in 1903, and a synagogue — according to its ceremonial key — dedicated on

23 August 1922, and later sold to the Apostolic Church. Paarl is still a functioning congregation but we do have the ceremonial key presented to Rev H Strelitz on 29 August 1920 when they opened their Talmud Torah. We also have the key presented to Advocate Morris Alexander KC MP, at the opening of the Upington Jewish Communal Hall on 3 June 1937.

We have the ceremonial trowel presented to the Rev

AP Bender, on 24 March 1926, used to lay the foundation stone of the Worcester synagogue where Jews had been living since the early 1860s, as well as its glass wine decanter, donated when the synagogue was deconsecrated in 1994. Used for so many happy chagim and Shabbats,



*Boxed schechting knife used by A. Mandelbrote*

it is now on display in the Samson Centre as is the EPNS kiddush cup from Riversdale, donated when they sold their synagogue in 1960. The cup was presented to the congregation by the children of B. Rose who died in Riversdale c. 1903. Riversdale had been settled as early as the 1870s, consecrating a cemetery in 1886.

An indication that the Jews even in the small towns kept their traditions, is the boxed schechting knife used by A. Mandelbrote, who died in 1948, the Schochet and teacher in Cradock and Noupoot. Cradock first settled around 1900, consecrated its cemetery in 1905, its first synagogue in 1914 and a larger one in 1928, which was closed in 1986, becoming the head office of the SAPS dog unit! As for Noupoot, which first settled in 1900, it was always too small for a cemetery or synagogue, and their last Jew left before 1973. Small as it was,

they still employed Rev Mandelbrote to provide them with kosher meat.

The pride of our country community collection is undoubtedly the beautiful gilded silver Torah shield from Robertson, with its projecting Tablets of the Law engraved with the Ten Commandments



*Kiddush cup from Riversdale*

and flanked by two gilded filigree pillars and rampant lions. Robertson too was settled in the 1880s by the East European immigrants. We also have Robertson's ceremonial trowel used for the shul's foundation stone built as early as 1896, the same year its cemetery was consecrated.

The Board still keeps a watchful eye over these cemeteries and was concerned when Hermanus and Oudtshoorn tombstones and the Wellington taharah house were desecrated. In the past year we have met contractors on cemetery sites, and visited or were in touch with people regarding repairs to the Caledon, Ceres, Malmesbury, Montague, Oudtshoorn, Paarl, Piketberg, Robertson, Strand/Somerset West, Uniondale, Wellington and Worcester cemeteries. We also donated money towards repainting the Uniondale Synagogue (now a museum), the refurbishing of the Piketberg Synagogue (now a museum), and assisted Mooresburg's Wheat Industry Museum's curator.

Most of these communities have closed down, but the Board still cherishes the heritage, the memories and the final resting places of their founders.



*Silver Torah shield from Robertson*

*Disclaimer: This article is provided for informational and educational purposes. It is not all-inclusive and its authors accept no liability for any errors or actions that may result from a particular understanding of its contents. For queries contact Tyla at tyla@ctjc.co.za*





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## Doing what matters for those who need it most!

Galya Tregenza Hall, WIZO SA National Administrator and PA to President

Despite the challenges of 2021, WIZO South Africa, under the excellent leadership of President Shelley Trope-Friedman enjoyed a productive and successful year.

As the largest Women's Zionist Organisation in South Africa, we are dedicated to improving the lives of women and children in Israel through fundraising initiatives; and empowering women to strengthen their identification with the State of Israel.

So, how have we been accomplishing

this mandate? Ranging from thought-provoking Zoom talks and increased media exposure to local community outreach and international workshops, WIZO SA has borne great fruit in all its activities.

A brilliant initiative by President Shelley Trope-Friedman has been her regular 'Shelley Shares' column. Through her reflections and exhortations, she has ensured that WIZO South Africa uses its voice and its platform to motivate and inspire. Her messages have been applauded by those involved with WIZO and beyond, both locally and internationally.

WIZO SA has been delighted that international participants and local Jewish community leaders have regularly registered for our Zoom talks. We secured exemplary speakers who provided relevant and meaningful discussions, shining a bright light on the high standing and stature of WIZO.

WIZO SA actively promotes co-existence and unity. In September, we joined hands with our Christian Zionist friends for the hugely successful Jerusalem Woven Destiny concert. How significant this



WIZO SA President Shelley Trope-Friedman handing over wheelchairs to young children at the Athlone School for the Blind in Cape Town

friendship is right now at a time when antisemitism is rearing its ugly head, causing great concern about this surge of the world's longest hatred.

WIZO SA President, Shelley Trope-Friedman summed this up perfectly when she said, "The reality of the sharp rise of antisemitism in our own backyard as well as around the world makes the genuine friendship and solidarity expressed by our Christian Zionist friends even more essential and appreciated. The concert gave a platform to the voice of unity, hope and love, showcasing the power and

effectiveness of working together in a spirit of cohesion and harmony".

Our Wheelchairs of Hope project has continued to bring about opportunity, transforming the lives of young South African children by granting them the gift of mobility through the Israeli-designed wheelchairs. In a recent visit to Mitchells Plain, WIZO SA President Shelley Trope-Friedman along with WIZO Cape Town members handed over wheelchairs and promoted WIZO to local families.

This is WIZO! Doing what matters for those who need it most!

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## Sigd, an exploration of Jewish diversity

By Batya Shmueli – Cape Town Community & Aliyah Shlichah

### The Jewish holiday Sigd dates back hundreds of years.

In Ethiopia, Sigd was celebrated exclusively by Ethiopian Jews. However, the Ethiopian Jewish festival has been made an official national holiday of the Jewish state since 2008, and it can now be celebrated both as a religious holiday and as a way of exploring Ethiopian Jewish culture. It's a great holiday for Jewish families to explore the diversity of Judaism and also to strengthen their connection to their faith.

For many centuries, the Ethiopian Jewish community lived in complete isolation from other Jewish communities, until a large number of Ethiopians were airlifted to Israel in the mid-20th century. Therefore, the Ethiopian Jewish community, known as Beta Israel, developed many Jewish holidays and celebrations that are not found in other Jewish communities.

Sigd was a highlight of Jewish life in Ethiopia and marks the renewal of the covenant between the Jewish people, God and Torah. This holiday, celebrated 50 days after Yom Kippur, brought the Jewish community together in a large celebration. They would ascend a mountain and spend the morning praying for the return to Zion.

Having prayed to return to Israel, the Ethiopian Jewish community now dedicates this important festival to giving back to the State of Israel and the Jewish people. As a celebration of a homecoming and Israel's statehood, Sigd has become a significant part of Jewish culture.

I am Batya Shmueli, and my family and I recently moved to Cape Town. Currently, I serve as the Aliyah and Community Shlichah. It is a pleasure and honour for me to be an Ethiopian Jew and to

be connected to the wonderful continent of Africa. As the Shlichah of the community, my role is to strengthen bonds between the local community and the State of Israel. It is such an honour to be sharing the experience of the festival of Sigd with you all here in South Africa.



*Sigd morning prayers on Signal Hill*

This 2500-year-old tradition is something I wanted to bring to the Cape Town community. In order to explain the festival of Sigd and the journey of Ethiopian Jewish communities to Jerusalem, I recently composed a dramatic piece that we presented to the schools. Students need to be taught the importance of this event. It was important to me that both students and Shlichim were included in this performance, which expresses the spirituality of the Sigd festival. Akiva & Ayellet Glatt, the Bnei Akiva Shlichim played an important role in this performance and all the activities at the schools. We appreciate the enthusiasm shown by all the Principals and the JLL departments, who understood the significance of Sigd and how it showed the learners the diversity of Israel.

As is tradition on Sigd, members of the local community gathered on 4 November, to climb the mountain together and pray as a community. Rabbi Shmuel of Ohr Sameach led the prayers, and everyone felt a connection to Judaism. Unity and hope were the lasting impressions of this service.

This was followed in the evening with a Sigd Festival hosted by the South African Zionist Federation Cape Council, a celebration of food, music and storytelling, rich in Ethiopian Jewish culture and customs.



*Learners Hike up Signal Hill to take part in the Sigd ceremony*

## An exciting chapter

By Karen Marsden Sank

**2021 has been a challenging year for all. Reflecting back on the past 12 months, the SA Zionist Federation has had a year marked with many changes and challenges, but also by many unexpected opportunities and promises of an exciting, new chapter.**



Our South African Jewish community as well as Jewish-owned businesses, who have faced ongoing social media attacks as a result of recent conflict within Israel, have remained a priority on our agenda.

Despite the challenges of this year, we recorded the highest number of Aliyah from South Africa in 25 years. We have witnessed a community coming together in times of crisis. This cohesion has ensured that as a community, we remain resilient, connected and committed. As the numbers of our community drop to just 12 000, this has made us even more passionate and conscious of the incredible role we as a community have to play in the Diaspora.

As we reach the last month of 2021, we are grateful for the experience of celebrating the Ethiopian Jewish festival of Sigd which Batya and Hed, our Shlichim, introduced to our community for the first time. This created an amazing connection amongst the members of our community. The celebrations included early morning davening on Signal Hill and a week full of activities throughout all the Cape Town Jewish day schools.

These festivities culminated with our first in-person event — an exceptional evening of food, music and storytelling at the Oranjezicht City Farm Market. This event celebrated the rich culture of the Beta Israel community, and gave us an opportunity to introduce our leadership as well as the Shmuels to the community. It was wonderful to see people relaxed, chatting and enjoying themselves at what was for many their first social engagement. Let this be the beginning of many more exciting events to come. All this could not be done without the support of our generous donors. Four excited guests went home already planning when to use their air tickets to Israel, generously donated by Fairmount World Travel and Air Ethiopia.

Before the year comes to a close, we look forward to celebrating Channukah with our SAFI partners and friends where again, for the first time this year, we will be able to introduce our new lay leadership in person to our Christian friends, and show thanks and support for all that they do, driven by their love for the State of Israel.

With that, we bring the year to a close with unity, understanding, compassion, and hope.





## South African Zionist Federation Cape Council's Sigd Festival



Hagai Golan, Yvette Rosenberg, Leora Hessen, Chaya Singer, Karen Marsden Sank



Ethiopian Coffee Ceremony with Batya Shmueli and Madam Taitou Ethiopian Restaurant staff



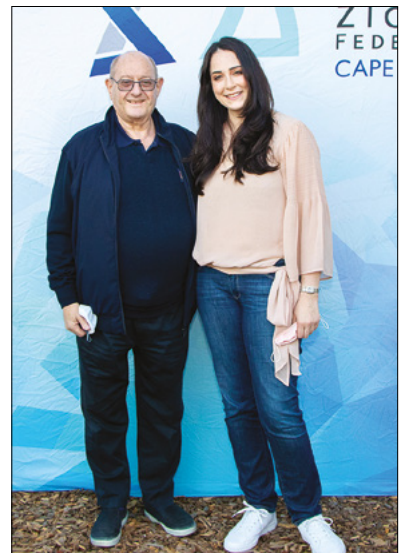
SAZF Chairperson: Karen Marsden Sank, Community Shlichah: Batya Shmueli and Vice Chairperson: Leora Hessen



Sigd evening event



Liat Amar Arran, Philip Krawitz, Batya Shmueli, Hed Shmueli (in front), Chaya Singer, Ayellet Glatt, Akiva Glatt and Rowan Polovin



Philip Krawitz and Chaya Singer



Miriam Levitt, Daniel Levitt, Kerry Miller, Aubrey Miller



Hed and Batya Shmueli – enjoying traditional Ethiopian fare – Injera with vegetable sides



Décor with a traditional Ethiopian feel



Airline Ticket winners with Sponsors and SAZF Chairperson and Executive Director: Karen Marsden Sank, Rafaella Joffe, David Ginsberg, Chaya Singer, Sam Sher, Caroline Kaimowitz, Mekdes Abera and Monica Dlayedwa (Ethiopian Airlines), Yvette and David Polovin



The incredible Kirya on saxophone



Bridgette and Manfred Franck, Jacqui and Clive Richards, Martine and Alan Trope





## ... A celebration of Ethiopian Jewish culture



Sharon Greenblatt, Batya Shmueli, Chaya Singer, Martine Kawalsky, Cassandra Mayekiso, Leora Hessen



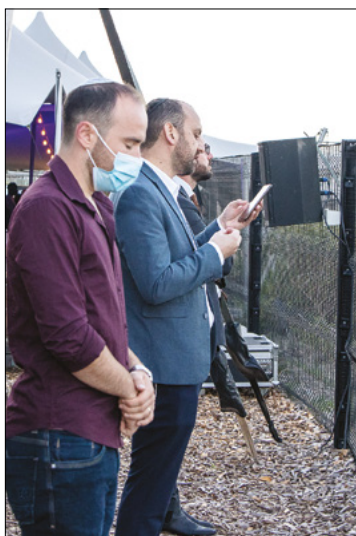
Andries Van Renssen, Geoff Cohen, Paula Cohen, Batya Shmueli, Hed Shmueli, Chaya Singer



Nikki Brivik, David Bacher, Kara-Lee Locketz, Hagai Golan, Harold Hessen, Andi Hendler, Leora Hessen, Cindy Bacher, Tanya Golan, Stuart Hendler



Tzvi Brivik, Nikki Brivik, Daniel Bloch, Jenna Bloch, Adrienne Jacobson, Ari Jacobson



Rabbi Cannon leading Mincha Ma'ariv



Jonathan Silke, Chaya Singer, Caroline and Rael Kaimowitz



Ben Levitas, Victor Boyd, Maxine Boyd, Barry Levitt, Shelley Trope-Friedman, Hila Zetler, Esta Levitas

Photos: #KretzmerKeysphoto Yolande Kretzmer Keys



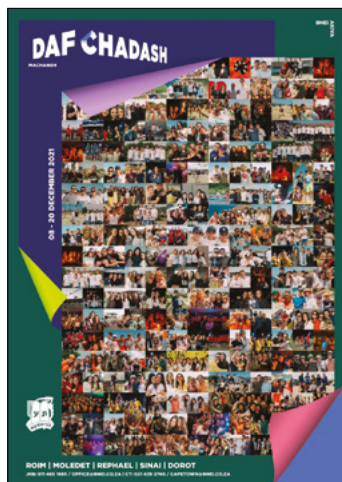


## Youth Movements roundup

### Bnei Akiva's year of connections

We have been providing our channichim with an activity per age group once every two weeks!

Activities like soccer, big Bnei Bakeoff, Movie Night and volunteering. After a whole year of providing our channichim with support, love and fun activities, we have reached the peak and are taking them on *Machaneh Daf Chadash*. This marks a new chapter for both our Channichim and Madrichim and we are so excited to take our connections and inspiration from camp to Bnei Akiva CT 2022! Bnei Akiva isn't just a camp, it's a youth movement that is there for its channichim throughout the year.



Sending much love and strength for 2022!

By Eytan Labe

### Netzer

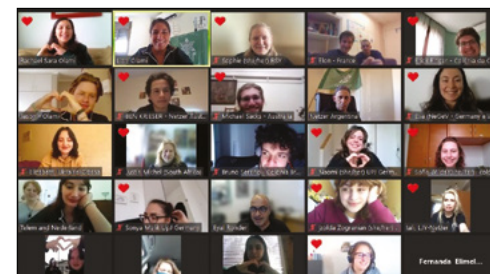
*Veidah Olamit* this year was held online, our first ever virtual *veidah*.

We kicked off the weekend seminar with a Global Kabbalat Shabbat Service as we visited every corner of the globe to hear our amazing Netzer song leaders welcome in Shabbat with all the very best Netzer tunes. (Watch at: [bit.ly/3FA351V](https://bit.ly/3FA351V) Passcode: 4.JVg=1a)

Over the course of the weekend we ran alternative services and peulot with the running theme of *Redefining Connection*.

The final element to our online *veidah* was of course our *Aseifah* where we voted in two new snifim (branches) to our global Netzer family tree! A very huge welcome to Netzer Barcelona and Netzer Argentina to our Global Progressive Jewish Youth Movement!

"It felt nice to be part of something greater, to work alongside people from all over the world



to make decisions that matter together." — Erick Finger, Brazil

"It was so beautiful to celebrate Shabbat and learn with friends from all around the world. We rarely get such opportunities!" — Hannah Taylor, US

"Kabbalat Shabbat at our online *Veidah* was an experience of an incredible union of young Jewish voices, singing songs new and old." — Eden Shapira, South Africa

By Rachael Bootcov

### Habonim

Looking back on when we first met, I cannot escape and I cannot forget. Habo you're the one, you still turn me on. Habo's coming home again.

After missing a Machaneh last December for the first time in our history, we finally received the news that we all were hoping for.

This month could not have started off any better, where in a late decision, the plan for Machaneh *Lachlom Mechadash* was given the go-ahead for this December.

This was followed with immediate excitement, as many Bogrim stepped up and came together to plan and create something special, that will go down in history.

The message was simple. Approach this situation as if it was to be a book one day. A book full of stories of how the madrichim of Habonim Dror Southern Africa pulled off the greatest Machaneh during the hardest of times. We have to write our own stories. Stories about how we stepped up, together as one and took the opportunity to create something special. In sporting terms we needed to show some BMT (big match temperament). Men against boys, and one day if it is to become a book, a fitting title for Chapter 1 would be 'Together As One'.

**A shoutout and appreciation to just a handful of the many others:**

Shtilim — Jesse Blou (Rosh) and Tali Levin (S'gan); Bonim — Aaron Kruss van der Heever (Rosh), Gabe Marcus (S'gan) and Cara Biederman (S'gan); Amelim — Daniel Flaum (Rosh) and Ava Cohen (S'gan); Sollelim — Jemma Bagg (Rosh), Rose Zelezniak (S'gan) and Jeffrey Gutman (S'gan); Sayarim — Jesse Lees (Rosh), Kayla Vardi (S'gan) and Benji Joss (S'gan); Shomrim — Mira Rudnick (Rosh), Kerrin Baker (S'gan) and Orion Avenir (S'gan); Meyersdim — Shayee Levin (Rosh); as well as our VP. We salute you.

A quick update on our Fantasy Premier League 'HDSA mini-league' has Brynn Goldblatt in top spot on 651 points, followed by Jeffrey Gutman on 621.

To sign up for Machaneh *Lachlom Mechadash*, go to: <https://www.habo.org.za/>  
By Brynn Goldblatt (Rosh Ken Cape Town)



### Diller welcomes cohort 7

Diller Teen Fellows Cape Town is proud to introduce the 20 fellows of Cohort 7.

This year we had a record number of applicants to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime experience, and we are very excited to welcome a full cohort of dynamic teens into the Diller family. We are looking forward to a year filled with learning, engagement and connection.

In alphabetical order: Adi Levin, Bella Sherman, Daniel Schewitz, Ella Videtzky, Gavin Sumeruk, Geena Joffe, Gia Musikanth, Jamie Jankelowitz, Jenna Zetler, Jonathan Querido, Julia Hasson,



Kiara Kawalsky, Layla Musikanth, Leah Marks, Leo Bachmann, Olivia Marcus, Shay-Lee Geva, Talia Garvin, Talya Leeman, Taya Allardice. Staff: Martine Kawalsky, Talia Scher, Silvie Richards, Jonah Schwartz.  
By Martine Kawalsky

### SAUJS 2021 Year round-up

As our year comes to a close, we look back with pride on another incredibly successful year as SAUJS WC.

This year we have done it all, from super fun and COVID-19 friendly 5-a-side soccer in giant bubbles, to sandwich making for Ladles of Love. Another one of this year's highlights was an incredible beach clean-up, in partnership with Tikkun HaYam. Let's not forget about the PlayStation 5 giveaway that kicked off our year!!

You definitely don't want to miss out on next year's orientation week

prizes so follow our social media to ensure that you don't miss out! It's not over yet though, and you can still look out for the much anticipated SAUJS end of year pizza make, and election. We would also like to extend our congratulations to Benjamin Atie, the newly elected SAUJS National Chairperson. We are looking forward to working with you!

Follow SAUJS on instagram @saujs\_westerncape for more exciting opportunities!

By Deena Katzen  
(SAUJS UCT Chairperson)



## MENSCH AND THE JEWISH LITERARY FESTIVAL (JLF) LAUNCH THE

### THOUGHT READERS

*Bookclub*

ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION, CURIOSITY, DEBATE & LEARNING



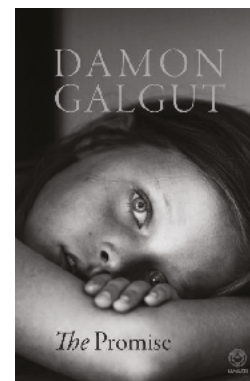
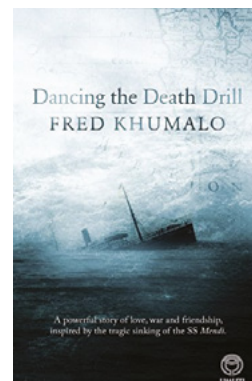
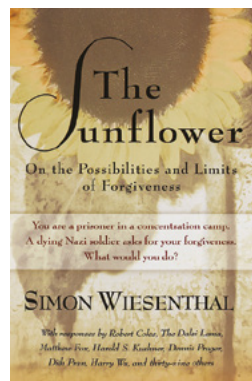
The ThoughtReaders Book Club aims to activate and deepen our understanding of South African and global social issues through reading and peer-led discussion. Thought-provoking text-based learning is inherently Jewish, and provides us with an engaging learning opportunity to start in the New Year.

This collaborative project aligns with Mensch's mission of conscientising, educating and empowering our community towards the positive transformation of South Africa; and the ethos of the JLF to promote constructive dialogue and discussion in the true spirit of Jewish life.

Clubs are run by a volunteer 'Club Host' who chooses a book and invites friends, family or the public to join a small group in reading the book over a month and meeting to discuss it. Mensch supports you in this process to get you started, suggest books, advertise your club and host.

Books can be fiction or non-fiction. Suggested topics and genres include South African or global social justice issues; Jewish texts linking our Jewish values to our role in society; South African History; Memoirs.

The Clubs launched this November with 3 groups who read *The Promise* by Damon Galgut, *The Sunflower* by Simon Wiesenthal and *Dancing the Death Drill* by Fred Khumalo. This is what participants said about taking part:



*"I found it so nice to get together with a diverse group of people, some of whom I did not know, and to discuss their thoughts on this book."*

*I was nervous at first, as being a host took me out of my comfort zone. I also chose a book to read which I normally would never have read if I had not been taking part in this initiative.*

**BOOKCLUB HOST MAXINE BOYD ON READING 'DANCING THE DEATH DRILL' BY FRED KHUMALO**

*"Being part of the TRC was an enriching experience. I enjoyed the lively discussion and the added dimension of interaction around the reading material. It was refreshing to learn and share ideas and responses in this way. Thank you Mensch and JLF for the opportunity to engage and grow!"*

**BOOKCLUB PARTICIPANT LISA MICHALSON ON READING 'THE SUNFLOWER' BY SIMON WIESENTHAL**

**TO JOIN OR HOST A CLUB IN 2022 EMAIL [JODI@MENSCH.ORG.ZA](mailto:jodi@mensch.org.za) FOR MORE INFO!**

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**UNITED HERZLIA SCHOOLS**  
בתי"ס המאוחדים הרצליה

## Herzlia Class of 2021 Matric Valedictory

"This valedictory is, as the name implies, both a leave-taking and a farewell.

This ceremony is also a prize-giving, a recognition of achievement, diligence, resilience and engagement — the culmination of many years of education and learning; and the learning curve has never been steeper for both this group of matriculants and for the staff looking after them. So this particular valedictory is also a victory — the signpost of achievement and conclusion.

The matrices of this year, perhaps more even than last year, have had the most disrupted of experiences with all the to-ing and fro-ing in and out of school and blended learning. While this is an opportunity to say farewell to our matrices, this wonderful celebration is also an opportunity to thank the school and all those people and departments and teachers who do not always get acknowledged with the gratitude they deserve.



*Marc Falconer*

"Today we acknowledge what has been the accumulation of 12 years worth of dedication, hard work and perseverance.

We're finally here, nearing the end of our journey. Despite the rollercoaster that our year has been through, I believe we have a shared bond unlike any other year.

We are the first year in the world to have gone through a full final school year during a global pandemic. Not many people can say this. While this pandemic itself presented its challenges, there is always a silver lining. As a year shared an unspoken bond that will forever remain in our memories. The challenges and obstacles we've had to go through have been enormous. Our shared experiences of lockdowns, online schooling, social distancing and living in a Covid world have been imprinted on us forever. The lessons learnt from this will ensure we remain agile, resilient, creative thinkers and capable of pushing through.

What remains important is recognising the immense privilege Herzlia matrices have been afforded during Covid. Herzlia, being the fine institution it is, allowed for us to receive an exceptional education during these turbulent times. However; it would be for nothing, if not to acknowledge what the rest of our country had to endure. While it's great for me to speak about the adversity that we've faced, and how we have overcome it, hundreds of thousands of young South Africans were not afforded the same luxuries. This does not mean we should feel guilty for the privilege, but strive for our country where all people are equal.

Leaving a lasting impression as a head student is something I've struggled with for the past year. After thinking and thinking I realised: it was never about me. It's always been about: us. A legacy isn't limited to an individual, but rather a collective."



*Ben Zar*



*Ronnie Gotkin*

Also this year, after a history with Herzlia of a quite staggering 55 years, we say goodbye to Mr Ronnie Gotkin who retires (almost) from full time teaching in the high school, as well as Hayley Rubin and several other members of staff. So amid all the excitement and recognition, as there always is at this event, there is the sadness of farewell."

*Marc Falconer, Senior Principal, Herzlia High School, 22 October 2021*

## Herzlia Premier Award Winners

- ACHVAH AWARD FOR MENSCHLICHKEIT: Shallya Samakosky and Rachel Wohlman
- DOROTHY WHITESMAN AWARD FOR SERVICE TO HERZLIA: Joseph Zelezniak
- PRINCIPAL'S AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT AND SERVICE TO HERZLIA: Rachel Wohlman
- UNION OF ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUES CAPE COUNCIL AWARD FOR CONTRIBUTION TO JLL: Julia Kaimowitz and Eron Norrie
- ROSSOUW VAN ZYL MEMORIAL AWARD IN RECOGNITION OF HAVING ATTAINED AN AVERAGE OF 90%+ IN PRELIMS: Chad Brouze, Tziyona Cohen, Gabriel Gottlieb, Joseph Zelezniak
- AWARD FOR THE TOP ACADEMIC PUPILS IN GRADE 12: Tziyona Cohen and Joseph Zelezniak



*Chad Brouze and Gabriel Gottlieb*



*Shallya Samakosky and Rachel Wohlman*



*Tziyona Cohen*



*Joseph Zelezniak,*



*Julia Kaimowitz and Eron Norrie*

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**UNITED HERZLIA SCHOOLS**  
בתי"ס המאוחדים הרצליה

## The Art of Herzlia

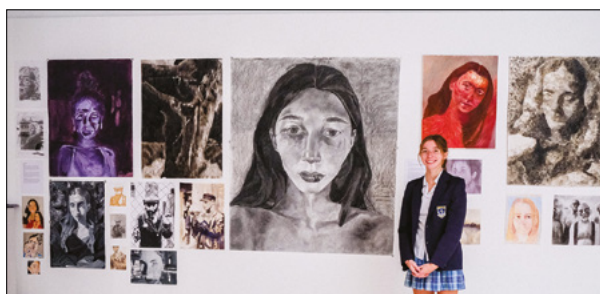
### The pinnacle of Herzlia pupils' art career is undoubtedly their Grade 12 Visual Art Final Exhibition.

This is traditionally a collaboration with the South African Jewish Museum (SAJM), providing pupils the opportunity to exhibit in a professional space and connect with the community.

Lauren Palte, Head of Visual Art at Herzlia High School explains that, "it's a remarkable opportunity for our pupils to engage in professional curatorial practises. Pupils are free to channel their practical work in their chosen directions and style depending on personal interests, or research areas. The exhibition is a culmination of years of engagement, work and investment in the subject and is always a testament to the pupils' individual growth."



*Gabriel Gottlieb*



*Noa Castro*



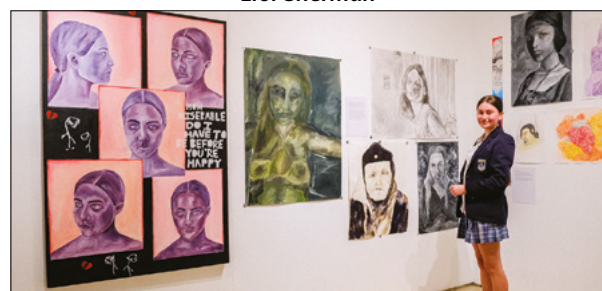
*Lior Sherman*



*Benjamin Zar*



*Joshua Sifren-Sher*



*Kyla Falk*



*Ariella Cohn*

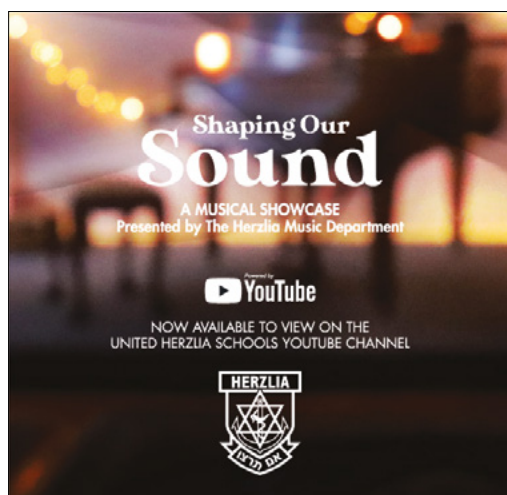


*Angelo Constantaras*



*Julia Peters*

## Shaping our sound



*Shaping Our Sound* is a pupil-crafted documentary almost entirely produced by a team of Herzlia High School Grade 11 pupils.

In place of the Herzlia annual concert, *Shaping Our Sound* embraces a different tone — reflective of the challenges faced over the last 18 months.

The project features live performances show-casing a diversity of musical talent, but also interlaces a narrative that explores both the development of the music department, as well as an exploration of what music has meant during this time of separation; and displaying what it means to grow as a musician and to shape one's own, unique sound.



*Jamie McNally, Benjamin Anstey and Gabriel Sieff produced the documentary.*



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# Cape Jewish Seniors Association

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

## Getting ready for life and living after COVID

As much as we know that our members are aching to attend functions at each of our CJSA Centres, I assure you that the social workers and auxiliary staff are as keen to be able to welcome everyone back, so that we can restore some sort of normalcy.

We recently hosted the JCC AGM which showcased how each of the seven welfare organisations have coped and risen to the challenge during the whole pandemic period; and how magnificently the less fortunate and vulnerable have been cared for. We can truly be proud, and I for one think that our Cape Town Community are really fantastic. For those who missed the AGM, you can log onto the CJSA Facebook page where this special event can be viewed. We are justly proud that social worker Monique Nieuwenhuys was presented with the Professional Service Award. Mazaltov and richly deserved to her.

The professional team have gotten together for the first time in nearly 20 months. It was so wonderful to see each other face-to-face, and we spent a productive couple of hours planning the programme for the opening periods. Obviously we are going to observe all COVID-19 protocols when opening and we will have strict guidelines as to who and how many may attend at any one time. Zoom participation has become the norm, and this will continue, so that those who are unable to attend in person will still be part of the community.

We will begin contacting all the wonderful volunteers who used to add life to years with their passion and expertise in many different fields. Hopefully they will be happy to continue supporting us and providing much-needed stimulating entertainment. There will be new additions to the programme and the much-loved outings will begin immediately.

We've been providing our Shabbat Meal Service since the beginning of lockdown. It has become apparent that many of our recipients are now getting out and about and therefore this project will be downsizing to those who really are house-bound and in need. As this has been a very long, hard year for our staff we are going to take a well-earned break at the end of December, so that when we re-open in January everyone will feel refreshed and raring to go.

We end the year on a positive note, in anticipation of 2022 being a wonderful year that offers every opportunity to renew friendships, and to see the world with a new appreciation.

### The Positive Side of Life

- Living on Earth is expensive but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.
- How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.
- Birthdays are good for you – the more you have, the longer you live.
- Happiness comes through doors you didn't know you'd left open.
- Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?
- Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.
- If Pick n Pay is lowering prices every day, how come nothing's free yet?
- You may not be the only person in the world – but you may also be the world to one person.
- Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
- Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.
- We could learn a lot from crayons – some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull and some have weird names and all are different colours...but they exist very nicely in the same box.
- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- Know that someone who thinks you're great has thought about you today.
- Never look down on anybody, unless you're helping them up.
- Time waits for no one. Treasure every moment you have. You will treasure it even more when you can share it with someone special.

Remember... Hold on tight to the ones you love!

Diana Sochen – Executive Director

Hashem won't ask what kind of car you drove.

*He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.*

Hashem won't ask the square footage of your house.

*He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.*

Hashem won't ask about the clothes you had in your closet.

*He'll ask how many people you helped to clothe.*

Hashem won't ask what your highest salary was.

*He'll ask if you compromised your character to obtain it.*

Hashem won't ask what your job title was.

*He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.*

Hashem won't ask how many friends you had.

*He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.*

Hashem won't ask in what neighbourhood you lived.

*He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.*

Hashem won't ask about your appearance.

*He'll ask about the content of your character.*

Hashem won't ask why it took you so long to seek forgiveness.

*He'll ask why you didn't forgive those who wronged you.*

## Social and Personal

**We congratulate our members who have celebrated joyous occasions during the last month.**

### Births

Rabbi and Rebbetsen Green — grandson  
Wilfred Mirkin — grandson  
Michele Pietersen — grandson  
Charlotte Schachat — grandson  
Ronnie and Rose Stein — granddaughter  
Rita Wagenheim — great-grandson

### Barmitzvah/ Batmitzvah

Harry and Debbie Epstein — grandson

Henny, Roy and Vonny Bernstein — grandson and great-grandson

### Engagement

Mervyn and Judy Bloom — granddaughter  
Golda Sher — Twin granddaughters

### Marriage and Wedding Anniversary

Harriet Baitz — granddaughter  
Barbara Sandler — grandson  
Marge Gurwitz to Jeremy Kavnat  
Dennis and Nesta Shorkend — 60th Anniversary

### Special Birthday wishes:

Jeny Dinsdale — 80th, Muriel Levin — 85th, Cyril Jacobson — 80th, Ben Surdut — 80th, Estelle Tait — 79th

### Our thoughts and condolences to family members of CJSA members who have recently passed away:

Eve Berman, Bernice Katz, Barney Len, Doreen Levin

### Our thoughts and wishes of Long Life to members who have recently lost loved ones:

Ruth Katzeff on the passing of her sister, Bernice Katz  
Shirley Waldman on the passing of her husband, Hymie







## Kensington Educare Centre thriving after its reboot

We are extremely proud of the fact that the Kensington Educare Centre, the UJW's flagship project that we have been intimately involved with for 79 years, reopened this year after having closed due to the financial difficulties experienced during the COVID pandemic.

We opened our doors in February with 50 children aged between three and five years of age.

Our competent and committed principal and staff create a wonderful environment of safety, learning, entertainment, nutrition and love. Our children celebrate all the holidays and special occasions with arts and crafts, music, games and the planting of vegetable gardens. We are currently preparing for our annual concert.



Excitement is growing for next year's 80th birthday celebrations and we look forward to celebrating it with you all.



*In the classroom*



*In the garden*



*Planting in the garden*



*Happy Easter*

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Natalie Jaffe F.S.A.N.S.

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nataliejaffe@citycoins.co.za www.citycoins.com

Ground Floor, Tulbagh Centre, Tulbagh Square, Hans Strijdom Avenue, Foreshore, Cape Town

SAAND







## Teamwork at the CTHGC

Our front desk volunteers are the face of the Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre. They are the first encounter that visitors have when entering our building. They welcome tourists and locals alike.

Lindsay Fintz has been a front desk volunteer at the CTHGC since 2004. She is at the front desk every single Wednesday afternoon come rain or shine. She greets visitors with her warm and beautiful smile, welcoming them and making them feel at once, that they are at home. Lindsay always interacts with visitors; chatting to them, answering their many questions and reminding them to write comments in our visitors' book. During this time of COVID, when the museum was open, Lindsay still came in for her Wednesday stint even though there were days when there were no visitors. Her dedication to the Centre is unparalleled and she is a vital cog in our hard working machine,



answering the phone when needed and being a participating member of the team. Hers is an attitude of absolute dedication and devotion. We could not manage without her. This tribute is to thank Lindsay for everything she does — and of course that we hope she will continue to do — with her grace, loyalty and unstinting enthusiasm.

## Hermanus Hebrew Congregation Shabbat dinner

One of the many thank you notes received after the wonderful Shabbat dinner of Friday 12 November, from a couple relatively new to the Hermanus area, said it all!

“Now we understand how the community is family. Celebrating Shabbat after all this time with such warm caring people was truly special... Herman and Shirley were being honoured and we wouldn't miss that for anything.”

We had arranged other functions during the previous 20-month period, but COVID cancelled them all! This time, at last, we were able to hold the traditional Hermanus Hebrew Congregation (HHC) committee dinner, held before the Sunday committee meeting, together with the Hermanus Jewish Community residents, including Alyson and Mike Kessel, and Ann Harris who recently returned to Hermanus.

Our shul has a tradition of honouring congregants who have delivered outstanding service to the congregation over many years. Past recipients include Joey Schneider z”l and Mike Kessel, each on special birthdays. This time it was our pleasure to honour the contributions of longstanding committee members Herman Livshitz and Shirley Epstein, a couple who have been



Herman Livshitz and Shirley Epstein



## Sheltered employment in demand

Noluthando Sheltered Employment recently opened in Khayelitsha.

The establishment of the facility was initiated by Wendy Ackerman, and supported by the Rotary Club of Newlands, Coca-Cola Peninsula Beverages and The Ackerman Family Educational Trust. Merle Furman, director of Astra, was approached as a consultant for her wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise in the field of disability.

Under her leadership spanning 46 years, the Jewish Sheltered Employment evolved into the Astra Centre we have today. The success of Astra continues to be a role model for both local and international organisations.



Merle Furman, John Winship and Wendy Ackerman holding one of the bags made by Astra for the beneficiaries of Nolutando.



John Winship of Rotary Newlands with Melanie Shapiro, Astra Centre Social Worker, and Merle Furman, Astra Centre Director

stalwarts of the Community. It was also a belated celebration of Herman's 90th and Shirley's 88th birthdays! As a special surprise Shirley's two daughters, Leslie and Debbie came through from Cape Town for the occasion. Shirley's astonished face as they walked into the room was something to behold.

Thirty-six people participated in this communal function, four people at each table spaced socially distant from the other tables. The food, brought in from Goldies in Cape Town, was individually plated and all COVID related protocols were observed. 'Vaccinated' was a requirement for participation. The tables were beautifully decorated and all detail for the event was planned to ensure an evening to remember.

A number of unprepared speeches

were delivered as president of the shul, Seymour Abrahams, gently twisted the arms of committee members to speak. Tributes to Shirley and Herman were made and also toasts to the distinctive, special nature of the Hermanus Jewish Community. It was a tremendous opportunity for people to emerge from their 'COVID hibernation' and to reconnect with each other.

Thank you to Jacqui and David Rade for coordinating the function arrangements.

We all look forward to the open brochas on Shabbat mornings that we aim to hold during December 2021/January 2022 and the dinner on 17 December, prior to the AGM on 19 December, to which all visitors to Hermanus who participate in shul services are invited.





## South African in Israel: embracing our Lone Soldiers

As we await the final Aliyah flight of 2021, despite the added complications synonymous with emigration during a pandemic, we have already welcomed the largest number of Olim since 1994.

Young singles (18–25-year olds) account for approximately 13% of our new arrivals. What makes this so remarkable is that the majority of these young men and women will be required to serve in the IDF to fulfil the mandatory army service expected of all young Israeli adults.

As matriculants complete their final exams and apply to universities in South Africa or abroad, each year, an enthusiastic group of young adults join approximately 100 South Africans who have chosen a less obvious path – one that will challenge them physically and emotionally. Their IDF service will allow them to expand their network, integrate into Israeli society, and give back to the State of Israel.

"We are in awe of the courage, determination and Zionist spirit that motivates our young Olim to uproot, resettle and serve without family nearby. Our team offers guidance to young Olim (before, during and after their service). In recent years, a wonderful virtual community of South African Lone Soldiers has flourished", said Daniela Shapira, Telfed's Klita Advisor.

Last month, Telfed invited over 150 South Africans and Australians to our annual Lone Soldier Brunch, hosted by Australia's Ambassador to Israel, Paul Griffiths. As in previous years, we had the pleasure of treating our soldiers to a fun and relaxing morning where they met up with old friends and received gifts from Telfed and the community. This year, we were able to distribute gift cards and backpacks to those who attended.

UCT graduate and Sales Director at Keter International, Steve Taylor, arranged for the donation of lunch boxes and water bottles for each soldier. Telfed's regional committees collected toiletries, and a delightful group of ladies from Raanana, Kfar Saba and surrounds spent a year in lockdown dedicated to the task of knitting over 150 blankets for our Lone Soldiers. The sense of community, of a common concern for the wellbeing of our soldiers, and a shared appreciation for their service to the State of Israel, ensured that each soldier left the brunch with a meaningful token of thanks.

Our soldiers have a supportive network behind the scenes, reflecting the sense of family that permeates our community.

If you know of Lone Soldiers who are not yet connected to our SA Lone Soldiers group, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Daniela: WhatsApp +972 58 660 8048.



South African and Australian Lone Soldiers attended Telfed's annual Lone Soldier Brunch hosted by Australian Ambassador to Israel, Paul Griffiths.



Ambassador Paul Griffiths and Telfed Chairman Robby Hilkowitz distributed gifts to South African and Australian Lone Soldiers at Telfed's annual Lone Soldier Brunch.



## The importance of play for primary school children

By Aimée Chiat, Founder/Director, Head Teacher

The importance of learning through play in Early Childhood Education has been highlighted for many years, but it seems that once children reach primary school level they are immediately expected to sit at desks and learn from books or other visual stimuli.

While technology has improved matters somewhat, allowing children to engage with the internet, Smartboards and iPads and the like, a key component of learning is still missing. Most children, and adults learn best through experience and experimenting. Open-ended playing, where children are given specific toys to play with but without instructions, affords huge learning opportunities far beyond the reach of a textbook or computer game.

At Salisbury House we incorporate large amounts of play in our learning. Skills such as spatial awareness, spatial perception and position in space are all needed in order for children to play together. Besides being an occupational therapist's dream, many academic skills are honed during play too.

The possibilities of learning through play are endless, but perhaps the most important skills that are practiced are social skills. Children learn to take turns, share, negotiate and compromise. Simple things like speaking respectfully to one another and not grabbing are also important to point out when the excitement gets too much.

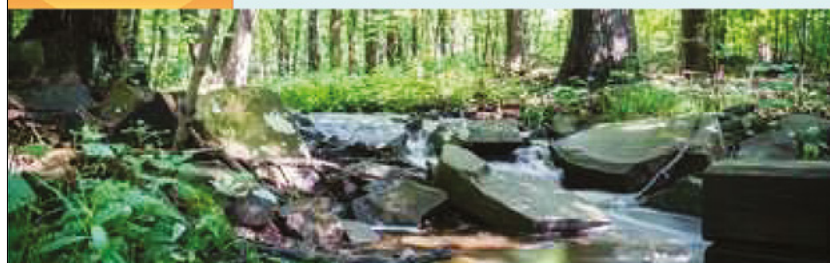


As Dr Peter Gray, psychology researcher and scholar put it, "Perhaps play would be more respected if we called it something like 'self-motivated practice of life skills', but that would remove the lightheartedness from it and thereby reduce its effectiveness. So we are stuck with the paradox. We must accept play's triviality in order to realise its profundity."



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## Family Announcements

### BEREAVEMENT

#### VIVIAN EPSTEIN

Vivian passed away peacefully on 10 September 2021.  
He was an honourable, kind and gentle man – a true mensch.

The void in our lives can never be filled.

Sorely missed by his wife Margot, daughters Tracey and Nicky,  
sons-in-law Wayne and Lionel, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

MHDSRIP

To place a family announcement email: [chron@ctjc.co.za](mailto:chron@ctjc.co.za)

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### Dr Natacha Berkowitz receives award for her work during the COVID-19 pandemic

**“W**hen the vaccine started rolling out, you kind of got to breathe a sigh of relief. I didn't realise how emotional I would be when I got my vaccine,” she says.

For Dr Berkowitz, the vaccine provided a potential end to the pandemic, to the loss of life, and its impact on communities' day-to-day lives.

“So much has been neglected because of this, and so now being offered the opportunity to head towards some sort of end was hugely invigorating. There was a massive amount of excitement amongst my colleagues, and so much energy. I cannot describe to you the energy that my ground staff has to vaccinate,” she says.

So far, 24 million doses have been administered across South Africa, with Dr Berkowitz's team contributing to the over two and a half million across the Cape Town metro.

While rates have slowed since the vaccine's arrival, she has seen this as an opportunity to bring vaccinations to those who have not got theirs yet.

“I wish we could get communication out there, get community leaders out

there, get teams on the ground, just to answer people's questions. That's all they really need,” she says.

On an individual level, she says those who are vaccinated can help by talking about the vaccine with those who are hesitant.

“If people have questions, reach out to reputable sources of information. Ask a doctor. Ask a nurse. Ask an epidemiologist. If you're unsure, try to find the answers from the right people,” she says.

She explains that tapping into extended networks will help greatly with the spread of correct information.

“We are within the small Jewish community within Cape Town. But we are also part of a larger community, and we all have networks within that. So if you reach out to one person a day with whom you come into contact, and just have a talk about the vaccine, I think that will add huge value,” she says.

*The Cape Jewish Chronicle congratulates Dr Berkowitz on her award and thanks her for her incredible work helping to keep Capetonians safe and healthy.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

PO Box 4176, Cape Town, 8000 or e-mail: [chron@ctjc.co.za](mailto:chron@ctjc.co.za)

### Country Communities

*The Country Communities' articles that appear regularly on our SAJBD Cape Council pages have aroused much interest from family of former residents of these towns. Below are two such letters responding to the article that appeared in the November 2021 issue, about the history of Durbanville's Jewish community. These letters, and all other correspondence received on the subject, have been forwarded to the Kaplan Centre at UCT where a Durbanville file has been opened.*

It would seem to a stranger reading your article about Durbanville, that the town was composed of the Scher, Borok and one or two other families 'full stop'. In truth the Sacks family also had a very 'large' Durbanville history.

My late grandfather, Mr Solomon Sacks arrived in Durbanville from Lithuania in 1922. He was followed by his wife, two sons (the elder being my late father, Solly Sacks,) his brother Harry and a sister, Sonia. They were a foundation family of the Durbanville Hebrew Congregation.

My grandfather started a small general dealer business in Wellington Rd, Durbanville, which was eventually taken over by my uncle Harry who ran it for many decades until he passed away.

Auntie Sonia married and lived in Durbanville for many years, while my father left Durbanville in his 20s after schooling there, and lived in upper Cape Town for years where he learned the meat trade. He eventually moved to Muizenberg with his new wife, Irene (my mother) where they both worked in the retail meat and grocery trades, spending the rest of their lives there and bringing up three children, my brother Harry (still in the meat trade), my sister Shirley, and me.

While living in Muizenberg, our lives were enriched by our weekly Sunday trips to Durbanville to be with our extended Durbanville family.

So, just a little thumbnail sketch for the history of my family's Durbanville roots.

*Dr Basil Sacks*

I have read your article and want to draw your attention to the errors:

Nathan Scher brought two brothers, and later in 1904 he sent for his widowed mother and her youngest son Abie, aged 10, who went to school in Durbanville.

The original families who were the core of community were Scher, Spiro, Borok, Swerling, Schus, Sacks and Emdin. Over the decades many others came to live there.

The *Ner Tamid* was made by my late Father Boris Surovsky in honour of my marriage to Nokkie Scher in 1953. The Menoroth were also made by him in memory of my mother Rebecca Surovsky. In 1961 my father donated them to the shul (not the Borok family).

Reverend Dorogow lived with Abie and Golda Scher's family for 18 years. The shul only bought the house in 1954 and he had already left for Goodwood.

The Torah that Abie Scher and his sons donated to the shul, in memory of Golda Scher, Judith Scher and Hannah (Hanke) Raichlin remained there until 1999. Neil Scher felt that it should come to Israel, as the bulk of the family were living there and the community had dwindled. He went to South Africa and arranged to bring it to Israel.

I thank you for all you have done and if there is anything you wish to know I will be happy to be of assistance. When you have done that I would like a copy so that I could send it to what was Beth Hatfutsot now called *Anu*.

With sincere thanks from Jerusalem

*Vicky*

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Consider This

## To be honest...

By Rabbi Greg Alexander



### I have noticed a new catchphrase everyone seems to be throwing into their speech.

It varies from "To be honest," or "If I'm honest," to "I have to be honest with you", and it makes me uneasy every time. I find myself wanting to stop the speaker and ask them why they only decided to be honest with me now, and what they were lying about previously that I would need to be concerned about.

At the same time, I am fully aware that honesty is complicated. After all, sometimes a bit too much honesty is actually not going to help. Take an example from the Talmud. Hillel and Shammai often took opposing positions on matters and so did their students. In one example they are arguing about how to dance before the bride on her wedding day. What do you say to her if she doesn't look fantastic? The students of Hillel answer that you chant, "she is gorgeous and attractive", but the students of Shammai point out that the Torah forbids lying. (B.Talmud Ketubot 17a) Who wins? As in most cases of their disagreements, the halachah goes according to Beit Hillel. We choose the white lie to make the bride feel great on her wedding day, which is in itself a mitzvah.

So what happened to honesty then? Well, in certain cases, honesty falls away in the face of the greater need for kindness. Take another example, this one from the Torah. When the

angel comes to tell Avraham that Sarah will give birth in her old age, she, overhearing the news, cracks up with laughter, saying to herself, "am I to have enjoyment with me so withered and my husband so old?" (Gen. 18:12). Sarah can't believe that she and her hubby are going to be able to have a child when they are a couple of wrinklies. But in the next verse, when G-d explains to Avraham that Sarah laughed, the explanation given is that she had laughed because, "shall I give birth to a child as old as I am?" (Gen 18:13) Just "I am", not "we are". G@d was not fully honest with Avraham by omitting Sarah's reference to him being old. When the famous commentator Rashi (11th Century France) explains this, he says that "the Torah altered her statement in the interests of peace." *Mip'nei darkhei shalom* — for the sake of peace in their relationship, G-d told a white lie, or at least held back a part of the truth. While honesty is crucial to building trust, it can also destroy trust if it is used without sensitivity.

Let me not give you the impression that honesty is unimportant in Judaism. As the Talmud teaches,

"The Holy One of Blessing hates a person who says one thing with their mouth and another in their heart" (B. Talmud Pesachim 113b). It is a mitzvah not to lie, another to have honest business dealings and there is even a mitzvah about misleading someone with words. *Geneivat da'at* literally means stealing the mind of another person by using inaccurate language or using words to deceive. Think of an estate agent or seller who hid the fact that there was serious damp or a damaged roof in a house for sale. Or a breakfast cereal claiming that it is healthy if it isn't. Not just misleading adverts or dishonest packaging, but faking your CV, cheating on your matric exams or lying to SARS about your tax returns or making fake insurance claims are all examples of *geneivat da'at*. Even going into a shop and asking the price of an item or trying it on if you know from the beginning that there is no chance you will buy it is given as an example of this mitzvah (Shulchan Aruch, Choshen Mishpat 228:4).

Being scrupulously honest is a formative principle in Judaism. Going back to Rashi, he explains

that the word for truth, Emet, is made up of the letters *aleph*, *mem* and *taf* because they are the first, middle and last letters of the alef-bet. Truth is therefore to be found everywhere and is the root of everything.

At the same time, while honesty is important, it cannot be at the expense of sensitivity. It is crucial because without it, human beings cannot live together in peace. But in some cases, in order to live in peace, we have to set aside the strictest honesty to protect a person's feelings. *Mipnei darchei shalom* — for the sake of the paths of peace. The American philosopher, Wayne W. Dyer said, "If you have the choice between being right and being kind, choose being kind".

So, the next time you start a sentence with "to be honest with you..." take a moment to check in with yourself. Words are not something we should use without intention. Have I been honest until now? Why not? Do I need to say what I am about to say? Will it hurt or injure unnecessarily? If we use our language more carefully, we can all walk along the paths of peace.

## In-person services are back!

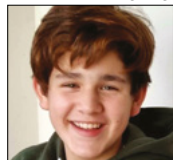
For the first time since lockdown Temple Israel held outdoor, hybrid Shabbat services.

It was wonderful to hear our members and service leaders singing together again at both our Green Point and Wynberg campuses. We will continue with these services so please contact Eric on [executive-director@templeisrael.co.za](mailto:executive-director@templeisrael.co.za) if you would like to join us.

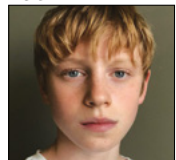
### Mazaltov to last month's Bnei Mitzvah



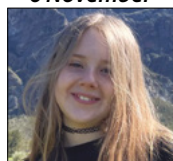
Kiki and Savana Epstein  
6 November



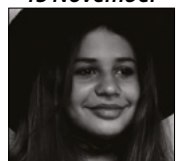
Justin Harris  
6 November



Joshua Maytham  
13 November



Rachel Ancer  
20 November



Sophie Algranti  
27 November



Rabbi Greg Alexander delivering his Dvar Torah at our first hybrid Shabbat service



The Rabbis, service leaders, Neshama band and congregants at our hybrid service in Wynberg



Congregants enjoying our outdoor Shabbat service in Green Point



Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani, Rabbi Emma Gottlieb and Scott Roberts leading our outdoor service in Wynberg

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-Talmud”

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SECURING JEWISH EDUCATION





## MENSCH THOUGHT-LEADER OF THE MONTH

### Read for Hope – a story of collaborative education



**Like many educators during the COVID-19 school lockdown, Pamela Kantor, a teacher from a Johannesburg public school was extremely concerned that many of her students' education was stalling, as they simply could not access online content.**

Passionate about education as a means to uplift communities, Pam needed to do something. In a moment of inspiration, she posted a simple request on social media. "All I'm asking is for you to read a children's book, record it on a WhatsApp message and send it to me. That way I'll be able to send it on to the principals. It will only take a few minutes and you will be helping the kids so much. It will bring such joy to them knowing people in different communities are thinking of them."

She received one story, and then another... and soon they were flooding in. The initial idea grew wings and became far more than a way to help her own students. Pamela was inundated with responses from South Africa and abroad. Fellow teachers, parents, students and even successful children's authors were all eager to take part.

#### This is her story

My name is Pamela Kantor. I am mother to three beautiful children and I'm a very passionate teacher. I believe that in this world, we need to be humble and kind at all times and try to make

a difference wherever we can. I truly believe no action of kindness is ever too small.

I am very blessed to work at a public school in Johannesburg that has more than 1000 learners. The learners in our school are mostly from the township of Alexandra and come from underprivileged backgrounds.

Lockdown has had such a disparate impact on education, depending on learners' backgrounds and access to online learning. Many students from disadvantaged homes did not have the resources to transition to online learning and were completely cut off from learning anything at this time. I felt compelled to do something to help my learners.

I came up with an idea and posted on Facebook. I simply asked for people to record themselves reading children's books which I could forward to the parents of the learners. In this way we would ensure the students knew they had not been forgotten. It would help to keep them engaged, learning and using their imaginations.

This quickly grew far beyond my own class, with schools and communities around South Africa asking if they could receive stories too. Heart-warming responses from students have validated the need for such a programme.

*Read For Hope* has become a valuable education initiative that I am hoping continues to grow, with extended initiatives and reach. I am so excited to

see the heights that collaborative education can reach, not just on our unique local stage but on the international stage as well.

I will continue to strive to make a difference in the lives of learners who currently do not have access to online learning. As a South African, the idea of an inclusive society and culture is one that I hold dear. My hope is that this small initiative illustrates and inspires others to this South African ethos.

If you have time, please WhatsApp a story, and tell us a bit about yourself as a family, a school class or a student; and what reading these stories has meant to you. As a community initiative I would love to build relationships between all the people involved. You can read more about *Read for Hope* at: [www.facebook.com/ReadforhopeSA](http://www.facebook.com/ReadforhopeSA).

I have also started a new initiative, asking people to donate gently-worn second-hand bras. I have noticed that Covid has put more pressure on parents, where putting food on the table is a greater need than buying what is, for some, a luxury item. Covid has taken so much from less fortunate communities. I would like to support girl-children, offering some dignity as they develop and mature into young women.

Contact [readforhopesa@gmail.com](mailto:readforhopesa@gmail.com) if you can help with either initiative.

*Pamela Kantor is the founder and creator of Read for Hope and a Mensch Network Member of Jewish Social Change NGO, Mensch. [www.mensch.org.za](http://www.mensch.org.za)*

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

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

Jews of Sephardi heritage need no proof at all!

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



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

**Ashkenazi:** This ad refers to Jews of Polish & Lithuanian heritage only.

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

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



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

Horesh is recognised in Israel as one of the leading lawyers in the field of reinstatement of European citizenship.

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

**Sephardi:** This ad refers to all Jews of Sephardi heritage – Jews who arrived from North Africa, the Middle East, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, as well as many descendants of Jews who arrived from Holland and the UK.

Most descendants of Sephardi Jews (who were exiled 500 years ago) are eligible to reinstate Portuguese citizenship and, accordingly, an EU passport. If applicable, Adv. Horesh will apply for (on behalf of the applicant) an official certificate confirming such eligibility, on the basis of which, an application for Portuguese citizenship is most likely to be approved.

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

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

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

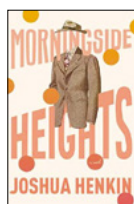
My next visit to South Africa is planned for the end of January/beginning of February 2022  
Whatsapp me on +48 783 953 223 • Email [Avi Horesh \[adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com\]\(mailto:Avi.Horesh@gmail.com\)](mailto:Avi.Horesh@gmail.com)



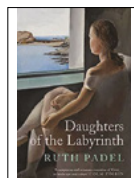


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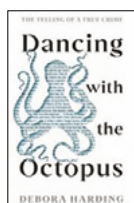
**MORNINGSIDE HEIGHTS** by JOSHUA HENKIN. A sweeping novel centred around Spence Robin, esteemed professor of English literature. His second wife Pru realises that something is wrong with him – Alzheimer's. When an estranged son comes back into their lives, he provides hope. Running throughout is a golden thread of Yiddishkeit, showing how families may fracture but the gravitational pull of love holds them together.



**DAUGHTERS OF THE LABYRINTH** by RUTH PADEL. Ri, a celebrated artist living in London returns to her home in Crete. As she unearths the stories of her family's past, Ri's identity is transformed. Skilfully interwoven is the tragic story of Crete's Jews. Padel brings a painter's eye to her sumptuous descriptions of the Greek island, past and present.



**HOW TO BE A REFUGEE** by SIMON MAY. Three Berlin-born sisters under Nazi rule deny that they are Jewish. Ursel secures Aryan status and becomes part of the German aristocracy. Simon's mother, Marianne, and sister Ilse convert to Catholicism. Even after Hitler's defeat they hide their Jewish roots. In the face of his forbidden inheritance, Simon uncovers the lives of his family. A Holocaust memoir about those who stayed and survived.



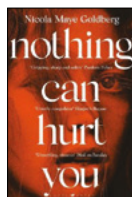
**DANCING WITH THE OCTOPUS** by DEBORA HARDING. Aged 14, Deborah was abducted, raped and left to die. She survived and returned to her life in a dysfunctional, abusive family home. Decades later, when married to British writer Thomas Harding, she reconsiders her complex story, shifting between the past and present with a narrative of reckoning and recovery. A brave, thoughtful and inspiring memoir.



**EVA AND EVE** by JULIE METZ. A memoir about Julie Metz's mother, who lived in New York and rarely spoke of her childhood in Nazi-occupied Austria (or the pain and sacrifices of being a refugee). When Eve passed away Julie found an autograph book filled with farewell notes to 10-year-old Eva. This memoir takes place in several time frames: Eve's past, the author's present and the years when Eva, now Eve, was mother to Julie.



**PEOPLE LOVE DEAD JEWS** by DARA HORN. Prize-winning novelist Dara Horn's essays include the mythology that Jewish family names were changed at Ellis Island, the marketing of the Jewish history of Harbin, China, the little known history of the righteous gentile Varian Fry and international veneration of Anne Frank. Horn examines how we laud Jews of the past, while erasing and misinterpreting living Jews. Written with humour and riveting prose.



**NOTHING CAN HURT YOU** by NICOLA GOLDBERG. A psychological thriller based on the murder of student Sara Morgan by her boyfriend Blake Campbell. His plea of temporary insanity raises more questions than it answers. In the wake of his acquittal, the case haunts many, like the woman who discovered the body and the junior reporter who senses a connection to a local convicted serial killer.



**THIS IS BIG** by MARISA MELTZER. Marisa, contributor to the *New Yorker* and *New York Times*, weaves together her own story with that of Jean Nidetch, the founder of Weight Watchers. Each faced enduring frustrations in their decades-long struggle to lose weight and maintain it. An honest, unforgettable and funny memoir for anyone struggling with body image issues.

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# EXHIBITION

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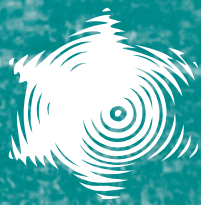
From the Cricket Field to the Boardroom

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## USING MY NUDEL

## What happens now? Negotiating South Africa's way forward

by Craig Nudelman

## It seems as though the South African soap opera just gets better with age.

The results of our 2021 Local Government Elections proved to be a mixed bag for the political parties involved. The ANC continued its decline in big metros, losing eThekweni (Durban), and not gaining any points in Nelson Mandela Bay, Johannesburg, or Tshwane. However, the DA didn't do much better. With hung municipalities throughout the Western Cape, the blue wave was hampered by smaller independent parties. It seems as though the biggest winners were Herman Mashaba's ActionSA and Gayton McKenzie's Patriotic Alliance. But now that the elections are over and we've identified the 'winners', who will actually be able to run our municipalities?

We've now entered the realm of coalition politics. Although we've seen it in many South African metros in the past (Cape Town in 2006, Tshwane, Jo'burg, and Nelson Mandela Bay in 2016), hung municipalities just weren't that prominent before this election.

We aren't used to it in South Africa, and it's easy to see. All three metros that entered a coalition in 2016 have just not worked out. One must remember that the biggest winner in an election is supposed to be the people! That certainly has not been the case. But now that there are 66 hung councils, with an election in 2024 that might yield similar results, how will our political parties negotiate through these muddy waters? Let's look at two categories of negotiation types that we can use in everyday life and see which one will be most beneficial to us.

The first category is distributive negotiation. This

is also known as zero-sum or win-lose negotiation and sees one party succeeding only if the other loses. This normally involves a single issue. In this scenario, we can have a kingmaker making a bargain with a party which may or may not share its best interest but can give it what it wants. If party A can't give party C what they want, they can just go to party B for the best deal in town. Party C will often take a hard stance on their principles and will emphasise that they are non-negotiable. To leverage power, you have to appear forceful, confident, and persistent.

The second category is integrative negotiation, which is sometimes called a win-win negotiation.

**But now that the elections are over and we've identified the 'winners', who will actually be able to run our municipalities?**

This collaborative negotiation process is where parties will try to reach a solution which is mutually beneficial. This process can involve multiple issues. Here the parties will collaborate to determine how they can best succeed at governing cooperatively. By openly putting needs and interests on the table, as well as principles, the parties can use bargaining to problem-solve collaboratively.

Unisa's Professor Dirk Kotzé, writing for IOL, says that negotiations in political situations often have both distributive and integrative processes involved. Once the political parties have jostled for power, they need to then adopt a more principled approach. He states that this can be "more effective in reaching agreements".

Another interesting process in 2021 is that parties are far more transparent as to how the negotiations will be handled. The four main parties vying for Gauteng's hung metros all have announced who their negotiation teams are. Paul Mashatile (ANC), Helen Zille (DA), Floyd Shivambu (EFF) and John Moody (ActionSA) all have a mighty task at hand. They have to form a government 14 days after the election results have been declared. This is a big ask in what will be a very interesting scenario. At the time of writing, the winners have not been declared. If there is still a stalemate after that period of time, by-elections will have to take place within 90 days. Will voters punish their leaders for not resolving to lead their municipality within the designated time period?

Indeed.com, a career guide, has a really interesting section on negotiations, and speaks about a multiparty negotiation. One of the challenges that a multiparty negotiation has, is that there are fluctuating BATNAs, or 'best alternative to a negotiated agreement', a strategy that has been used effectively in mediating and creating alternative solutions to multiple issues. The DA and ActionSA have made it clear that they will not collaborate with the ANC or EFF. However, there are differences within their, and other smaller, political parties which have specific agendas.

As time wears on, each party can change their BATNA within the negotiation, which can make it even more difficult to agree. They can check to see what their BATNAs are at each stage in the negotiation to understand what the results would be in the proposed agreement.

It will be difficult for leaders from across a vast ideological spectrum to put their differences aside and ensure that what they give or get is for the betterment of their municipality. We can apply these negotiation tools for our own lives — whether it is in a personal or formal relationship — to create more understanding as to how to negotiate with the different people in our lives. When I tell my daughters Jessie and Livi to bath and they disagree with my instruction, perhaps I need to realise that my sanity is sometimes more important in the long run than one day of them being slightly unhygienic.

2021 has been a year to remember, for good or for worse. The continuation of Covid, loadshedding, an ever-weakening Rand and an ever-increasing petrol price has made it a struggle of a year. But hopefully there is light around the corner. Vaccinations are going up; we haven't had a fourth wave (yet); and we may see really interesting and positive political change in 2022.

I hope that you have a safe and healthy December break and are ready to get back to the nitty gritty South Africa we all love.

*Craig is a writer, Jewish professional, and tour guide extraordinaire. His deep bass voice has graced stages, synagogues and studios. He is an obedient husband, father to two spectacular daughters, and is known for dad jokes and trivia.*



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JCS Tikvah Foodbank provides food security to the indigent and vulnerable members of the Cape Town Jewish Community.



**WHAT DO WE SUPPLY AND HOW OFTEN?**  
Basic KOSHER food supplies are provided. This does not include any meat or fresh dairy products.

**1** **NON-PERISHABLE**  
food hamper per month, including tinned foods, crackers, cereals, sugar, beverages, pasta, sauces, spreads, rice, biscuits, toiletries and household cleaning materials.

**+2** **PERISHABLES**  
food hampers per month, including vegetables, fruit, eggs, bread and challah (on Fridays).

**=3** **NO OF DISTRIBUTIONS**  
food hampers are delivered to each of our recipients every month.

A green diamond-shaped logo with the text "BUOS SA D" inside.A green line-art icon of a shopping basket filled with various food items like bottles and boxes.

**HOW HAS THE NEED INCREASED?**

2019	2020	2021
239 People	439 People	540 People
274 Hampers	644 Hampers	777 Hampers

**MEALS ON WHEELS**  
Ready made Kosher cooked meals delivered weekly  
**187** Recipients  
**5465** Meals per month

A green line-art icon of a shopping basket filled with various food items like bottles and boxes.

**785+**  
Monthly food parcels, vouchers and Meals on Wheels distributed by Jewish Community Services at an average total cost of R300 000/month.



## A VIEW FROM THE BAR

## Artificial Intelligence and the law

By Anton Katz SC

**A question used to be asked, 'can a robot beat a human in chess?' But today chess computers are practically unbeatable.**

It is unlikely that even the best human chess players would beat a computer. This is because a computer can analyse millions of possibilities and compare them against each other within micro-seconds. The first winning chess computer started claiming victories in 1956. *Deep Blue*, a chess-playing super-computer played and beat Gary Kasparov, the reigning world champion in 1996. So in forty short years non-humans play the best chess, a game started more than a thousand years ago.

Nobel prize-winning British writer Kazuo Ishiguro recently wrote about the lovely and so-special Klara, in his latest book, *Klara and the Sun*. Klara is an Artificial Friend (AF) who is selected from a shop window and bought by Josie, a sickly 14-year-old child some time in the future. Klara's role in life is to ensure that while Josie is alive, she is looked after socially and academically. Although Klara is exceptionally intelligent and observant, her knowledge of the world and of emotions is somewhat limited. But how limited? Does she have emotions at all? And how do these emotions manifest?

These questions dominate as we learn to love a robot, Klara. As Klara concludes, "I believe I have many feelings ... The more I observe, the more feelings become available to me." As I read the novel, I came to love Klara — or at least what she stood for — more and more.

There are established robot applications which we now take for granted. ATMs, *Siri*, the talking machine, and automated driving are simple examples which already exist, and are being developed.

So, what is artificial intelligence? It is intelligence demonstrated by machines, rather than animals and humans. And there are robust and tough debates concerning whether a machine which can think can also feel. Because if a machine can feel, then it could also suffer; and accordingly, be entitled to certain rights. Most commentators and critics suggest that debates of this kind are premature, and the development of the law as to the potential rights and obligations of robots should be slow and gradual.

While it may be strange to even think

**Our new reality has developed so quickly. We must be vigilant to protect against what today may be unimaginable, but tomorrow is commonplace.**

of a robot as having legal rights and obligations, it was probably strange and alien for many of those living at the time to think of slaves, women and black persons under apartheid as having rights and obligations. Indeed, under Nazi Germany many humans, and particularly Jews, were stripped of all legal rights. And I remember growing up accepting that marriage was only for different and opposite-sex persons; but today many countries have enacted laws specifically recognising same-sex marriage.

However, there are perhaps at least two key features of artificial intelligence which are of immediate concern. First, artificial intelligence provides many tools which are particularly useful for authoritarian governments. Smart spyware, face recognition and voice recognition allow

widespread surveillance; such surveillance allows machines to classify purported enemies of the State, and can prevent them from hiding; systems can precisely target propaganda and misinformation for maximum effect; deepfakes aid in producing misinformation. And this is apart from targeting, murderous drones. Also, advanced AI can make centralised decision-making more competitive with liberal and decentralised systems such as markets. And terrorists, criminals and rogue states may use other forms of weaponised AI such as advanced digital warfare and lethal autonomous weapons. By 2015, over fifty countries were reported to be researching battlefield robots. The law certainly needs to protect individuals and communities from abuse by governments and large corporations through artificial intelligence. This protection is required as soon as possible.

Secondly, super-intelligent AI may be able to improve itself to the point that humans could not control it. This could, as the late physicist Stephen Hawking put it, "spell the end of the human race." Philosopher Nick Bostrom argues that sufficiently intelligent AI, if it chooses actions based on achieving some goal, will exhibit convergent behavior such as acquiring resources or protecting itself from being shut down. He concludes that AI poses a risk to mankind, however humble or 'friendly' its stated goals might be.

**"I believe I have many feelings ... The more I observe, the more feelings become available to me."**

Political scientist Charles T. Rubin argues that, "any sufficiently advanced benevolence may be indistinguishable from malevolence." Humans should not assume machines or robots would treat us favourably because there is no a priori reason to believe that they would share our system of morality. Bill Gates, history professor Yuval Noah Harari, and SpaceX founder Elon Musk have all expressed serious misgivings about the future of AI. Musk says the dangers of AI are the greatest threat to humanity. Prominent tech titans including Peter Thiel (PayPal) and Musk have committed more than \$1 billion to nonprofit companies that champion responsible AI development, such as OpenAI and the Future of Life Institute. Mark Zuckerberg

(CEO Facebook) has said that artificial intelligence is helpful in its current form and will continue to assist humans. Other experts argue is that the risks are far enough in the future to not be worth researching, and that 'malevolent' AI is still centuries away.



**By 2015, over fifty countries were reported to be researching battlefield robots.**

Can you imagine robots controlling humans? I can't. But then just a few years ago I couldn't possibly envisage simultaneously facetime my cousins all over the world on my mobile phone. Or attending funerals, prayers, bar and bat mitzvahs and other events via Zoom. I would not have believed it if it had been suggested that I would be arguing court cases through virtual platforms rather than in person in a physical court.

Our new reality has developed so quickly. We must be vigilant to protect against what today may be unimaginable, but tomorrow is commonplace. Indeed, there are growing initiatives to analyse and consider responsible and trustworthy AI. The Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) was launched in June 2020 by the governments of Canada and France to share values and bridge the gap between theory and practice on AI. Data governance is one of GPAI's key pillars. It intends to provide expertise on data governance, so as to promote data for AI being collected, used, shared, archived and deleted in ways that are consistent with human rights, inclusion, diversity, innovation, economic growth, and societal benefit. The law on data governance is just one example of how the law must develop taking into account the possible and far-reaching developments in artificial intelligence. One wonders what Deep Blue and Klara would say about the legal regime.

*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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## SPORT

## From barmitzvah boy to boxing pro



**Five years ago, 12-year-old Joshua Feldman walked into his first training session at Blood Sweat and Tears (BS&T) boxing gym in Sea Point.**

At that time, nobody could have predicted that by 17 he would be representing his country at the upcoming African Union Sport Council (AUSC) Region 5 Games.

"I had previously been a very keen soccer player, but I had bad growing pains in my knees, so running was a challenge. My dad suggested I try boxing as a substitute," says Feldman. He quickly realised that he had what it takes to be a fighter. "I began watching an excessive amount of boxing and noticed it was constantly on my mind. That's when I knew it was more than just a hobby for me."

This realisation meant that Joshua had to put everything he had into the sport. "I'm always in the gym training. But when I have a fight coming up, the intensity and volume of training goes up a notch. In preparation for my upcoming fight next month, I'm running three to four times a week and boxing at least five or six days a week."

That said, Feldman maintains that all the training in the world means nothing without a good coach. "Having a committed coach is an essential part of competing in an extreme sport like boxing. There is only so much you can teach yourself

before you get badly hurt, so having someone who is experienced and can guide you is a huge advantage."

"My coach, Felix Venganayi, has taught me the importance of being consistent and dedicated. I've realised that without those two traits you cannot reach the next level."

This unwavering dedication has proven vital in getting Joshua to where he is today, especially at times when his ability has been underestimated based on his background. "I think people sometimes underestimate the hunger and aggression I have in the ring, due to the privileged circumstances I have grown up in. It doesn't bother me though because I know I have the fighter mentality in my blood."

When asked what advice he has for other up-and-coming boxers in the community, Feldman says, "Follow your heart and don't allow external influences to dictate the decisions you make with regards to boxing, as a lot of people may think they know what is right for you. I would also advise you to take everything you learn in the ring to heart, as those teachings can be applied to all aspects of life."

Joshua will be competing in the upcoming AUSC Region 5 Youth Games in Maseru, Lesotho, in December 2021. BS&T Boxing Gym, based in Sea Point, is run by professional boxers, and accepts adults and children from six years.



**U16 and U18 netball training squad, practicing at Herzlia with Coach Micaela Sling and manager Carla Kassel**



## Maccabi WP on track despite COVID

By Saul Jackson, Maccabi WP Sports Director

**It has been an exciting yet challenging 2021 for Maccabi Western Province.**

Our planning and schedules have been delayed due to the impact of COVID-19 — however, through the hard work and commitment of all our coaches, managers, convenors and players we have achieved a great deal.

We have hosted numerous junior golf tournaments where the turnout has been terrific. We have run trials across a range of sports, trained on a weekly basis with some of our main team sports such as futsal and netball, as well as organised three-day training camps where our players from across the country gathered together to prepare for the Games.

We still have a few selections to finalise but we are well on track to establishing one of Maccabi SA's largest contingents ever. With the Maccabiah Games in July 2022, we have seven months to ensure that our players and teams are as prepared as possible to bring home medals for South Africa.

We would like to thank everyone who has played a part in our journey to date, and we hope the Maccabi experience has been one of great value and enjoyment. Looking forward to what 2022 will bring!



**Saul Jackson with Devon Sostak, one of our winners this year at Maccabi WP 9 hole golf tournament at King David Mowbray.**



**Swimming coach Ayrton Sweeney chatting to some of the junior swimmers at their first time trial in Somerset West**



**Coaches Matthew Jacobson and Ross Stone putting the water polo training squad through their paces at final trials.**



**U18 Futsal Squad at their first training camp. Includes players from Cape Town, Joburg and Durban, with coach Reon Siyaya and manager Jade Spiro.**



## ISRAEL: A JOURNEY MAKING MEANING

## דברים שראוים מכאן לא רואים משם

The things that we see from here, we do not see from over there;  
or... distance lends enchantment to the view

Julian Resnick writes from Israel



## So, which of the above is it?

Let's, just for a moment consider the provenance of the two phrases. We all use hundreds of phrases every day without thinking for a moment where they come from. Such is the shape of any language. Our language use is enriched by reading (somewhat), by good conversation with others (to an extent) and just by use from a young age as we pick up vocabulary and phrases without even being aware of the process.

The first phrase appears in the original Hebrew first, as it is from the lyrics of a popular Hebrew song written by Yankele Rothblit and made famous in Israel by Matti Caspi and Yehudit Rawitz. A bit of context — the lines which precede it in the first verse of the song are (translated as you have dealt with enough Hebrew today), "You took my hand in yours and you said to me 'let's go into the garden'. You took my hand in yours and said, 'Things that we see from here we don't see from over there'".

The second phrase was written by one of the great masters of the unusual and pithy phrases of the English language, Mark Twain. Its context? Well, truth be told, he plagiarized it from the Scottish poet Thomas Campbell from the late 18th and early 19th centuries, who wrote, "Tis distance lends enchantment to the view  
And robes the mountain in its azure hue."

"Tangent!" you shout. True. But I love to explore the words which I/we, use. It enriches the language we use and enables me/us to become warriors in the ongoing battle for literacy.

I thought of these two phrases just a few weeks ago as I was travelling through Morocco. I have been to Morocco many times — this was my sixth trip — but this one was different. All my previous trips had been with groups, and my role had been to help interpret what they were seeing; to tell the stories of the Moroccan Jewish experience; to help make sense of this gloriously beautiful place, this under-developed place, this place where beauty and poverty go hand in hand, where democracy is only superficial; and everywhere, just below the surface, is the handwork of those whose role it is to maintain the supremacy of the monarchy.

This time it was just the two of us; my wife Orly and I. We were not with a driver or a guide. Morocco was not

being interpreted for us. We were on a road trip in a smallish car with our wonderful digital friend, WAZE.

Follow us for a moment: Casablanca, Moulay Bousselham, Tangier, Tetouan, Chefchaouen, Fes, Sefrou, Bhalil, Rabat, Sale, Oualidia, Safi, Essaouira, Marrakech. Wonderful, romantic, delicious, heady, challenging, overwhelming experiences. In many ways further from our reality than any of the other countries I have traveled in over the years (possibly further even than India or Sri Lanka). And yet, we are connected. Or are we?

**Is it enchantment we  
are looking for when  
we travel or is it to  
occasionally get a glimpse  
of the truth?**

In Tangier we cannot go to the Synagogue or the Jewish cemetery as it is Shabbat; so we go to St. Andrews church instead! Why? To see what a minority religious space looks like in Tangier.

In Tetouan we visit the modern Synagogue and it is underwhelming (except for the rather bizarre visual of large rolled up carpets along the walls of the synagogue like a metaphor for Jews long gone, leaving only their carpets behind).

In Chefchaouen we find a street next to the Kasbah called El Mellah (the Mellah is the name for all the ancient Jewish quarters) and it is deserted and filthy.

In Fes we visit the extraordinary Jewish cemetery with its powerful stories and the Ibn Danan Synagogue where we bump into a Jewish couple from New York with a son in Israel. Within two minutes we establish both what we share as Jews and where we differ on Identity and Political questions. You know how it goes: what sort of kipah was he wearing; where does his son live in Israel; from Brooklyn or the Upper West Side. The essential Jewish experience; both binding and immediately finding out what separates us; both 'Shalom Aleichem' and 'No, we do it differently'. We're a weird bunch. And then we find the building that tradition has as the home of Maimonides when he lived here for about three years in the 1160s, before the persecution of Moroccan Jews began when a new regime came to

power (nu, what's new?) and he had to flee to Cairo. Today it houses a Chinese Restaurant called, you've got it, *Maimonides*. (Just imagine the jingle, 'Come to Maimonides for the best Chow Mein in Fes'). Perplexed? I might have a guide for you (and I really hope you got this joke!!).

In Sefrou we go to both the Jewish cemetery and the synagogue, and in both we come across something we know to be true in almost every synagogue and Jewish cemetery — the live-in Muslims who look after the place and earn a decent living with both a salary from the descendants of the Jews who once lived there and from us, Jews passing by who want to thank them, even when our grandparents came from Kuperchik (my Zeide), Vilna or Ponevezh. When I was in Kuperchik I could not give anything to the local equivalent as their parents had either helped burn down the shul or just sat and watched in January 1941 as the Germans and their henchmen began to murder us. And there was no cemetery with ancient tombstones either.

In Essaouira we visit Bayt Dakira, and an ironic smile creeps across my face as I witness on the walls the local Jews (once again, few left behind) trying to persuade anyone who enters this rather special little museum of just how loyal the Jews of Essaouira were to 'King and Country', literally King Mohammed V, Hassan II and Mohammed VI; what a great contribution they made to commerce and culture

In Marrakech it's once again Synagogue and Cemetery (where we meet Chassidim from Brooklyn; Chassidim!!). By the way, in each and every place the experiences are different, and each has a special and different moment to it; but here we also experience something else unexpected. We hear, for the first time, an anti-Zionist diatribe. Up until this point everyone we encountered were lovely to us when we told them we were Jews from Israel; welcomed us and told us how delighted they were with the newly upgraded diplomatic relations (I always tell people when I travel that I am an Israeli Jew, even though I know I could get by as a South African Plattelander). He is not a Moroccan. He is a 91-year-old Dutch expatriate who has lived in Morocco since the 1960s, doing anthropological research on the camel routes between Marrakech and, yes you guessed it (or perhaps you did not), Timbuctoo. For the poetry lovers among you, yes,

the two of you, I include the lines from Alfred Lord Tennyson here (the rest of you, please indulge us for a moment),

*"Then I raised  
My voice and cried, "Wide Afric, doth  
thy sun*

*Lighten, thy hills enfold a city as fair  
As those which starred the night o'  
the elder world?*

*Or is the rumor of thy Timbuctoo  
A dream as frail as those of ancient  
time?"*

As always, I digress. I just wanted to find out whether you too had heard of Timbuctoo as a child and thought, like I did, that it was an imaginary place. When he heard we were from Israel he launched into a rant against the agents of the newly-born Israel, who "stole the young Moroccan Jews with their Messianic visions of a Jewish State". I did, by the way ask him if he remembered the Jews of Arnhem (his home town) being taken away by the Germans. He remembered watching. It suddenly came to me that he was born in the same year as Anne Frank. Strange what we carry around with us, even in Marrakech in a museum dedicated to the camel routes between Marrakech and Timbuctoo.

So which is the better way to travel in Morocco? With the distance afforded by a large group or from up-close? Is it enchantment we are looking for when we travel or is it to occasionally get a glimpse of the truth? What is a glimpse worth?

What is our viewpoint as travelers? Are we looking from where we are standing at any given moment; or is what we see filtered through that which accompanies us wherever we are? Our personal and national histories? Our big commitments? Our struggles to make sense of the world we live in? Our ongoing search for meaning?

Where is here and where is there? What does enchantment look like?

*Julian Resnick was born in Somerset West and grew up in Habonim Dror. He studied 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 USA. He works as a guide in Israel and around the world (wherever there is a Jewish story). He's married to Orly, and they have three children and six grandchildren and is a member of Kibbutz Tzora*



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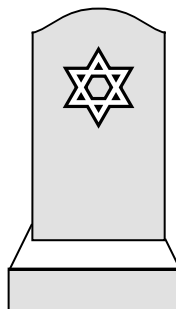
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