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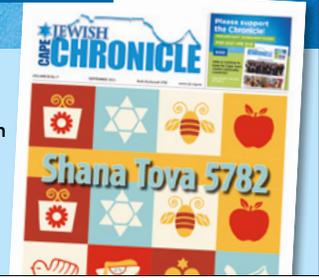
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Kaunas, European Capital of Culture 2022, recalls its rich Jewish history



That Which We Do Not Remember, an exhibition by one of South Africa's most famous Litvaks, William Kentridge, opened on 22 January at the M.K. Čiurlionis Museum of Art, Kaunas, Lithuania.

More on pages 23 and 26

A new school year



Twins Adam and Josh, all kitted out in their brand-new school uniforms and ready to embark on their 12-year journey through 'big school'.

See pages 9 and 16 for more school news

Honouring Merle Furman

After an extraordinary 46-year career at Astra Centre, Merle Furman has taken a well-earned retirement. Her contribution to the community and beyond has been truly exceptional. In 2021, at the Jewish Care Cape AGM, she was awarded the Eliot Osrin award in the category of Chairperson's Choice. The adjacent wording appears on the certificate.



"During her 46 years of service at Astra, through treating people with dignity and providing opportunities in order that they may thrive, Merle has made an enormous difference in the lives of many persons with intellectual and psycho-social disabilities. Under her professional leadership, the scope of services and opportunities has expanded, providing sheltered employment through the workshop where beautiful arts and crafts are produced, Gifttime where these products are sold and Coffeetime which attracts people to come and visit. Over three

decades ago she was a trailblazer in providing independent living in a supportive environment and went on to create three beautiful residences. Her work has contributed towards the destigmatisation of disability, breaking down barriers and increasing the visibility of these vulnerable persons in our community. Merle is internationally recognised for her expertise and wealth of experience and bears the merit of many facilities being established abroad with her guidance. Our community is proud of the legacy that she has created."

More on page 4

Contributors in this issue



Peter Greenberg
Page 4



Daniel Bloch
Page 6



Tzvi Brivik
Page 6



Chaya Singer
Page 10



Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani
Page 14



Craig Nudelman
Page 21



Anton Katz
Page 22



Julian Resnick
Page 24



Leila Stein
Page 25



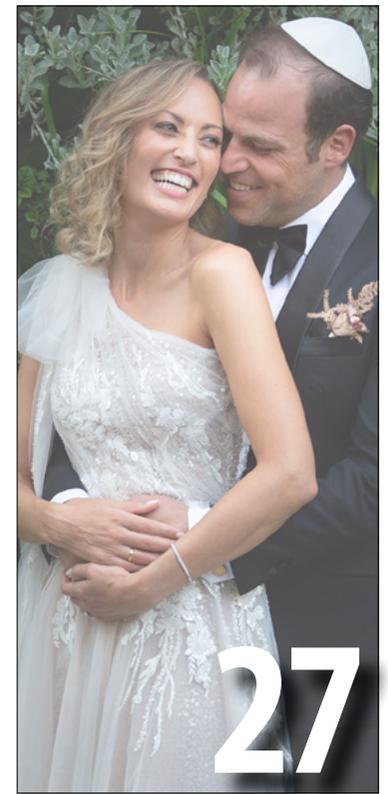
Jaime Uranovsky
Page 26

Regular contributors

Page 3	Des says... Shabbat Times Voluntary Subscriptions
Pages 6 - 8	Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies
Page 9	United Herzlia Schools
Pages 10 - 11	SA Zionist Federation (Cape Council)
Page 12	Telfed
Page 13	Cape Jewish Seniors Association
Page 14	Temple Israel
Page 15	Melton
Page 16	Sinai Academy
Page 17	SA Jewish Museum
Page 18	Jewish Community Services
Page 19	Letter to the Editor Family Announcements Koleinu — Support for victims of abuse Salisbury House
Page 20	Sport
Page 26	Simcha Snaps
Page 27	Chronic Ads
Page 28	

Features and Opinions

Page 4	Merle Furman retires
Page 15	A tribute to Rosalie Wolpe
Page 20	Allen Ambor — <i>A Taste for Life</i>
Page 21	Craig Nudelman: <i>Uniformity at school</i>
Page 22	Anton Katz: <i>Common law husbands and wives do exist</i>
Page 23 & 26	Kaunas 2022 — Evoking Jewish memory
Page 24	Julian Resnick: <i>Reading Beautiful World, Where Are You in Tel Aviv</i>
Page 25	Bagels — The roll with a hole



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Des Says...

By Desrae Saacks, acting editor Cape Jewish Chronicle



Cows don't give milk

I saw a meme on my Facebook feed that said, 'Cows don't give milk.'

The extrapolation is that we have to *get* the milk from the cow. In other words, you need to put in the effort. Not that it has to be painful (for you or the cow). But if you want milk, you have to use some initiative and take some action.

Like most of my columns, this one has been writing itself in my head for the past couple of weeks, as I put this month's Chronicle together and observe themes taking shape in my thoughts and on the page.

This month the theme seems to be around meaningful work. On page 6, Tzvi Brivik invokes the famous words of Spock of Star Trek fame, "Live long and prosper", on page 14 Rabbi Matitiani writes about the importance of following your heart when choosing your life's work, and on page 20 Allen Ambar's new book tells of his remarkable career forged on the same principle. Astra Centre bids farewell to Merle Furman after 46 years of doing incredibly important work, creating meaningful work opportunities for those in her care (page 4).

The SA Jewish Museum is hosting an exhibition that showcases the life of cricketing legend Ali Bacher (page 17), and on page 15, we discover Rosalie Wolpe's secret to a long and happy life as we read of her passing at the age of 112!

What could be more inspiring to the latest batch of matriculants (page 9), the younger ones just starting out on their formal school careers (page 1 and 21) and across the grades (page 16).

I am so encouraged by the positive content in this issue. When I first began to work on it, we were reeling under the weight of the lingering pandemic, and the sad and worrying news of yet another historic institution gutted by fire. Neither of these has gone away, but the challenge of holding onto hope in this often overwhelming and always complex world that we inhabit has certainly been greatly helped by much of the content in this month's issue.

I hope that like Daniel Bloch on page 6, you have had a restful break over the holidays, and that even though we're in February already, you're still drawing on the energy that such a break brings.

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.

Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		Earliest	Latest	
4 Feb/4 Adar 1	Terumah	6.24pm	7.31pm	*8.24pm
11 Feb/11 Adar 1	Tetzaveh	6.19pm	7.24pm*	8.17pm
18 Feb/18 Adar 1	Ki Tissa	6.13pm	7.17pm*	8.10pm
25 Feb/25 Adar 1	Vayahel/Shekalim	6.06pm	7.09pm*	8.01pm

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

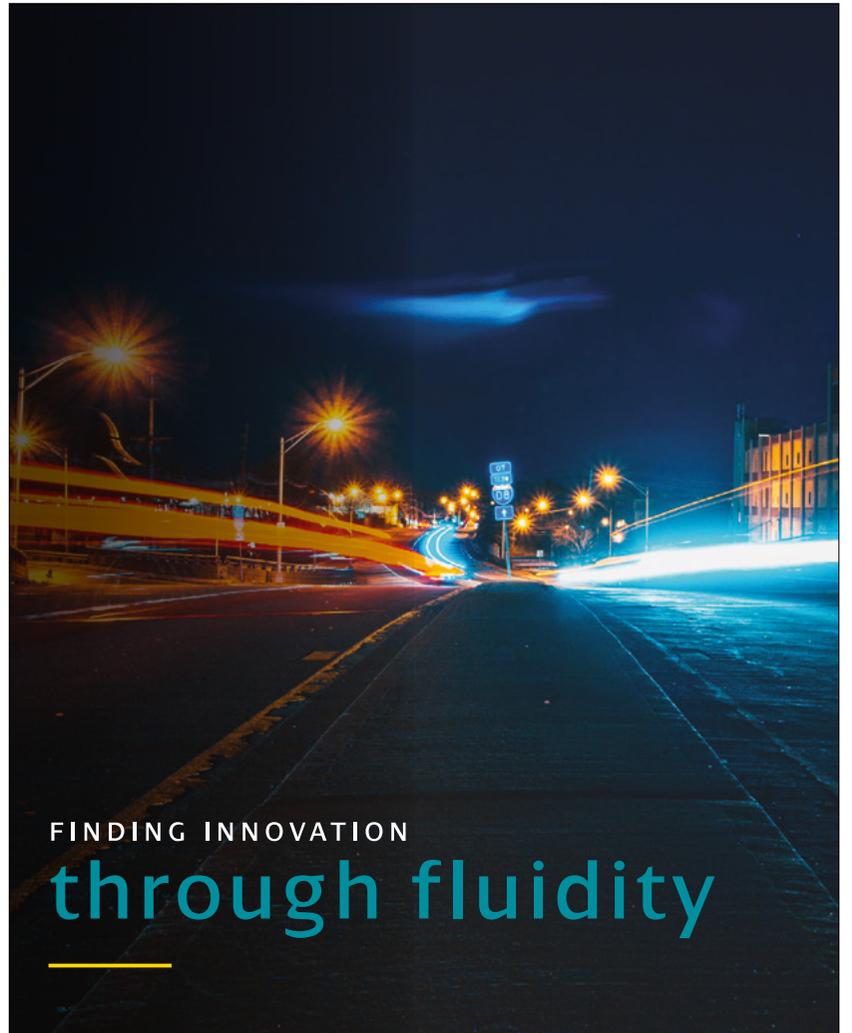
* Please contact your local Shul to determine their Shabbat acceptance time.

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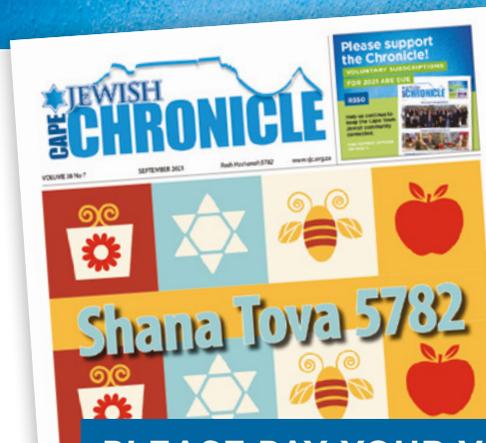
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Merle Furman retires from Astra Centre

By Peter Greenberg, member and past chairman of the Astra Committee

Merle Furman, executive director of Astra Centre retired in December after 46 years at the helm.

Merle started working at Jewish Sheltered Employment Centre as a timid social worker. Her enthusiasm and interest in her work and in the well-being of the workers culminated in her being the obvious choice to succeed as Executive Director.

From a small workshop for physically and mentally challenged members of the Cape Town Jewish community, Merle was instrumental in developing Astra Centre into a world class internationally recognised centre for people with disabilities.

Her ability to collaborate with her committee and other community members has enabled Astra to grow from a small workshop into an organisation comprising various workshops, an outstanding gift shop, a kosher coffee shop/restaurant and function venue, and three excellent group homes. Various workshops produce a large range of high quality goods that are sold at Gifttime, which during Merle's tenure grew from a small shop into an enterprise selling upmarket gifts to both the general public and large corporates.

A few years ago, inspired by the incredible mountain views, Merle came up with the idea of starting a small coffee shop. Coffeetime evolved into a well-known kosher coffee shop, restaurant and function venue, hosting many weddings, bar and batmitzvahs and countless birthday parties over the years.

Throughout this tremendous growth and

development, Merle never lost sight of the ethos and purpose of Astra, and the 65 community members who work there, making a valuable contribution to the daily running of Astra Centre. Her hands-on approach has resulted in a personal connection with each and every worker, staff member and committee member; and this has enabled her to connect with and motivate them all. Her ability to combine her social work background with her leadership and interpersonal skills has been key to the success of Astra.

She has been a visionary in her field and the entire Cape Town Jewish community is indebted to her for her vision, foresight and courage.

Merle has ensured that Astra has secured a number one position on the world stage and has, over the years, hosted numerous international dignitaries who have visited Cape Town. Every person who visits Astra is bowled over by what has been achieved, and how the workers have attained such dignity and pride from their work, motivating them to want to achieve more and more. Merle's attention to detail, interest in and regular personal contact with all the workers has been the key in this achievement. Her inspiring and motivational leadership has worked its way down to the staff, workers and the committee, ensuring the continuation of the success of Astra after her retirement.

The development and success of the three group

homes, Rosecourt House, Rosecourt Terrace and Vriende House and the opening of a new group home in the foreseeable future are further testament to Merle's vision and leadership. Each home is headed up by a house parent who operates the house like a home away from home. The warm and friendly interiors and atmosphere ensure a wonderful home life for many of the workers, and give their families peace of mind that they are nurtured and cared for. Merle has spent many years working behind the scenes to achieve this harmonious situation.

Merle will also be remembered by many as the face of the famous Astra fundraiser, the Astra Race Day which was held every year at Kenilworth Racecourse, which raised much-needed funds and which we hope will resume again soon.

Merle has given her life and soul to Astra and together with her husband, Selwyn, a long-time committee member, leaves behind an incredible legacy which will ensure the continued growth and success of Astra. She has been a visionary in her field and the entire Cape Town Jewish community is indebted to her for her vision, foresight and courage. Merle's legacy can be aptly described by the following words, *What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.* This is a farewell but not a goodbye and we hope to see Merle at Astra regularly, keeping a watchful eye on the legacy which she has built with compassion and love.

We wish Merle a well-earned retirement with Selwyn and many years of good health and happiness.

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With three north-facing bedrooms, this stunning Palm Grove home makes for comfortable year-round living: very warm in winter but pleasantly moderate in summer.

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CONNECT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNITY

Ready Set Go!!

By Daniel Bloch, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

Studies have shown that taking time away from the job can have physical and mental health benefits.

People who take vacations have lower stress, less risk of heart disease, a better outlook on life, and more motivation to achieve goals.

I was fortunate enough to have two weeks of holiday to spend with my family. We sat by the pool soaking up the sun, enjoyed a beach picnic or two, spent a few days camping in nature with friends and generally enjoyed a calm and relaxing time in each other's company — exactly the kind of tonic needed to reboot the system.



Taking a holiday does not necessarily mean getting on a plane and flying somewhere exotic — although most of us secretly wish for this. For me, a holiday means being somewhere with little to no cell phone signal, and not knowing what time of day it is. This for me was the highlight of my holiday as we spent four fantastic days in Swellendam, camping along the Breede River. Time didn't seem to matter and Facebook wouldn't load. This also presented an invaluable opportunity for me to connect with my family, and for us to spend quality time enjoying each others' company. I discovered that my daughter is completely fearless and has no qualms hopping on a floatie and sailing down a water rapid, whilst my son is happy to float in the river for hours chatting with his mate. Neither of them needed or missed any technology and to be honest, neither did my wife and I.

After spending the past few weeks connecting with my family and recharging my batteries, I am ready to start connecting again with our community. The first eight months of my tenure as Executive Director of the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies have flown by, with a number of significant successes having been achieved. If you thought that navigating through the May conflict or safely steering through the 3rd and 4th waves of COVID-19 would be the pinnacle, then you would be incorrect. It's the issues that don't make the headlines that are the victories that will be most appreciated by the community.

For example, Stellenbosch University has created a document which states that no exam or test will be set over Pesach, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. The University will also try to avoid setting exams over Shabbos where possible. This has been a real issue in the past with Jewish students having to miss exams due to Yom Tov. At least now, students can plan to spend Pesach and Rosh Hashanah with their families and not worry about exams over these times. There have also been many behind-the-scene conversations, meetings and letters written to organisations defending the rights of our community, and ensuring we can practice our Judaism in a safe and secure environment. These initiatives often go unnoticed but it is important to understand the work the Board does — we don't always post everything on Facebook.

2022 will bring with it new opportunities and possibly similar challenges, and we will embrace these opportunities and tackle the challenges head-on. We will continue to stand up for our Jewish Community's rights, protect our children attending Jewish and non-Jewish institutions, educate our non-Jewish partners about the role of our community, provide support to those communities in need, and ultimately demonstrate how pivotal the Jewish community is to the growth and sustainability of the Western Cape.

Here's to a healthy, prosperous and incident-free 2022. May all of us experience nothing but simchas and good times!

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Mandatory vaccination *mishigas* explained

By Tzvi Brivik, Chairperson, Cape SAJBD

I was considering a salutation for the commencement of the year when I came across an exhibition of Star Trek memorabilia which is currently taking place at the Skirball Jewish Cultural Centre in Los Angeles.

Leonard Nimoy, who played Spock and was an Orthodox Jew, had created the salutation 'live long and prosper'. It was lifted from his Talmudic studies, and is a salutation which I repeat at the start of 2022 — I hope that the year is full of good health and that our community grows from one success to another.

Since the onset of COVID-19, the Board has taken a pivotal role in strategising for its various affiliates and communal organisations. This included setting up a steering committee made up of representatives of the various organisations, and attended by medical experts for whose opinion we are grateful. By the time this article will be read, the pandemic may well no longer present the risk that it has of hospitalisation and death, and although it remains dangerous to susceptible individuals, (we hope) it will be far more manageable.

The world is now slowly considering a return to normality. To do so it requires that vaccinations (which we have urged our community members to obtain) become mandatory, particularly in the workplace. Many of our affiliates are asking if this requirement of vaccination can be mandated. In other words, if an employee remains unvaccinated, should they be allowed to return to work?

The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires an employer to provide safe working conditions. The regulations provide for employers to make COVID-19 vaccines a mandatory part of business operations, but require them to identify the employees that they insist must receive a vaccine, the reason why these employees have been chosen, and to specify if these employees have any underlying comorbidities. It is against these imperatives that the employee's constitutional rights to bodily integrity and freedom of religion, belief and opinion must be considered and balanced.

Prior to the Omicron variant, many large

corporations and even NEDLAC (a body made up of government, employees and large businesses) remarked that mandatory vaccinations would be legitimate and defensible in the workplace. It is unclear at this stage if Omicron has changed this, given that although it is highly transmissible, we have seen hospitalisations and deaths at a tenth of what they were during the prior variant waves. Were this to be considered simply a manageable flu-like illness then it would no longer be acceptable to compel vaccinations.

The difficulty however, as we have seen historically, is that the pandemic is unpredictable. It has not played out to the expectation of the experts. It continues to surprise, and for this reason communal organisations must be prepared. In terms of the regulations, detailed plans must be instituted in the workplace including consultation with employees to identify whether mandatory vaccinations are reasonable, who these would affect, the nature of any objections and how these can be accommodated, if at all. Communal organisations are urged to consider this as part of their planning in the new year. This will not only protect residents, learners and lay leaders, but most importantly the employees who work within our organisations and on whom we rely to ensure organisations function and deliver. We need to act to protect as many lives as we possibly can!

Finally, on a different note, Dutch filmmaker Bianca Stigter has created *Three Minutes: A Lengthening*, a 70-minute feature film that helps to further define what and who was lost of Jewish life in Poland just before the Holocaust. Based on a fragmentary, ephemeral three minutes of footage discovered in a closet, this insight into Jewish life before the Holocaust in Nasielsk reveals what life was like for those Jews living in Poland, and the tragedy that followed. It was screened at various film festivals including New York, Toronto and Sundance. I anticipate that for the coming year and the future of global Jewry, this glimpse of the European past is invaluable.





Know your Board

We decided it's high time we spotlight the individuals who make up our Board! 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!

Justin Asher

Chairperson of our Generation Next subcommittee



Why did you join the Board?

I joined the Board with the idea that any small change I could make would create a long-lasting impact on the youth within the community. At times — more often than not — I felt somewhat detached from the Cape Town Jewish community, and believed that there are likely many more my age who may feel the same. In previous years, I had participated in community-driven leadership initiatives whereby I had the privilege of learning more about how our community functions, and it was off the back of those interactions that I felt it necessary to become more involved so that I could empower others, like myself, to become more active within the community.

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

I believe that there are many young members of our community who have no idea what work the Board does or how it can be of assistance to Cape Town Jews when it becomes necessary. I hope that my time on the Board will offer me the opportunity to inspire others to get more involved with Jewish Community organisations and gain a better understanding of the work the Board does behind the scenes in advocating for the local community.

What other community organisations are you involved in?

I am not involved in any other Jewish organisations at this stage as my time is taken up by my involvement as Chairman of Rygersdal Football Club and my role as General Secretary of the Cape Town Tygerberg Football Association.

What are your passions?

I am passionate about community, but more specifically sport, as I find it is often the one place where people find common ground no matter one's religion, cultural background or social standing. I am driven by a desire to create safe communal spaces within the context of sport as I find it to be an outlet for many who experience hardships in their personal lives. I also firmly believe that these safe socio-cultural spaces allow one to escape reality and inspire hope.

What is your vision for the community?

I would love to see a community that is not fearful to tolerate each other's beliefs and opinions. One where everyone can come together and feel welcomed and inspired to grow the community; continuing to add value to it over the long term, by growing our thought-leaders and encouraging and empowering our younger generation to get involved and become part of the future.

What do you think is unique about our Jewish community?

Without a doubt, our most unique asset is our ability to come together for Shabbat, Chagim and other festivities. There is no other community that I have come across who come together, religiously or traditionally, every Friday evening for a meal with family and friends — this alone makes us unique. So unique that whenever I meet a non-Jewish person they always ask, "Can I come for Shabbat and eat that awesome bread with you?"

Jacqui Benson

Chairperson of our Social Justice subcommittee



Why did you join the Board?

In 2019 a young man by the name of Adam Seef took his own life. I was deeply disturbed that on 'my watch' someone Jewish would feel so at odds with his sexuality that this was his only solution. It galvanised me to become more vociferous in raising my voice within my community, and this brought me into contact with Stuart Diamond (then Executive Director of the Cape SAJBD). I was inspired by his vision to create a truly representative Board, that was willing to engage and listen to all its members and address the divergent views within our community. I believed I could contribute to that vision (and in 2020, it was long overdue for the Board to have an openly Queer representative).

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

To bring awareness that 'being Jewish' does not confine you to any kind of box based on gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, ethnicity, race, religious views, views on Israel/Palestine, education, occupation, and even which part of Cape Town you live in. We are not one homogenous community, and I don't think we should try to be. We should rather celebrate our diversity and welcome debate and robust engagement to bring about new ideas and new ways to take the community forward. We are a privileged community, and we should take our responsibility as South African citizens seriously, by playing a vital role to empower other communities and being a resource to make a real difference — not just financially, but with the skills, networks and experiences we have. I believe that by reaching out in deep, meaningful ways, we can contribute to nation-building and in this way counter intolerance and discrimination, such as antisemitism. This means participating in the projects of others, showing up consistently and most importantly having conversations, no matter how uncomfortable they might be. This is why I stepped up to Chair the Social Justice subcommittee, which was newly formed in 2021.

What other community organisations are you involved in?

2021 was an incredibly busy year for me. For years I've been involved in the Pride Shabbat at Temple Israel, and this last year, working with the Rabbinic leadership, we have established a Pride Taskforce made up of members of the community, focusing on not just one Shabbat a year, but on the needs and issues facing LGBTQIA+ Jews. Whilst so many are not in the Progressive community, to date it has only been the Progressive Rabbis who are currently active in this conversation. I was also accepted into the Nahum Goldman Fellowship online and have been able to engage with other Jewish thought igniters and changemakers across the globe. This past year, I became more involved in the Mensch Network, and seeing the amazing work being done by incredible changemakers is inspiring. I was blessed to be able to participate in the 1st LIFT Leadership cohort that took place in the final quarter of the year.

What is your vision for the community?

That no person in communal leadership should be in a position for longer than five or six years, and every communal body should be mandated to have at least 33% of its executive under 35. For too long the decisions of the community have rested in the same hands, and whilst this may have served the community well to date, the community needs fresh, new views that are unhindered by the past, to take us forward into the future.

What do you think is unique about our Jewish community?

We are resourceful, highly entrepreneurial, and very well connected, across the world. I think the phrase 'we punch above our weight class' fits us perfectly.



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Bishop Geoff Davies, patron and founder of the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI), inaugurated by Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai, and has received the Archbishop of Canterbury's Langton Award for Community Service.

Imam Salieg Isaacs, a Manenberg community leader and activist, is a Director of SAFCEI and serves on the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative and the Muslim Judicial Council.

Ela Gandhi, peace activist, former ANC MP, was the Chancellor of Durban University of Technology and chairs the Mahatma Gandhi Development Trust. She has received the Community of Christ International Peace Award, the Shanti Doot International Award from the World Peace Movement (India), and the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman and Padma Bhushan awards from the Government of India.

Tahirh Matthee, the Interfaith Liaison and former Director of the Baha'i Office of Public Affairs (South Africa), a member of the International Environment Forum, served as Chairperson of Southern African Faith Communities Environmental Institute, on the Executive and Working Committee of the Western Cape Religious Leaders Forum, the Executive of the National Religious Association for Social Development and is a doctoral candidate at the Durban University of Technology.

Rabbi David Rosen KSG CBE, American Jewish Committee's International Director of Interreligious Affairs, an International President of Religions for Peace, President of the International Council of Christians and Jews, and serves on the Board of Directors of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia's KAICIID Dialogue Center and the Board of the World Council of Religious Leaders. He has received the Archbishop of Canterbury's Walter Award for Reconciliation and Interfaith cooperation.



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Share your Milnerton memories

The Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies is for all Jews living in the Western Cape and not only those in the main centre of Cape Town.

Each of our outskirt communities has played such an important and vital role in the building of communal structures in the Cape, and so we must ensure that we continue to provide service to these communities and ensure their wellbeing.

One service we provide is historical and communal research, facilitated by our Senior Researcher, Gwynne Robins. Most recently, she was approached by Nicky Stein to assist in compiling research that Nicky had done on the history of the Milnerton Hebrew Congregation, and the Milnerton Jewish Guild which has been in existence for over fifty years.

The first Hebrew congregation was started in Cape Town in 1841 when no Jews lived in Milnerton. When German Jewish refugee Helmut Gonsenhauser moved there, he saw a need and arranged for cheder classes and Friday night services to

be held in his stables from 1955. This led to the community coming together and forming a Jewish Guild which built a communal centre in 1967 where community functions were arranged and which had a welcoming committee for new residents. Arising from this, a synagogue developed, with its first official service held on Rosh Hashanah in 1980, in the shul as it stands today.

Remarkably, little more is known about the Milnerton Hebrew congregation. We call on the community to share any memories, stories, pictures or information you may have.

Please send your stories to nicky@stein.org.za or call 082 293 8855 by no later than 31 March 2022.

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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#WORDS MATTER





CLASS OF 2021 TOP ACHIEVERS

93 MATRIC CANDIDATES

2 MATRICS ACHIEVED
8 DISTINCTIONS

7 MATRICS ACHIEVED
7 DISTINCTIONS

17 MATRICS ACHIEVED
6 DISTINCTIONS

12 MATRICS ACHIEVED
5 DISTINCTIONS

13 MATRICS ACHIEVED
4 DISTINCTIONS

7 MATRICS ACHIEVED
3 DISTINCTIONS

100% PASS*

100% SUBJECT PASS RATE

80% MATRIC CLASS AGGREGATE
(HERZLIA'S HIGHEST EVER)

339 INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT
DISTINCTIONS

3,6 AVERAGE SUBJECT
DISTINCTIONS PER PUPIL

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Gabriel Gottlieb
8 Distinctions



Joseph Zelezniak
8 Distinctions



Chad Brouze
7 Distinctions



Tziyona Cohen
7 Distinctions



Adam Julian
7 Distinctions



Hannah Levy
7 Distinctions



Jake Whitesman
7 Distinctions



Rachel Wohlman
7 Distinctions



Jonathan Cohn
6 Distinctions



Benjamin Daniel
6 Distinctions



Dylan Friedman
6 Distinctions



Sam Kilborn
6 Distinctions



David Levy
6 Distinctions



Tomer Mazor
6 Distinctions



Itai Melnik
6 Distinctions



Ayala Nathan
6 Distinctions



Ryan Schapiro
6 Distinctions



Daniel Schiff
6 Distinctions



Jonty Schkolne
6 Distinctions



Georgina Seeff
6 Distinctions



Keryn Shochot
6 Distinctions



Joseph Valkin
6 Distinctions



**Franceska Van
Huyssteen**
6 Distinctions



Jake Videtzky
6 Distinctions



Justine Williams
6 Distinctions

MAZALTOV TO THE CLASS OF 2021

Matric results listed alphabetically in distinction categories.



DIRECTOR'S CUT

By Chaya Singer, Executive Director SAZF Cape Council

As we look back on our achievements in 2021 and towards all we want to accomplish in the new year, we pause to reflect on the very important roles we play as elected and appointed custodians of the South African Zionist Federation Cape Council.



For many in our community, our unprecedented lack of access to Israel due to Covid travel restrictions, has caused much anguish and frustration, and has highlighted the centrality of Israel in varied aspects of our daily lives. It is an important reminder that as a Diaspora community we are critically connected to Israel, and that our mission to safeguard and protect this relationship, as mandated by our organisation's constitution, is an imperative part of our organised communal structure.

As the local representative affiliate of the Jewish Agency through our Israel Centre, the Jewish National Fund, the World Zionist Organisation and its affiliated youth, women, educational, cultural and religious organisations, we continue to actively contribute a Capetonian voice to World Jewry, and remain relevant in Israeli government forums and other important global initiatives and institutions.

During the past year, our community and Israel supporters including the former Chief Justice and Miss SA have come under distressing attack from BDS and their supporters in government, media and civil society. The relentless efforts of the SAZF to confront this anti-Israel agenda continues, and we are thrilled to welcome our new Israeli Ambassador soon to Cape Town, and to find ways to continue to bring Israeli innovation, business and good will to South Africa.

We look forward to partnering and engaging in the new year, as we galvanise efforts in service of the community. May we continue from strength to strength.

ALIYAH Q&A

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Starting 1 Feb

BEGINNERS COURSE	NOVICE 1 CLASS	NOVICE 2 CLASS	INTERMEDIATE COURSE & ADVANCED COURSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twice a week February – July (38 lessons) Tuesday & Thursday 7pm – 8:30pm Fee: R5,700 Access to Ulpán Or online learning platform is optional for an additional fee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twice a week February – July (38 lessons) Monday & Wednesday 7pm – 8:30pm Fee: R5,700 Access to Ulpán Or online learning platform is optional for an additional fee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Twice a week February – July (38 lessons) Tuesday & Thursday 7pm – 8:30pm Fee: R5,700 Access to Ulpán Or online learning platform is optional for an additional fee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once a week February – July (21 lessons) Tuesday Evenings, 7pm – 8:30pm Fee: R3,750 Fees include 6 month access to Ulpán Or online learning platform

For more information: beyachadulpan@gmail.com



Youth Movements roundup

Bnei Akiva starts with a bang!

Bnei Akiva ran an awesome Day Camp during December for our younger channichim and also provided some activities for the older ones.

As we did at the end of last year, we have and will provide each age group with an amazing

activity every two weeks! Since the beginning of school, we have already run two activities per age group! Bnei Akiva CT hopes to provide consistency for our Channichim and Madrichim in this ever-changing world.

By Eytan Labe



Bnei Akiva keeping channichim engaged

Habonim - The Return

Coming off the back of two consecutive disappointing and heartbreaking Decembers, the Habonim Dror Cape Town Ken is eager to take on the new year with the goal of restoring and rebuilding our beloved Movement.

I'd like to start by giving a shoutout and a mazaltov to our new leadership for 2022.

Mazkir Klali — Aaron Kruss Van Der Heever
S'gan Mazkirim — Jesse Lees, Daniel Flaum and Mira Rudnick.

We salute and support you throughout this challenging time in our movement's journey.

As well as welcoming our new leadership, the Cape Town Ken is further welcoming a new Bayit as we call time on Ivanhoe Road and say goodbye to our neighbor Alan Winde. Let's hope the move is more successful than that of Highbury to the Emirates.

With the return of the Shnatties of 2021 from Israel, the first event of the year started with an exciting and engaging weekend-programme to welcome and integrate them back home. This took place on our beautiful campsite where they took part in a series of programmes and activities with the idea of preparing the *kvutzat* for the next phase of their journey within Habonim.

Furthermore there are potential plans in place to construct a Putt-Putt course on the campsite,

subject to a donor. We would love to meet with you and maybe have a round of golf to discuss these plans to potentially create something special for our already incredible campsite. If you are interested in this please feel free to get in touch with us.



Mazkirut for 2022: Aaron Kruss Van Der Heever, Daniel Flaum, Mira Rudnick and Jesse Lees

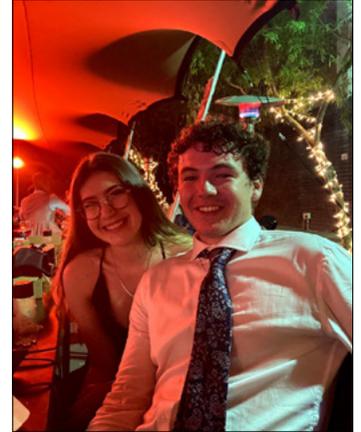
Netzer - Shnatties 2022

We are very excited to send off our two incredible Netzer leaders on our Progressive Jewish Gap year in Israel — ShnatNetzer 2022!

Dani Beswick just matriculated from Westerford High School. She grew up in the Temple Israel community and has been going to Netzer since she was seven years old. "I am now so excited to be finally going on Shnat!"

Aaron Johnston is a hard-working young man who just matriculated from Wynberg Boys High School. He has a keen interest in films and archaeology. His hobbies include golf, reading and writing. "I can not wait to finally visit and experience Israel!"

By Rachael Sara



2022 Shnatties: Daniella Beswick and Aaron Johnston

SAUJS

With 2022 upon us, we are very excited for another incredible year of SAUJS.

We are delighted to announce that Erin Dodo is the new Chairperson for SAUJS Western Cape, and wish her everything of the best for her term. We have no doubt SAUJS will thrive under her leadership.

This year, SAUJS will focus on building a strong community of young Jewish people who want to strengthen our society in a variety of ways. We look forward to more amazing social events and outreach

projects, and to strengthening our relationship with Judaism and Israel and so much more.

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook to be the first to know about our events and make sure you secure a spot! Wishing everyone a happy new year and hope a relaxing holiday was had by all.



Erin Dodo

By Deena Katzen

A quick update on our Fantasy Premier League. 'HDSA mini-league' has Brynn Goldblatt in top spot on 1320 points, followed by Jesse Lees on 1300 points.

By Brynn Goldblatt (Rosh Ken Cape Town)



Newly returned Shnatties of 2021 at the campsite: Daniel Rome, Bradley Gottschalk, Gina Levi, Ruby Roux, Jake Bonner, Tal Peretz and Sasha Rodenacker



REMEMBERING ERIC

In 2022, Telfed Samson SASI Scholarship students in Israel started a year of community service in honour & memory of their founding father, Eric Samson z"l. They helped with much needed renovations and will be volunteering (when permitted) with the elderly residents of Beit Protea Retirement Home.

Keeping the Kindness going



Email: info@telfed.org.il Facebook/Telfed Web: www.telfed.org.il Tel: +972 9 7907800 Toll free : 0800997495

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

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

Jews of Sephardi heritage need no proof at all!

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



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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Cape Jewish Seniors Association

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

Our centres are re-opening

Another year has begun, with this being the first newsletter for 2022 from Cape Jewish Seniors.

After much discussion and extensive planning by the CJSA team, we reopened our centres on 17 January. Of course all COVID protocols will be observed and anyone wishing to attend must have received their booster shot and wear a mask at all times.

Initially we will be hosting tea-and-chat events so that we can socialise in a safe environment; and at the same time find out the needs and wants of our members, so that we can provide a warm and stimulating environment with enjoyable activities and outings. We are all excited and hoping for a wonderful year.

A number of issues arise post-COVID, and consideration has to be given to the fact that nearly two

years have passed since we closed our doors — for what we all thought was going to be three weeks! Many of our members have been isolated and alone for the whole duration. Our programme pre-lockdown was varied and interesting, and the outings on offer were mostly fully booked and always enjoyed. We plan to provide the same activities as before, tweak the programme where necessary, ditch what is not wanted and include new wherever necessary.

The ethos of CJSA — *for the seniors by the seniors* — will continue, as we know how important it is to keep our members active and part of this community, instead of apart from the community in which we live.

We are mindful that there might be changes in how we do things and also know that not everyone is feeling upbeat and ready to move forward. We heard that there is a new word

banding about — FOGO — Fear of Going Out. Our social workers are here to encourage and assist with moving forward and ‘putting your life back together’ post pandemic.

Anxiety is a very real concern, as is depression, loneliness and stress.

Writing for *Cosmopolitan* in May 2020, Andrea Stanley and Elizabeth Kiefer cite a Cosmo poll that finds that 52% of millennial women who suffer from the mental health condition said it got worse due to COVID-19; while 32% who never experienced anxiety before, have now developed it.

They go on to write, “Does that mean that all those who suffer from anxiety need therapy? Of course this is not the case, although anyone can benefit from talking to a professional. But if you’re feeling *really* low, it might be time to prioritise it.

A quiz created by leading health experts, may help you gauge where you’re at:

- Have you had difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep in the past few weeks?
- Do you catch yourself obsessing over getting sick?
- Are you constantly worried about worst-case scenarios?
- Have you been feeling hopeless lately, to the point where everything — work, friends, future plans — feels pointless?
- Are you disinterested in things you normally enjoy?
- Have you been ignoring friends and family?
- Do you have increased feelings of anxiety, sadness or anger?
- Have you started changing your behaviours out of fear?

Did you answer yes to more than two of the above? If so, now is the time to consider talking to someone. Nothing is ‘wrong’ with you, but it’s been a rough couple of years, and you deserve to focus on yourself.

If you picked up quarantine habits, a formula has been created to help you decide which ones you should keep and which ones need to go.

Using a scale of 1-4:

- It makes you happy
- It’s appropriate for everyday life (not just a crisis)
- It impacts your mental health in a positive way
- It’s helping you be the best version of yourself.

Your score: 4/4 means keep it. Anything less — tweak or toss.

Suggested appointments to schedule as life gets back to normal:

Right Now: Book a massage, facial or beauty treatment. No explanation needed.

Fairly soon: Schedule an appointment with your primary care doctor, to check in on your overall health and figure out if there is anything pressing that should be dealt with.

Within three months: Get to your dermatologist and gynaecologist/urologist. Just because your skin hasn’t seen the sun doesn’t mean you should put this off.

Within six months: see the dentist and optometrist (if you need one). You should be getting your teeth cleaned twice a year. And if you wear glasses, it’s a good idea to see if you’re ready for a new prescription thanks to all that screen time”.

Remember that we are there for each one of our members. Our team is skilled and caring, and our wish is to ensure that our members live their best lives. We can assist you in making this possible.

We plan to reinstate our monthly programme in the Chronicle in the next issue.

Diana Sochen

Executive Director

Social and Personal

It is so important to celebrate whenever possible and thankfully many of our members have recently had the opportunity to do so.

We welcome new members

Kathi Bowman, Sue Buirski, Doreen Ellenbogen (London), Luciana Gallotta, Pat Harris, Arthur and Ruth Hovis, Pricilla Klein, Ohna McLachlan, Margaret Rawicz, Meril Sirin, Gill Speechly, Naomi Stone, Jennifer and Tony Swiel, Mary Anne Wolff

Births

Welcome and mazaltov to the families celebrating births.

Helen Rosen – great-granddaughter
Sue Joffe – great-grandson
Adrienne Meyer – birth of twin great-granddaughters
Eve Joffe – great-grandson

Bat/ Barmitzvah

Mazaltov to families celebrating Bat and Barmitzvahs

Marcia Orliin – great-granddaughter
Marcia Raymond – grandson
Dave and Mel Shapiro – granddaughter

Engagements

Mervyn and Arona Shrand – daughter
Sylvia Quin – grandson

Marriage

Ella Blumenthal – grandson
Shirley Elvey – grandson
Jos and Steven Horwitz – son
Helaine Gorin – grandson
Ernest and Estelle Kaplan – grandson
Ruth Katzeff – granddaughter,
Hilda Wilk – grandson

Special Birthday

Muriel Levin

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

Members:

Judy Dadon, Hymie Dorfman, Ada Newman, Barbara Sandler, Audrey Shantall, Rosalie Wolpe, Winnie Zwick

Our sincere wishes of strength to members who have recently lost family members

Shirley Elvey – son-in-law

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A GROUCHY OLD PERSON, THE TRUTH IS, ONCE YOU GET OLD, YOU STOP BEING POLITE AND START BEING HONEST.

Consider This

Being created in God's image means that we must follow our dreams



By Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani

Lech el ne-malah eitzel re-ei dera-che-ha va-cha-cham. (Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways, and be wise) Proverbs 6:6

The author of *Sefer Mishlei, The Book of Proverbs* (traditionally King Solomon), urges us to follow the example of the lowly ant that works industriously during the summer to stock up on food supplies for the winter. Although King Solomon explains his directive to learn from the ant as a warning against sloth, one can also understand the injunction to mean that one must make provision for the future, and not only live for the present. Although one must enjoy life and the present (*Deuteronomy 26:11, Jeremiah 31:14, Ecclesiastes 3:13*), one should plan sensibly for the future.

Just as the author of the *Book of Proverbs* gleaned a profound lesson from the ant, I, along with thousands of other movie-goers, learned an important lesson from another insect, albeit an animated one. I am referring to Barry B. Benson, the star of the animated film, *Bee Movie*. This motion picture, created and co-written by Jerry Seinfeld, explores the issue of the purpose of life.

The hero of the story has just graduated from college and is horrified to discover that he is destined to have the same job for life. He has been trained to work for Honex, a company that manufactures honey, and he quickly becomes disillusioned when he is told that the particular job that he chooses in the honey-making process

will be his only choice for life. Refusing to accept his fate, Barry rebels by joining the 'Pollen Jocks' on an excursion outside the hive. On one of his excursions, Barry's life is saved by a florist whom he befriends. During a visit to a supermarket, Barry discovers that humans steal honey from bees and he realises that his true calling is to stop this injustice by suing the human race.

The story of Barry B. Benson is of an individual who refuses to give in to the expectations of his parents, friends and society, and is resolved to determine his own future and to be the best bee that he can be according to his own idea of what that is.

All too often people bow to the expectations of others when making career choices or other life-determining decisions. All too often we lack the courage of our convictions to reach our full potential as human beings. The midrash posits that Joseph's striped coat given to him by his father made him appear effeminate so that he looked like Rachel, Jacob's beloved wife. The midrash (*Bereishit Rabba 84.7*) further states that Joseph curled his hair and used cosmetics to add to the illusion. Thus Joseph was not allowed to be himself but was a surrogate for his late mother — indeed his father even discouraged him to dream (*Genesis 37:10*). It was only when he was sold to the Ishmaelite traders by his brothers that Joseph was no longer merely a substitute for Rachel. Stripped of his coat Joseph could begin to discover his own potential which he did by interpreting the dreams of Pharaoh's cup-bearer, baker and finally Pharaoh himself.

The story of Joseph is similar to the story of Barry B. Benson in that both were expected to abandon their individuality and conform to their parents' expectations of who they should be. This is of course contrary to the life-affirming principles of Torah that upholds the right of every individual to express themselves freely within the confines of the

ethical values of our tradition. The sages of the Talmud marvelled at God's ingenuity at being able to create human beings like a mint stamps out coins, the difference being that unlike coins, each and every human being is unique both physically and spiritually (*Sanhedrin 38a*). Each of us has distinctive talents and skills, likes and dislikes, and each of us needs to cater for these differences. By refusing to allow the expectations of others or of society to dictate our own future we emulate the example set not only by Joseph, but by his parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

Abraham refused to comply with the norms and expectations of Mesopotamia and forged his own relationship with the Divine. Isaac refused to allow the traumatic experience of nearly being sacrificed by his own father to influence his relationship with God, and Jacob was determined to marry his beloved Rachel even after being tricked by Laban into marrying Leah. Similarly God urged Moses to overcome his fear of public speaking so that he could fulfil his calling as the liberator, law-giver and military leader of the People of Israel.

Sarah's tenacity and determination to have a child eventually resulted in her conceiving at a ripe old age, Rebecca made sure that Jacob received the blessing of the first-born instead of Esau, and Leah fought for and eventually won the love and respect of Jacob. Miriam and Jocheved made sure that Moses survived Pharaoh's attempt to kill all Hebrew male babies.

All these biblical figures provide an example for each of us. We are all divinely mandated to pursue our own dreams and aspirations. Similarly we commit a grave transgression if we obstruct someone in attaining their goals and ambitions.

Just as we can learn to be industrious and diligent from the ant, so we are obligated to follow the example of our biblical ancestors (and our animated bee friend) and follow our dreams, to become the best human beings possible.

Celebrating Tu B'Shvat

On Monday 17 January a group from Temple Israel set out on an early morning Tu B'Shvat tree appreciation walk in Newlands forest. It was a wonderful way to celebrate the trees and begin the new week.



Mazaltov to December and January Bnei Mitzvah!



Ohav Meezraci
4 December



Hosea Cole
11 December



Iliya Jaffee
18 December



Eli Warner
8 January



Joseph Katz
15 January



Anna Castle
22 January



Adam Spilkin
29 January

A tribute to Rosalie Wolpe, Highlands House's oldest resident

by Adrienne Todes, Social Worker at Highlands House

On Thursday 30 December, as 2021 came to an end, so too was it the end of another era — the 112-year-long life of our very dear and much-loved resident Rosalie Wolpe, born 25 August 1909.

We at Highlands House were blessed and privileged to have had this wonderful lady with us as a resident for 12 of those years.

Latterly, Rosalie would spend her days quietly in her special chair in her spot in the sun in the second-floor lounge. She would often doze off but always wake up in time for tea and lunch. Her carer Julia tells us that she always insisted that her soup and tea were hot! She would not entertain the idea of food and drink that was lukewarm. She loved dark chocolate. Her best treat of all was a chocolate muffin and a cappuccino. Her son David ("the baby," as she liked to refer to him) would see that she regularly got her favourite things. Another favourite of Rosalie's over the years was Bingo afternoons at Highlands House. Rosalie never missed this and did very well at the game, judging by the many vouchers in prizes she had stocked up. Reading the newspaper was another activity Rosalie enjoyed. Julia would bring the newspaper to Rosalie every morning, and she would often read the headlines out to Julia. With her glasses on, she could read well.

In earlier years, Rosalie was a keen mountaineer, and met her late husband while climbing Table Mountain. She never possessed a car, choosing to walk wherever she needed to go in the Southern Suburbs where she lived and worked. Rosalie attributed her longevity to all the exercise she did.

Residents, staff and members of Rosalie's family gathered on Wednesday 5 January to pay tribute to our oldest and much-revered resident. The social worker opened the proceedings by saying what a gracious lady Rosalie was, that she was everyone's favourite resident and how much we would all miss her

presence in the second-floor lounge where her friends had looked out for her and watched over her with so much love.

Her son David regaled us with stories of her early life, and her nephew recalled a bygone era when, as a boy, he would visit Rosalie in the shop which she ran, back when groceries were still weighed and put into brown paper packets, and delivered by bicycle from the store. Rosalie's grandsons joined us on Zoom and spoke warmly of their grandmother, and the many trips they enjoyed when visiting her in South Africa. She loved going on outings around the Peninsula, and her grandson Anthony recalled a visit, probably her last outing, to Delheim Wine Farm. Anthony also had a clear memory of Rosalie blowing out her candles on her 99th birthday cake. At the time, he had feared that this would be the last time that he would see his grandmother, given that he lives in the UK. Little did he know that he would be celebrating many more birthdays with Rosalie in good health.

When staff and residents took to the floor, there was an outpouring of love and admiration for our leading lady. Many felt that the day would never come when she would leave us, as August after August Rosalie never failed to be there, hale and hearty, ready to celebrate yet another birthday. It was always a fun day with plenty of cake to go around. One resident said that he thought of Rosalie as a mother figure, and that his day was never complete without looking into Rosalie's room and saying goodnight. Another resident recalled how affable and easy-going Rosalie was, always giving a wave in place of words when these no longer came so easily to her. We heard from many that whenever Rosalie was asked how she was, she would say, "I have no aches and pains, I am fine, just very, very tired."

Being tired did not impede a long and healthy life for Rosalie, 'our special angel', as she was fondly referred to by many of her fans. Rosalie will be sorely missed by staff and residents

alike at Highlands House, but we shall forever cherish the memory of this special and gracious lady.

Grandson Anthony Dickman (in Australia) reflected the following about his grandmother's life and stay at the Home:

"Thank you very much for including us in the gathering in the lounge (compassion circle). Ever since Rosalie made the momentous move into the Home she felt secure, cared for and loved. We are all so fortunate that she lived to such a venerable age without any major health problems, and wonderful loving care

throughout. My mother, brothers and I were touched by the recollections and the love and esteem shown for Rosalie. I am comforted by the various trips I made over the years, always with Janet and the last two occasions with my children, who were thrilled to see her. I want to acknowledge the amazing care given to residents at Highlands House, helped no doubt by the relatively long tenure of the carers and staff and the quality of care. I was always struck by how happy she was there, and how unfailingly friendly and accommodating the staff were to her and to us.



Rosalie and her son David enjoy a concert during her birthday celebrations in 2019. Photo: Lesley-Anne Knoll



Rosalie and her long-time carer at Highlands House, Julia Mentile. Photo: Lesley-Anne Knoll



MELTON

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JEWISH HISTORY



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Viv Anstey, Director: vivansteiafrica.com +27828095414
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Opening of summer exhibition *The Life of Ali Bacher: from the cricket field to the boardroom*

Opening night for the SA Jewish Museum’s highly anticipated summer exhibition on the life of South African cricket legend Ali Bacher had been planned as an in-person event for 12 December 2021.

Covid concerns resulted in the decision to hold the opening on Zoom with just an intimate gathering at the museum of Ali and his wife, children and grandchildren. This turned out to be a perfect solution. Ali’s family, friends, colleagues as well as dignitaries and cricket enthusiasts around the world were able to honour his life together on Zoom, while he spoke surrounded by the people most special to him.

SAJM director Gavin Morris kicked off the ceremony with a welcome and an overview of

the exhibition. He then introduced Ali’s great confidante and fellow cricketer, Don Mackay-Coghill, who delivered a keynote speech reflecting the decades of enduring friendship between them.

Then Ali took the podium, engaging his audience in a warm response laced with anecdotes about his leadership role during some of the most momentous years in South African history. As he spoke, viewers could see footage of the exhibition’s fascinating panels, artefacts and films, some not seen since the 1960s. To close the ceremony, Ros Goldin, Ali’s close associate who had directed the exhibition content and written the text, presented him with a gift from Mackay-Coghill. The Bacher family concluded the evening with a private viewing of the life and times of their remarkable relative.

The Life of Ali Bacher: from the cricket field to the boardroom can be viewed at the SAJM for the summer season. The exhibition has broad appeal – it will interest anyone who enjoys cricket, history or simply great stories about some of South Africa’s most famous sporting and political leaders.



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JCS IN NUMBERS

795

Monthly food parcels, vouchers and Meals on Wheels distributed by The Tikvah Foodbank at an average total cost of R300 000/month

107

Current cases of family conflict and domestic violence

17%

Percentage increase in the number of Tikvah Foodbank recipients during 2021

160

Current caseload of older persons

408

Active cases equates to over 822 people requiring Social Services

419

The number of individuals receiving Material Relief

220

Cases of psychiatric disability

VISION

The vision of Jewish Community Services is to be recognised as the leading provider of innovative services and programs that address existing and emerging social service needs. To provide a full spectrum of services that promotes quality of life within the context of Jewish ethics and values. Together we can build a caring, self-sufficient community with dignity, harmony and happiness.

MISSION

To develop, implement and coordinate social protection and poverty reduction solutions for and with the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged in the Cape Town Jewish community. To provide quality social welfare services to enable them to meet life's challenges.

Visit our website www.jcs.org.za



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

PO Box 4176, Cape Town, 8000 or e-mail: chron@ctjc.co.za

Terrorism and antisemitism do not discriminate

To my Jewish sisters and brothers,

I learnt of what was going on at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, USA late on Saturday night 15 January, from a Facebook post made by one of the Rabbis at Temple Israel Cape Town, of which I am a member. What became clear as the nightmare played itself out over the hours — for us through the night, for some in real time, for others, after Shabbat ended and they became aware of what was going on — is that the people of Israel and the global Jewish community were with Rabbi Cytron-Walker and his three congregants as their captivity wore on. Jews of every denomination felt this in their gut. They shared each other's posts of prayer and then release. This is who we are. This is Am Yisrael!

Let us remember this as we move onward. Let us remember as we collectively pray for the healing of the four people who endured the horror as hostages many kilometers away (in our case and that of others outside the US), or not so far away — that we are all bonded

as a people. That our differences of prayer style and interpretation did not matter over the hours of their captivity. It didn't matter if we called ourselves Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, Renewal or secular — terrorism and anti-semitism know no boundary and do not differentiate. What mattered is that our people were once again victimised at the hands of a madman. We are better together than divided and we must learn from this. We cannot help the world to heal in our quest for *Tikkun Olam* (repairing the world) if we don't repair these rifts within.

We cannot afford to come together over victimisation only. We must come together over the love of each other, and respect each other. All who call themselves Jews felt the anguish experienced by Congregation Beth Israel. No one checked pedigree.

Congregation *Beth Israel* literally means the house of the people Israel — and that is what we are — *Am Yisrael* — the Jewish people. It is also how we must act. *Nancy Krisch, Wynberg (16 January 2022)*



Koleinu — support for victims of abuse

We read a book or watch movie or listen to a podcast or attend a meeting about abuse, but the abuse always seems to be about somebody else. Or is it?

Perhaps it is happening to somebody you know right now.

Sadly, abuse of any kind — financial, mental, physical, emotional, social or sexual — is happening to at least one person we know, whether they are telling us or not. Most of the time, the abuse is from somebody the person knows.

Abuse doesn't discriminate between age, skin colour, religion or class. If you think you know or recognise that somebody is experiencing abuse, please talk to them and encourage them to come forward and speak to us at *Koleinu*. We will listen and channel them in the right direction, nurture them and follow through with their progress, all in the strictest of confidence.

Melanie Uranovsky

In 2014, Rebbetzin Wendy Hendler and Rozanne Sack started *Koleinu SA*, an organisation to support victims of abuse.

Koleinu SA has a helpline manned by trained volunteers, and are an advocacy and educational organisation.

Koleinu was born at a time when Wendy and Rozanne both felt voiceless and scared. They are both victims of sexual abuse by a medical doctor, and endured much trauma and difficulty in trying to bring the perpetrator to justice. Both felt that their experience should be channelled into something meaningful for our community which, at that stage had offered little support for victims of abuse who speak out. Their aim with *Koleinu* is to give a voice and hope to victims of any form of abuse.

Over seven years, the organisation has grown into one that offers support, referrals, education and advocacy. They have developed a cutting edge prevention of child sexual abuse programme for primary school children, *SchoolSafe*, and are involved in developing programmes around the prevention of gender-based violence.

They have recently opened a branch of the helpline in Cape Town run by Melanie Uranovsky. Through their work they endeavour to keep supporting victims and their families, and raising awareness about the issue of abuse both within our community and in the broader South African context.

If you or anybody you know is a victim of abuse and needs support, please contact the *Koleinu* Helpline:
Johannesburg: (011) 264 0341 Sun – Thurs: 9am – 10pm Fri: 9am – 3pm
Cape Town: 074 180 5687 24-hour line except over Shabbat

Family Announcements

BEREAVEMENT

JOCELYN DICENT (born Edelstein)

Our beautiful, devoted mother and grandmother passed away peacefully on 15 December 2021.

Sorely missed by her loving children; Cara Jacobs and Gregory Mafcher, her sister Joan Silke, her brother Ian Edelstein, her grandsons, Aaron, Seth, Ethan and Jonah, family and friends both near and far.

May your gentle soul live on through those you touched with your beautiful smile, your kindness and boundless generosity.

We love you 'Nana Joc'

Gregory J. Mafcher
WhatsApp: +1 386-681-7594

DAVID ABEL



A passionate Zionist, who led the Likud organisation in the Western Cape, passed away last week after a short illness. His devoted wife Marion passed away just hours before him.

Wishing his daughters Aviva Goldman, Raella Abel, brothers Bernie and John and their families long life.
Mancom and staff SAZF Cape Council

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

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[back to contents](#)

BOOKS

Allen Ambor — *A Taste for Life*

Allen Ambor founded Spur Steak Ranches in 1967 when he invested R4000 to open the *Golden Spur* in Newlands, Cape Town.

After he opened the second restaurant in Sea Point, he decided that franchising was the best option to grow the business, which listed on the JSE in 1986. When Ambor retired as executive chairman of the Spur Corporation in March 2019, the business had grown to an empire that included more than 500 franchises under the Spur, Panarottis, John Dory's and RocoMamas brands.

In October last year, he published a memoir, *A Taste for Life, How the Spur Legend was Born*. Readers meet Allen, only child to German Jewish immigrant parents who found themselves at the foot of the African continent after fleeing Nazi Germany.

We accompany him on his inspiring journey from a carefree childhood in 1940s Johannesburg, through student days performing on stage, waiting part-time in Johannesburg's

first real steakhouse, and walking the streets of London as a fabric sales representative; to an impressively clear understanding of his own place in the world as he recognises the restaurant environment as his 'happy place'.

"A steakhouse is a theatre of the senses, and the opening act is the fire in the heat of the grill section, warming us, mesmerising us, drawing us closer, igniting in us a hunger for good food and good company. This is the story my hands have to tell, of the company they helped to build and the promise they helped to fulfil. The promise of *A Taste for Life*."

He proceeds with admirable enthusiasm, self-assurance and optimism to throw himself into the dream of bringing to Cape Town the steakhouse concept that only existed in Johannesburg at the time.

In 1967, at the tender age of 26, his choice of Newlands in the southern suburbs of Cape Town as the location for his first restaurant is one of many instances where his natural business instincts, and his ability to trust his gut are evidenced. Defying naysayers, he understood

'This book is a backward glance of someone who created a business that is as South African as Izintaba zoKhahlamba, or the Drakensberg Mountains, as they are also known.' Muzi Kuzwayo

that the family-oriented nature of the neighbourhood, with five schools in the vicinity, and the proximity to the cricket ground and rugby stadium made it a perfect place to open a restaurant.

The Golden Spur in Newlands was an instant success, and went on to achieve iconic status and occupy a special place in many a Capetonian's lifestory in the ensuing years.

In engaging narrative, Allen goes on to tell of his entrepreneurial journey, and how he grew and nurtured his business, always staying faithful to his core values of hard work, impeccable standards, attention to detail and his understanding of the importance of relationships — with customers, colleagues and staff — as the most important element of growing and sustaining a successful business.

But this book is not just a fairy-tale scenario of one man's success and good luck. Through inevitable highs and lows, successes, missteps and misfortunes, it is Allen's ability to recognise the problems and rectify them; and his focus on the bigger picture that makes this book such an inspirational read.

Allen, the first person protagonist, is good company! His positive outlook and authenticity keep him focused

on the things that make him happy and that he's good at. His account of his adoption of Iyengar yoga as an integral part of his life, is an example of this.



Since retiring, he continues to live in Cape Town, and practice and teach Iyengar yoga. And he's written a book of course.

One morning, as I sat down at my desk, stressed and annoyed after an argument with a junior partner, I thought to myself, this cannot be good for me. On the spur of the moment, I walked out and joined the morning yoga class at a studio close by. It worked. The routine became a discipline, and the discipline became a way of life.

A Taste for Life is available at Exclusive Books, Wordsworth, The Book Lounge, Loot and Takealot.

A Taste for Life

HOW THE SPUR LEGEND WAS BORN



Allen Ambor

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Uniformity at school

by Craig Nudelman

The other morning, I woke up and I found a little girl in a school uniform.

Her usual long and wild hair was in a neat braid, her colourful clothes replaced by a white t-shirt and a blue and white tartan skirt, and in the place of her tie-dye slip slops were white socks and black school shoes. I had a Grade 1 in my room.

It wasn't a shock, to be honest. I knew Jessica was going to go to her first day of 'big school' that Tuesday morning. However, there was a niggling thought in the back of my mind that my little creative, wild (in a positive sense), outgoing, and fun little girl was going to be sucked into 'the system'. Why did her uniform invoke that feeling in me? Was it my own school career coming back to taunt me? Or is she is now going to lose something? Something special — something which defines my little Jessie?

In South Africa, school uniforms (or sometimes a multiform — where older learners can choose a style but still fit into the norm) are quintessential to schooling. This has been the norm since formal education began, based on our former ties to British colonialism. But in other countries that do not have a compulsory uniform system, more and more schools are beginning to adopt a dress-code. The best example is the United States, where 20% of school-goers are now required to wear uniforms. There are multiple reasons that are provided (mostly by school websites) about why a uniform is important.

One is that they break down class barriers

between students. This is definitely a positive and one which, I think, many of us have seen firsthand. Regardless of economic privilege, each student is required to wear the same clothes. Here's an interesting fact about American schools: according to K12academics.com, 47% of low-income schools require uniforms, whereas only 6% of high economic status schools do. When there is a 'civvies' day at school, you can tell who can afford to buy the big brands and flaunt their wealth. But school uniforms are still expensive; blazers, shoes, belts, shirts, and pants/skirts, not to mention a summer and winter uniform, can cost up to R9000 in a middle-income school, according to Mark Potterton, the director of the Catholic Institute of Education. This must be addressed in a modern South African context, not one which was prescribed 145 years ago.

Yes, there should be a limit on what students should be able to wear, but really, what is the difference between having a pink scrunchy or two earrings in the greater scheme of things?

Another aspect cited as positive is that the wearing of uniforms result in increased student focus. Evidence for this is quite thin, but apparently students don't have to notice or respond to what they or their peers are wearing and can concentrate on their studies. I have to disagree with this. Wearing a blazer and tie in stifling heat, or not having a thicker jersey when it's cold, does not allow for a child to focus on their studies. In fact, it hampers it. Also, if a student is not disciplined enough to wear their uniform correctly (untucked shirt, a neon pink hair-band, or G-d forbid a patterned sock) a teacher will 'have' to discipline them. This doesn't really lead to academic focus. Neither does this lead to the other advantages of uniforms: promotion of school spirit; discipline in general; or a sense of belonging or community.

One interesting aspect which can be both an advantage and disadvantage in our society today is one of safety. If there is a field trip, the teacher in charge can easily see the students, which allows all students to be accounted for (in most cases) as they won't easily blend into the crowd. However, there can be two arguments against this from both a social media and Jewish perspective. If a student takes a picture of themselves in their

school uniform and posts it onto Instagram, a sexual predator can see where the student goes to school and abduct the student (so make sure your child is aware of this!). In a Jewish context, there could be an antisemitic incident, although this is unlikely.



Despite these positives, there are cons to a school uniform which must be taken into consideration. The first, mentioned above, is that it is expensive. With limited suppliers (which is changing due to the Competition Tribunal stating that exclusive supply agreements for certain school uniforms must end), uniforms cannot be procured at a reasonable price. I have seen students whose blazers, shirts, jerseys, and shoes look 'shoddy'. This may not be because they don't care about the uniform itself, but just can't afford what is needed.

Self-expression is not a crime – it is a way of showing who you are in a system which can sometimes be so constricting and oppressive.

Uniforms do not allow for a student's self-expression. I know many reading this will argue that our new society is filled with nonsensical ideas about allowing children to express themselves when they actually need discipline to succeed in life. However, we must allow students to express their emotions, especially at such a difficult age. Yes, there should be a limit on what students should be able to wear, but really, what is the difference between having a pink scrunchy or two earrings in the greater scheme of things? This also leads to punishment which is undeserved. Self-expression is not a crime – it is a way of showing who you are in a system which can sometimes be so constricting and oppressive. And in some scenarios (think of the Sans Souci Girl's High scenario where an African student was told she could not wear braids at school due to the hair policy) it could be considered unconstitutional and increase the marginalization of certain students.

Uniforms are everywhere in society. Whether you are a builder, businessman, teacher, actor, or yoga instructor, there are codes of conduct for how we dress and represent our company or profession. Nevertheless, let's show some compassion for our little people who are still developing and need to express themselves. Maybe Jessie will wear a pink or purple hair band every now and then — just don't tell the principal!



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[back to contents](#)

A change in the law — Common law husbands and wives *do* exist

By Anton Katz SC

In April 2018, the Cape Jewish Chronicle published a piece, *Common law marriage does not exist in South Africa* in which I wrote, “There is, in South Africa, no such thing as a common law marriage. Common law wives and husbands do not exist.”

My analysis was that no matter how long two people lived together as a committed long-term couple they would not in the eyes of the law be regarded as a “married couple.” What I wrote in 2018 is (today) not the correct legal position in South Africa. Did I get the law wrong? Was the law amended? If so, how was it changed? Did parliament pass new legislation? What is the actual position and how did it come about?

The Constitution, the supreme law in South Africa protects the equality of all persons. Therefore, no law may discriminate against anyone on one of a series of listed grounds. The listed grounds are race, gender, sex, pregnancy, marital status, ethnic or social origin, colour, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion, conscience, belief, culture, language and birth.

In *Volks v Robinson*, the Constitutional Court in 2005 considered the important question — ‘May the law treat and deal with married couples differently to couples who choose not to marry?’

There are many laws which govern intimate family relationships and their consequences. Marriage, divorce, maintenance, pension, inheritance, parents’ rights and obligations to children, taxes, adoption, surrogacy and even immigration are just a few examples. In *Volks v Robinson*¹, the Constitutional Court in 2005 considered the important question — ‘May the law treat and deal with married couples differently to couples who choose not to marry?’ The facts in *Volks* were: Mrs Robinson had lived as a life partner with Mr Shandling for many years. They lived and conducted themselves like a married couple. But they did not enter into a formal marriage. After Mr Shandling died, Mrs Robinson did not receive the legal benefits and rights she would have had if they had been married. She approached the courts, claiming that she was unconstitutionally and unfairly discriminated against on the basis of their marital status (that is not being married). The majority (7-3) of the Constitutional Court on 21 February 2005 effectively held that Mrs Robinson was not unfairly discriminated against. The couple had made a choice not to get married. That choice had consequences. The election of the couple meant that both the rights and obligations of marriage did not apply to them. Therefore, there was no unfair discrimination; Mrs Robinson did not succeed in her constitutional challenge. And so non-married life couples could lawfully be treated differently to married couples.

Until the saga of Ms Jane Banywa and Mr Tony Ruch. Ms Banywa, who is originally from Zimbabwe, and Mr Ruch, were involved in a relationship that comprised most, if not all, characteristics of a

marriage. They met and entered into a romantic relationship in 2014. Later that year Mr Ruch asked Ms Banywa to move in with him on a permanent basis. Ms Banywa obliged. From then on, they split their time between Mr Ruch’s Camps Bay and Mouille Point properties. Ms Banywa retained her accommodation at the home in Camps Bay where she was employed as a domestic worker. Ms Banywa’s and Mr Ruch’s friends were aware of the relationship. The pair used to accompany each other to various social gatherings. Mr Ruch introduced Ms Banywa as his wife to his friends. They often hugged and kissed in the presence of other people. Mr Ruch referred to Ms Banywa’s brother as his brother-in-law. By October 2015 the partners were contemplating “cementing the relationship with a baby.” Mr Ruch bought all the groceries and other household necessities, and paid for all other household expenses; while Ms Banywa provided him with love, care, emotional support and companionship. Mr Ruch assisted Ms Banywa in her efforts to obtain a driver’s licence, and paid for her driving lessons. He intended to buy her a car which she was also to use in a cleaning business they planned to start together. In November 2015 Mr Ruch proposed marriage to Ms Banywa, and she accepted. Preparations to travel to Zimbabwe began so that lobola negotiations could commence and Mr Ruch could meet Ms Banywa’s family. These preparations entailed selling the Mouille Point property. The proceeds were to be used to pay lobola and purchase a vehicle for the trip to Zimbabwe. The plan was for the pair to get married after the trip. On 23 April 2016, two months before the scheduled journey, Mr Ruch passed away. In his will he had nominated his mother as the sole heir to his estate. However, his mother had predeceased him. She had died in 2013.

Ms Banywa lodged two claims against Mr Ruch’s estate in terms of the Administration of Estates Act. They were for maintenance in terms of the *Maintenance of Surviving Spouses Act* and for inheritance in terms of the *Intestate Succession Act*. She based the claims on the fact that her permanent life partnership with Mr Ruch was akin to a marriage and that they had undertaken reciprocal duties of support towards each other.

The executor of Mr Ruch’s estate rejected both claims on the basis that the couple had elected not to get married, and under the two Acts the automatic benefits of marriage did not apply, and so,



Ms Banywa did not qualify for the claimed benefits. Ms Banywa challenged the constitutionality of the two Acts in court. The basis of her challenge was that the exclusions under the two Acts violated Ms Banywa’s constitutional rights to equality and dignity.



But she had a problem. *Volks v Robinson* just ten years before had decided that she had no claim. And that judgment was by the highest South African court, the apex court, the Constitutional Court.

Academic and other commentators had over time consistently and heavily criticised the reasoning in *Volks*. *Volks* didn’t take into account the lived reality of hundreds of thousands of women, so the argument went. And interestingly, all ten justices who decided *Volks* had retired and there were ten ‘new’ judges who had to decide Ms Banywa’s case.

Academic and other commentators had over time consistently and heavily criticised the reasoning in *Volks*. *Volks* didn’t take into account the lived reality of hundreds of thousands of women.

In a 6 — 4 judgment of the Constitutional Court dated 31 December 2021 (sixteen years after *Volks*) Ms Banywa won her challenge. The majority of the Constitutional Court was careful to say that it was not overruling *Volks*. The majority was convinced that *Volks* was wrongly decided. It accepted that “marriage and family are important social institutions in our society.” But the reality is that more than 3.2 million South Africans are cohabiting outside of marriage. Marriage comes in many shapes and sizes; and all categories of families are deserving of protection. Dealing with intimate family relationships and the notion of choice [whether to get married or not] it stated, “And life is not so mechanical that one may ask why, instead of walking away, women stay in permanent life partnerships if — in some of them — it is men that do not want to get married. Much as it may not take much for some to walk away, that is not necessarily how life works. A woman may have to be content with what in essence is the man’s choice.” And thus, the Banywa majority effectively overturned the *Volks* rejection of common law marriages.

The law has now been developed by the Constitutional Court to mean that the concept of *spouse* includes a person in a permanent life partnership in which the partners undertook reciprocal duties of support.

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.

¹ * disclaimer: I was counsel for Mr Volks, the executor of Mr Shandling’s estate.

Kaunas, European Capital of Culture 2022 evoking Jewish memory of the city

Kaunas, Lithuania was named European Capital of Culture 2022 by the European Commission jury in 2017.

It is one of the European Union's most successful cultural projects, funded by city municipalities and national governments. It is an opportunity to explore the city's identity through art and cultural projects, and to speak out on issues relevant to today's world.

The city's multi-ethnic history and Jewish memory are some of the main themes of *Kaunas European Capital of Culture 2022*. Kaunas

2022 Memory Office programme is dedicated to bringing the city's history up to date and awakening its memory. Most of the Memory Office programme in 2022 will be dedicated to art and cultural projects that speak about the city's Jewish memory.

Active since 2017, the Kaunas 2022 Memory Office team has presented several projects dedicated to Kaunas' Jewish memory. One of the most important projects is the book *Jews of Kaunas*. This book is

an attempt to present the Jewish history of Kaunas, starting with the most important facts, concepts, and names. It describes the history of what was once one of the largest ethnic groups in Kaunas from the 15th century onwards, the settlement of Jews in the city, the names of the most important Kaunasians who lived and worked there, their contribution to education, medicine, industry, business, culture and other spheres of life, and touches on the painful pages of history.

More than 20 art projects — exhibitions, concerts, and performances — will recall the rich Jewish history of Kaunas.

Kaunas 2022 initiated a number of street artworks in the city and district, recalling the names and faces of those who lived here.

Among them is the famous Israeli poet, Leah Goldberg, originally from Kaunas, whose image and poem appear in the place where the poet lived — Kestučio Street. Yossi Levy, the Israeli Ambassador to Lithuania, wrote in his letter to the team, "It is for sure the most beautiful wall painting I have seen so far in Lithuania, very touching, delicate and of great taste, yet projecting a powerful message of humanity and pain of the poet torn between her two homelands."

More than 20 art projects — exhibitions, concerts, and performances — will recall the rich Jewish history of Kaunas. The programme features Litvak artists from South Africa, Israel, France, the UK, and the USA. The Embassy of Israel in Vilnius, the Embassies of Lithuania in Israel, South Africa, and the

United Kingdom, Lithuanian and international artists and cultural creators have kindly contributed to the development of the programme.

The 2022 Capital of Culture programme will kick off with the exhibition *What we don't remember* by William Kentridge, one of the world's most formidable Litvaks, which will be open all year round at the M.K.Čiurlionis National Museum of Art. In this exhibition, the artist hopes to fill in the gaps in our memory and, at the same time, talk to us about what we do not remember, consciously or unconsciously.

In the summer of 2022, events dedicated to the history of the Holocaust and the Kaunas Ghetto will be presented. The *Way of Reconciliation* procession and Giuseppe Verdi's opera *Nabucco* will take place at Kaunas 9th Fort, as will *Ecce Homo: Those Who Stayed and Those Who Left*, a joint interdisciplinary project presented by the Kaunas 9th Fort Museum and the National Resistance Museum of Luxembourg. Audiences in Kaunas and in Esch-sur-Alzette will be invited to revisit a tragic story from the Second World War. The project will shed light on a common bond between the two cities through painful, traumatic memories, and will imbue them with new relevance in the context of current events.

At the end of the summer, Jenny Kagan (UK) will exhibit *Out of Darkness*, in which the artist revives her parents' stories of their experiences in Kaunas during the Holocaust.

On 23 September, the *Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Genocide of the Lithuanian Jews*, Kaunas Youth Project will perform *Youth Speaks about War*. The participants of the project, the young generation of Kaunas citizens, will ask the audience 'What would you do if war knocked on your door?' The audience will be invited to listen to the forgotten stories of World War II and to consider the challenges of history today.

On 29 — 30 September, *Kaunas European Capital of Culture 2022* will invite you to the Litvak Forum. Artists, academics, and



Jenny Kagan exhibition Out of Darkness Photo: Kagan

representatives of the cultural world will speak about the role of culture and art in perpetuating the Jewish memory and heritage, the Litvak identity, and other relevant topics of today. The members of the Litvak Forum Advisory Board are Prof. Antony Polonsky, Prof. Peter Salovey, Prof. James E. Young, Prof. Tsvia Walden, Zev Krengel, Vice President of the Jewish Board of Deputies of South Africa, Prof. Šarunas Liekis, Darius Degutis, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania to Australia, Misha Jakobas, founder and former director of the ORT Gymnasium in Vilnius and Gercas Žakas, Chairman of the Kaunas Jewish Community.

The Litvak Forum will offer a rich programme of concerts, exhibitions, performances, and meetings with artists, including one of the largest musical projects, *Kaunas Cantata* — written especially for Kaunas by South African composer Philip Miller in collaboration with artist Jenny Kagan (UK) and local musicians. The work is an immersive musical experience, inviting listeners to delve into the city's multi-ethnic past and the complex stories of Kaunas. The forum's programme also includes a concert of Yiddish songs performed by Marija Krupoves, and a traveling klezmer orchestra who will evoke the Jewish memory in Kaunas district towns.

Participants of the forum will be able to see the photography exhibition *The Last Litvaks* by Michael Shubitz. In September, the city streets will be filled with the contemporary art installation *Threshold* by artist Jyll Bradley (UK), which will symbolically bring back the symbol of Jewish culture — the mezuzah — to the streets of Kaunas.

In October, Israeli artists *Sala-Manca Collective* and the *Kaunas Symphony Orchestra* will stage a performance evoking the mystical story of *Dybbuk*. These and other stories of the past will be waiting for you in 2022 in Kaunas, the European Capital of Culture.

See page 26 for programme of events



Opening of the exhibition about Holocaust survivors Photo: Kaunas 22



Mural in the village Kacergine, Jewish friends before WWII

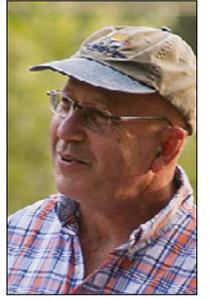
Photo: Kaunas 2022

[back to contents](#)

ISRAEL: A JOURNEY MAKING MEANING

Reading *Beautiful World, Where Are You* in Tel Aviv

Julian Resnick writes from Israel



Many years ago, over 50 in fact, I read a book which made a huge impression on me in my bedroom on 1 Lourens Street, Somerset West, next door to Eddie Roux Motors.

The curtains in my bedroom, the room I slept in for the first 16 years of my life, were a copy of the Bayeux Tapestry which it took until 2019 for me to get to in Normandy to see the originals — which blew me away. It's a funny thing travel, you go to Normandy to prepare to take a group to see the battlefields of *Utah, Juno, Gold, Sword* and *Omaha*, and you end up looking at the tapestry upon which your childhood dreams were predicated.

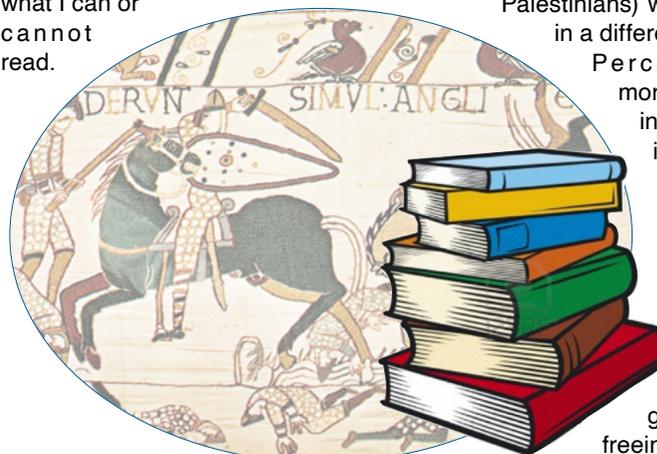
I am sure that my curtains had nothing to do with it, but when I read Hendrik van Loon's *Lives*, one life totally spoke to me and said this is what you need to do with your life. It was the story of Albert Schweitzer and his work as a doctor doing good in Africa. Coupled with the fact that my father was a doctor in Somerset West and had his surgery adjacent to our home, my future path was clear. I too would one day be Dr Resnick working as my father did for the good of local people.

Fast forward from my bedroom in Somerset West to UCT circa 1975. I am no longer a schoolboy, but rather a young, confused university student. I am not on my way to becoming Albert Schweitzer, and probably not Nabokov either, but I am reading *Lolita* in my modern novel class taught by the inimitable, brilliant and at times very cruel lecturer Dr John Coetzee. This is John Coetzee pre-Nobel Prize, filled with his awareness of his brilliance, making sure we know that we know close to nothing (which is true), that our understanding of George Eliot, D. H. Lawrence and Thomas Hardy is superficial (again, true) and introducing us, no seducing us, into the erotic reading of *Lolita*. Don't misunderstand me, nothing improper happened in our lecture hall, but he managed to convey to us in his brilliant teaching, the essence of *Lolita* and the feeling of emotional dangers which accompanies the reading (and perhaps more than the reading, that accompanied the writing of *Lolita*).

What John Coetzee managed to do was to open the door for us so that we could enter that extraordinary space on the edge of literary seduction. That space when it is unclear whether it is the mind, heart or libido responding to the writing on the page. I imagine Nabokov inhabited that space too.

In 2003, some 24 years after the establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Azar Nafisi writes — in exile of course — *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. In 1995, two years before she went into exile, she gathered seven young women together to read and discuss forbidden works of Western Literature. They read and discussed *Pride and Prejudice*, *Washington Square*, *Lolita*. And, of course, they began to talk of their own lives very quickly. Of dreams, disappointments and of the intersection of the private, personal world and the public world going through extraordinary upheavals around them. Some took off their hijabs while in a private space; revealing at times dazzling, fashionable clothing, at times jeans; while some from the more conservative and traditional homes remained covered. The ability to read whatever their hearts desired led to a feeling of momentary liberation in an extremely limiting public domain, especially for women.

It took me back to those distant days in South Africa where what we read and what we watched at the cinema was proscribed. When we had to guess who was coming to dinner, and we had no idea of the temperature in the heat of the night as we could not watch Sydney Poitier films. When, as an 18-year-old returning from my year in Israel, I, together with my youth movement friends, found numerous ways to smuggle books into South Africa (not porn, but political novels, others did smuggle porn, but I promise we smuggled only books by Karl, Isaac and the others). I developed — along with many other South Africans of my generation — a healthy dislike for being told what we could or could not read, a strongly held conviction ever since those days that nobody, and I mean nobody, would ever tell me what I can or cannot read.


[back to contents](#)

And then along comes Sally Rooney, young and talented. Author of *Lonely People* which I had not read (I know, I should have read it and not offered the lame next part of this sentence) but had watched it as a series on *Netflix* and had enjoyed very much. Sally Rooney — Irish, sharp, witty, intellectual, political — writing in a way which challenges not only literary convention and the building of characters, but also manages to write a serious political treatise and an analysis of Western Capitalism, while being entertaining at the same time. The problem, which you are all of course aware of, is that she is a supporter of BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanctions), those who would use the aforementioned tools, B, D, and S, to bring down the State of Israel.

Major problem for me. On the one hand my commitments are clear, to Zionism, Israel, Jewish Peoplehood and Jewish Nationalism. I regularly go to bat for Israel. Not necessarily an opener, but not a tail-ender either.

On the other hand, I never want to feel that feeling again that I had in South Africa and that Azar Nafisi had in Tehran. The feeling of not being able to read anything I want to read, irrespective of the mainstream narratives, irrespective of the writer's attitude to that which I hold dear. I want this to always be my decision, not one forced on me in Tehran or Cape Town. I might decide not to read something because I know what else the writer stands for, but that is exactly what I want, to decide myself.

And Tel Aviv is not Tehran. In many ways it is the polar opposite. Tel Aviv is about freedom. It is one of the most open cities on the planet. Tel Aviv has a Pride Month, not Day, not Week, but Month (June) sponsored by City Hall. It is the go-to place for Israelis (and Palestinians) who want to live in a different way, openly.

Percentage-wise more vegans live in Tel Aviv than in any other city in the world (if you ever go on a graffiti tour of Florentin, with me or any other tour guide, look out for the graffiti calling for freeing calves?).

So, I will sit in *Café Dizengoff, Xoho, The Little Prince, Castel, NOLA, Zorik, Elkalai* and *Shapira* (I have just given you cafe lovers a list of very different cafes to hang out in, in very different neighbourhoods) and finish reading *Beautiful World, Where Are You* (I am on page 305 right now), and look over to the next table and hope to see you there, reading my copies, from my bookshelf, of the *The Netanyahu* by Joshua Cohen or perhaps *The Promise of Israel* by Rabbi Danny Gordis or *We Were Dreamers* by Yossi Klein Halevy or *Start Up Nation* by Dan Senor and Saul Singer.

I need to mention one last book. I am always aware when I am in Tel Aviv, especially when I am there with visitors to Israel, that this is a city with a unique name. Now those of you who went to Herzlia, King David, Carmel or Theodore Herzl, as opposed to those of us who went to Cape Town High, Paul Roos or Hottentots Holland (my three high schools — a story for another time, why three high schools), probably know that *Tel* is a hill created by layer upon layer of succeeding civilizations and that *Aviv* is spring. But, I am not sure just how many of you know that *Tel Aviv* is the name created as the Hebrew title of *Altneuland* by Nachum Sokolow, the translator. And this is the last book I want to mention (we've come a long way since Hendrik van Loon's *Mankind* in the first paragraph). *Altneuland* was written by Herzl (Theodore or Binyamin Ze'ev) as a utopian novel describing the future Jewish country he was dreaming of. I have a sneaking feeling that in the Jewish State Herzl (Theodore or Binyamin Ze'ev) was dreaming of, there was somebody reading *Beautiful World, Where Are You* in that *Altneuland/Tel Aviv*.

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

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

Bagels — The roll with a hole

By Leila Stein

Bagels, the roll with a hole, are a staple in Jewish households across South Africa and the world.

These delicious, crunchy, chewy, semi-sweet rolls can be found in predominantly Jewish neighbourhoods almost everywhere — from the Old City in Jerusalem to Sea Point.

Over the last few years, bagels have taken on more mainstream appeal, becoming a standard in various cafes across the city. Whether these are up to scratch or not presents an enticing opportunity for bagel fans to judge.

A short history of bagels

While popular culture may make one think that the bagel is an invention of the Jewish neighbourhoods of New York City, this isn't quite the case.

The true history of the bagel is disputed. However, its origin is roughly agreed upon as being Poland and its surrounding countries. According to Maria Balinska's book, *The Bagel: A Surprising History of a Modest Bread*, accounts of the bagel have been found in written records in Krakow dating back to the 1600s.

This is entirely unsurprising to anyone who has been to Krakow, where bagel stands can be found dotted around the old town square.

This makes the connection to the Jewish communities in New York understandable. Eastern European immigrants brought over the sweetish-

satisfying bread to the new world in the 19th Century. But credit where it's due — the combination of cream cheese and salmon (lox) has been verified as a creation of the *City that Never Sleeps*.

Immigration of Litvak Jews is also how the bagel made its way to South Africa. The significant Ashkenazi presence ensured that traditional dishes have lived on through each generation to this day.

However, among all the traditional recipes, bagels have managed to enter the mainstream faster than kugel or cholent.

This has been assisted by famous

delis such as *New York Bagel*, which opened under the name *Milly's* in the 1940s, among others that ensured these delicious bread didn't just stay behind families' closed doors.

The rise of the popular bagel

While kosher restaurants and caterers have not always offered up bagels for simchas, there is currently a surge in popularity of the bagel among the broader community.

In Cape Town, popular eateries such as *New York Bagel* and *Kleinsky's* have ensured that the traditional boiled bagels are not easily substituted with sub-par options (although, it is easy to stumble upon a non-boiled bagel in various supermarkets and wonder how they haven't yet learned the trick of boiling them).

These bagel delis have kept to the classics while also experimenting with unique flavours and combinations. While there may be many a '*schmeat*' to choose from, you'll also likely find some form of breakfast bagel topped with scrambled eggs or even a pizza bagel — the most fascinating collision of cultures.

This availability of the properly boiled bagel has resulted in standards for a good bagel rising across the city.

While previously a restaurant could get away with serving something a little less authentic, dedicated bagel connoisseur destinations have cemented the standard for a good bagel among Capetonians.

According to Maria Balinska's book, *The Bagel: A Surprising History of a Modest Bread*, accounts of the bagel have been found in written records in Krakow dating back to the 1600s

Make your own bagels at home

While the idea of making properly boiled bagels might be intimidating, preparing them at home is quite straightforward.

Unlike more complicated bread, such as sourdough, they don't require any special ingredients; and the real trick is to boil them for the right amount of time. This in itself, however, is relatively simple.

However, one important tip is to always make the hole bigger than you would expect. Nothing is worse than having the perfect-looking bagel rise until the hole is almost completely closed.

As with all bread, patience is necessary to ensure that your dough has developed sufficiently. So take your time and enjoy delicious home-made bagels.

Ingredients:

2 teaspoons dry yeast	1½ teaspoons salt
4½ teaspoons sugar	1 teaspoon baking soda (to be added to pot of boiling water later)
1½ cup warm water	
3½ cups bread flour (or cake flour)	

Instructions:

Dissolve the sugar in ½ cup warm water, add in the yeast and let it sit until bubbling. Stir together.

In a separate bowl, mix together the salt and flour. Make a well in the centre before pouring in the yeast and sugar mixture.

Mix in ½ cup warm water, and then continue to add the remaining ½ cup while stirring.

Once combined, turn out the dough onto a floured surface and knead for about 10 minutes until smooth.

Put the dough into an oiled dish and cover it with a damp cloth. Leave to rest for 1 hour. Punch down the risen dough and let it rest for another 20 minutes.

Separate the dough into 6-8 perfectly round and even balls. Once you're happy, gently place a finger through the centre making a hole. Stretch the hole until you are

satisfied. Remember, the dough will rise, so make it a bit bigger.

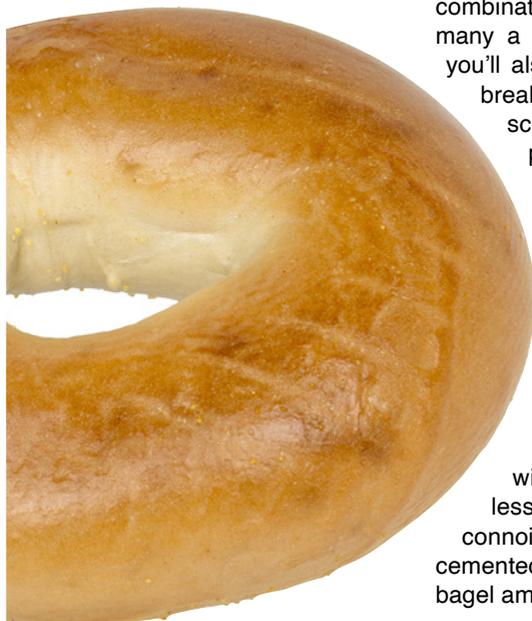
Allow the shaped dough to rest, turn on the oven and set at 220 degrees. At the same time, bring a large pot of water to the boil.

When it's boiling, lower to a simmer and add one teaspoon of baking soda before gently placing the bagels into the pot. Don't overcrowd the pot.

Wait until the bagel floats to the top, leave it for 1 minute, turn it over and leave for another minute. The longer you leave it, the chewier it becomes.

Add any toppings as you take the bagels out of the water. This is when they will stick best.

Once the bagels are boiled and ready, place them on a well-oiled parchment-lined baking tray and cook for 20-25 minutes or until they are golden.



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SPORT

Cape Town-born Sarah Levy shines in the international rugby arena

By Jaime Uranovsky

If anyone were destined to excel at rugby, it would be Sarah Levy.

Born in Cape Town and raised in San Diego, California from the age of three, Sarah comes from a line of rugby greats. Her paternal great-grandfather was the legendary Louis Babrow, one of the first Jewish Springboks, who played many a match for the prestigious Barbarians (an international, invite-only squad) and who also coached the sport at UCT. Her great uncles Peter and Nelson and her uncle Rob played rugby as well — the former for Western Province. Her father, Denis Levy, is another rugby fanatic.



Sarah Levy Photo: Travis Prior Photography

While 26-year-old Sarah's ancestry mean that her talent and skill are no surprise, her acceptance into the Eagles, the national US rugby team, as well as her various achievements so far, are truly exceptional, especially since she only began playing the sport at age 18 when she signed up at university and "just fell in love right away".

Sarah laughingly explains that while she has a photo of herself as a baby holding a rugby ball, she did not, while growing up, pay the sport much attention.

She says, "Rugby isn't a big sport in the US so I didn't think about my family's legacy as a huge deal. My dad would just watch rugby and... I didn't know the rules or anything. Then, going to South Africa to visit my family, that's when I realised this is a huge sport... so I didn't really know the extent of it until I started playing and then all my dad's older relatives started talking to me about what their family has done and how involved they were. That's when I realised what a big deal this was."

Sarah feels a close connection to South Africa, which "still feels like a big part of my life." The last time that Sarah visited was right before the hard lockdown in March 2020 and she looks forward, schedule permitting, to returning. While she, of course, supports her own national US women's rugby team, she admits that, "Whenever I watch the South African men's team play the sevens in Vegas I always root for South Africa just because the players are so incredible."

Sarah, who plays professional rugby fulltime and is simultaneously studying toward a doctorate in physical therapy, is versatile, playing winger in the fifteens and hooker, winger, centre or, lately, prop in the sevens. Her teammates, who she views as family, train for eight hours four days a week. She attends to her academics on weekends.

The player's favourite aspect of rugby is the strategy required. She notes, "You learn how a team plays and then you adapt to that. Then they adapt to how you're playing against them so it's like a back-and-forth chess match."

Every time Sarah reaches a career goal, she sets another. First, she wanted to play for the national US team; then she wanted to play professionally, full time; then it was

playing series (thirteen teammates are selected to tour) — she recently achieved this by representing the US in Spain for the 2022 World Rugby Sevens Series. Her current goals are to play at the World Cup later this year and to compete at the 2024 Olympics.

She considers her biggest achievement thus far to have been invited to play for the Barbarians — like her great-grandfather — in November 2021 at Twickenham. She says that the experience reminded her how much she loves playing rugby. "It made me feel like a kid just playing and it was just such a great experience meeting people from all over the world." During her game against the Springboks, Sarah scored three tries, securing the Barbarians' victory.

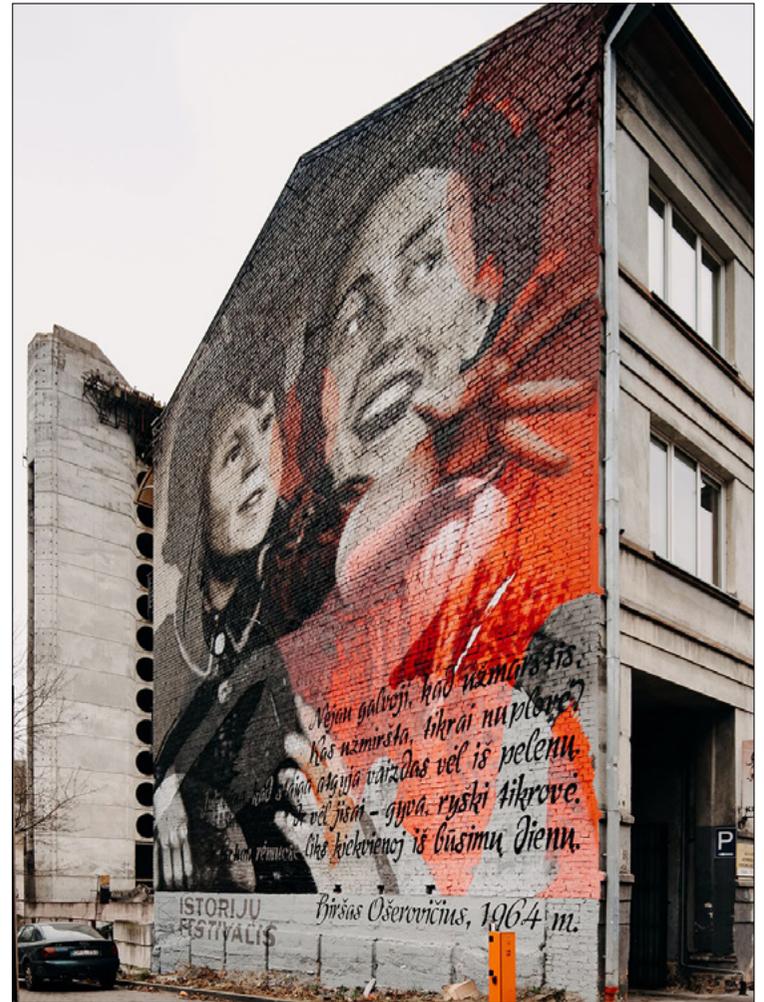
The player is excited for the future of women's rugby, especially since her Barbarians game attracted a record-breaking number of viewers. She is proof that the game is in good hands.



15s match against Ireland Photo: Inpho Photography

From page 23

Kaunas 2022 calendar of projects dedicated to Jewish memory



The CityTelling Festival, one of the biggest events of Kaunas 2022 Memory Office. Created by Tadas Vincaitis, the mural is dedicated to a Jewish family that lived in Kaunas before WW2. It was inspired by interwar photography, in which we see a girl – Rosian Bagriansky with her mother Gerta. Rosian was born in 1935 in Kaunas. Her father, Paul Bagriansky, was a successful textile merchant, and her mother was a Paris-trained concert pianist and music teacher who became the Konzertmeister of the Lithuanian Music Theatre after the war. The family survived the Holocaust. In this street art piece you can also see one of the most beautiful poems of the Lithuanian Jewish poet Hirsh Osėrovičius.

Litvak music programme

May, August – September 2022

Out of Darkness, an exhibition by Jenny Kagan (UK)

2022 August – October

Ecce Homo: Those Who Stayed and Those Who Left, an art installation by Bruce Clarke (FR) and Tebby W.T. Ramasike (NL)

September – December 2022

Way of Reconciliation, a historic procession and premiere of Giuseppe Verdi's opera Nabucco

July 16, 2022

Threshold, public art installation by Jyll Bradley (UK),

from July 2022

The Youth talk about war, performance in public spaces Forum

23 September 2022

World Litvak Forum

29 September – 01 October 2022

Kaunas Kantata, music performance, composer

Phillip Miller (RSA), visual artist Jenny Kagan (UK)

30 September, 1 October, 2022

The Last Litvaks, photography exhibition By Michael Schubitz (IL)

September – December

The Music Shell, concert story by artists collective Chrimatikon (UK)

September 2022

Simon Karczmar, an exhibition of paintings

June – August 2022

The Journey, exhibition by Marilla Destot (US)

September 2022

Window to Jewish Life before the Holocaust, exhibition

September – December 2022

The Dybbuk, musical performance by artist collective Sala – Manca (IL)

14 – 15 October, 2022

[Click here for a detailed programme](#)

SIMCHA PAGE



Dennis Hammar and Sharon Levin

Photo: Marc Wylie



Jaime Trope and Lori Cape

Photo: Ayeה Khalatbari



Jessica Gawronsky and Justin Milner

Photo: Guy Lerner



Saul Ginsberg and Melissa Ganz

Photo: John Armstrong

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[back to contents](#)

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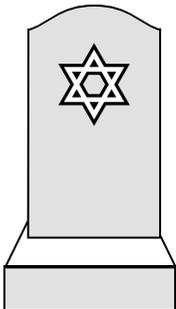
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