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Cape Town welcomes new ambassador



see page 10

The Cape Town Jewish communal leadership recently welcomed new Israeli Ambassador Eli Belotsercovsky and his wife Elena.

A new president for Temple Israel



see page 21

Eric Beswick and Rabbi Charley Baginsky with outgoing president, Roy Fine

Tu B'Shevat with Cape SAJBD, Herzlia Junior High and Friends of Van Riebeeck Park



see page 8

Daniel Bloch (Executive Director, Cape SAJBD), Councillor Francine Higham, Adrienne Jacobson, Craig Nudelman (Programme Development Manager, Cape SAJBD) and Herzlia Student Representative Council

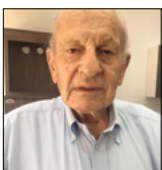
Pirates at Salisbury House



see page 9

Salisbury House used the theme of 'pirates' to create a holistic and creative learning experience. Above: Pirate ship artwork by Taya Weir

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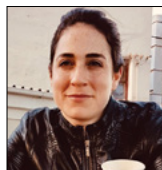
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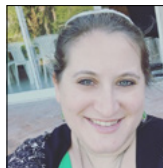
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Des Says...

By Desrae Saacks, acting editor Cape Jewish Chronicle



On agency

As I sit down to write this column — as usual at the very last possible minute! — I have BBC News playing in the background, with ongoing coverage and analysis of today's Russian attack on Ukraine.

It's 24 February, and who knows what Europe — and the world — will look like by the time this is being read. And while world leaders conduct endless discussions and issue threat after threat, and Ukrainians huddle in underground stations and queue in gridlocked traffic at petrol pumps and city exits, Putin carries on his outrageous acts of violence and aggression with impunity.

I could allow this column to spiral downwards and darkwards, but I know this is not the point and so my thoughts turn to agency. How does a man like Vladimir Putin get to unleash such naked aggression on a neighbouring country while the whole world watches? Again!

Mickey Glass writes on page 4, of the moral imperative that we all have to act for good. On page 8, Gwynne Robins, writing about climate change, reminds us that 'we're all in the same boat'.

I don't know what we (I) can do to stop Putin, but to think that this is not our concern would be a mistake. We're all connected, and will feel the impact

on the global economy, food security and another possible refugee crisis.

In March, we will be celebrating Purim — that time of year when we dress up as that which we're not, eat three-cornered hamentaschen (yum — see page 24) and read the story of brave Esther and evil Haman. The usual, 'they tried to kill us, we won, let's eat.'

When my two daughters were little, I found myself focusing on Esther's story when looking for strong Jewish female role models to hold up to them. Esther was a favourite character in our home who inspired many 'moments', from a preferred hairstyle (we had a beautifully illustrated book of Esther's story where she was depicted with a particular braided hairstyle, adopted and worn for years and referred to as 'Esther plaits'), to the subject of a batmitzvah speech. In the Purim story, Esther finds herself in a pivotal position of agency, and has to find the strength to 'do the right thing'. In rising to the challenge, she becomes a hero.

On page 25, Craig Nudelman writes about leadership. Leadership is something required of all of us — not just those at the top of the social and political hierarchies.

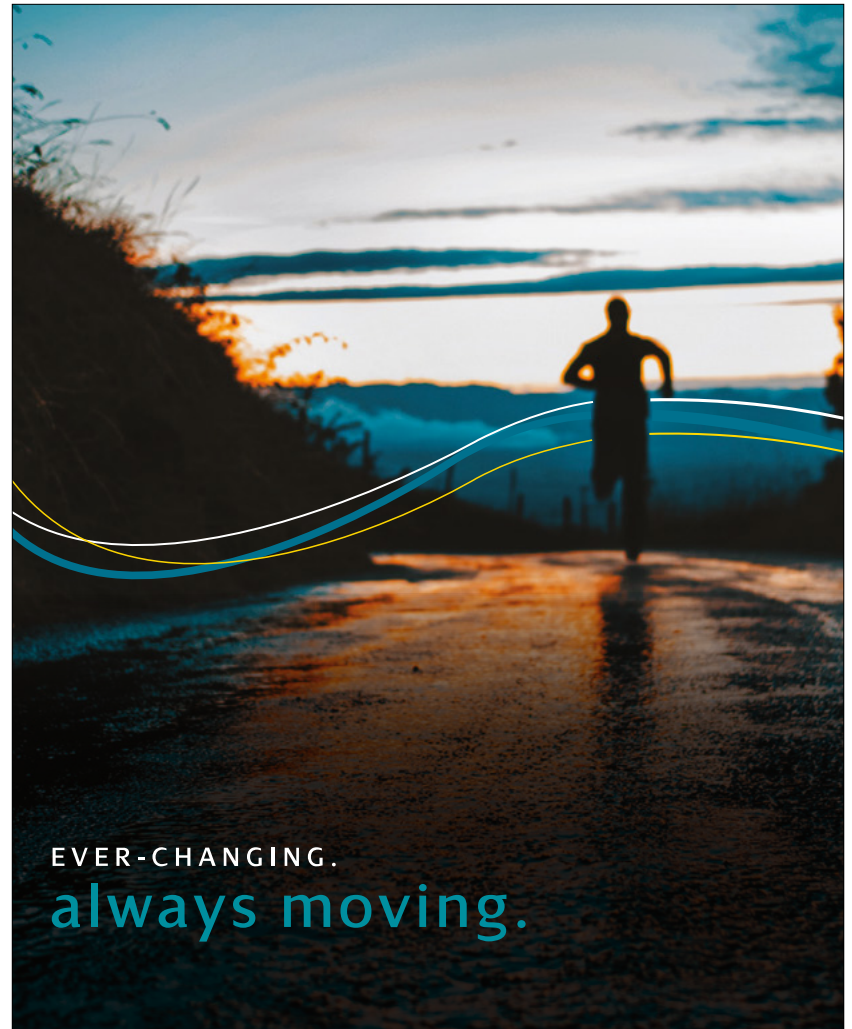
Life challenges us to act — whether on a small or large scale. And we have to find the judgement and courage to step up.

The Cape Jewish Chronicle invites and welcomes all engagement with our readers. Please make use of these pages to communicate anything that 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 March/2 Adar 2	Pekude	5.59pm	7.00pm	7.52pm
11 March/9 Adar 2	Vayikra Zachor	5.52pm	6.52pm	7.42pm
18 March/16 Adar 2	Tzav	5.44pm	6.42pm	7.33pm
25 March/23 Adar 2	Shemini Parah	5.36pm	6.33pm	7.23pm

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



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How and why does the Jewish community respond to social issues in the ambient society

By Mickey Glass

During Interfaith Harmony Week at the beginning of February, an opportunity was given to present the Jewish community's contribution to human rights and social welfare.

Because insufficient publicity is given to these manifold activities, all of which make a huge material difference to the marginalised communities amongst whom we live, this article is a follow-up for the benefit of our own community.

It is the Jewish custom to read a portion of our Torah every week. We have just read about the giving of the Ten Commandments nearly four thousand years ago. These, subtly and uniquely, blend laws regarding our relationship with God, together with laws that deal with social justice. At the time, this created a totally new world view. For the first time, a people received instructions which emphasised that the religious experience and the decency upon which we are commanded to build our interpersonal relationships are no longer to be seen as two

diverse realms, rather they are two aspects of one whole. Religion and common decency are intertwined and inseparable.

Social responsibility needs reaffirmation because it has become problematic in recent years. There exists a perception that these issues are far too great for individual acts to make a difference. So, we delegate our responsibilities to government. In so doing we substitute politics for ethics, law for moral obligation and independent contractors for personal involvement. As a result, ethics has become a matter of personal choice rather than collective responsibility. Any conception of human life without social responsibility fails to do justice to human dignity.

It should always be remembered that Judaism, the religion of biblical Israel, has existed twice as long as Christianity and three times as long as Islam. Whilst Judaism, like other faiths, might contain many strange concepts, its ultimate purpose is

certainly no mystery. It is to honour the image of God in other people and thus turn the world into a home for the divine presence.

We know that our common father, Abraham, was invited by God to initiate a new faith in which every generation strove for justice in human terms. It is not a faith that accepts the status quo as God's will. On the contrary, it's a faith in which God invites human beings to become his partners in the work of redemption; to build a society on the basis of a justice that people understand and relate to.

Any conception of human life without social responsibility fails to do justice to human dignity

We learn that someone else's physical needs are my spiritual obligation. Thus, wherever you find a Jewish community,

you will find welfare structures that cater to the diverse needs of that community. Our relatively small community runs its own:

- Old-aged home — Highlands House;
- Residential facility for Jewish adults with profound intellectual disability

- Glendale;
- Residential child and youth centre providing group care to children and youth who have been found to be in need of care and protection — Oranjia;
- Employment centre and residence to those in our community with disability — Astra Centre and Rosecourt.

There are certainly many other initiatives directed to the needs of our community. But this evening I want to concentrate on the work that we do beyond our own community. I mention only a few initiatives:

For nearly 30 years we have operated Afrika Tikkun, founded by our late Chief Rabbi Harris, with a budget today of over one hundred million Rand per annum, specialising in skills development and training in transformative development from cradle to career. Its local centre is not far away, in Zolile Malindi in Mfuleni, and cost over R15 million when it was built some years ago. Afrika Tikkun's largest and main centre is in Orange Farm in Gauteng.

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CAPE SAJBD
Engage | Educate | Empower

CONNECT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNITY

Giving back through communal connection

By Daniel Bloch, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

How do you give back? Do you volunteer and stand security outside shul on Shabbos? Do you hand out food parcels to those in need?

Maybe you get your hands dirty and you plant vegetable gardens in poor communities? Or perhaps you donate money to worthy causes. *Kol hakavod* to you if you in some way, give back to your community — and when I say your community, I do mean the Western Cape community.



Whilst the Jewish community has been lauded for the way we work together and look after our own, we are by no means unique. There are many communities around the Western Cape that are also united in their cause to bring hope and prosperity to those around them. The Cape SAJBD is active in connecting and collaborating with these communities and various faith-based organisations, to help those in need and unite our communities.

On Sunday 6 February, I attended an Interfaith function along with the Chairperson of the Board's Associate Relations subcommittee, Dawn Nathan-Jones, in the small community of Kalksteefontein which is situated between Bonteheuwel and Bishop Lavis. I have fond memories of playing many a club cricket match in this area — in fact, one of my best moments was an innings victory against Bonteheuwel, certainly a proud day in my short spell as captain of the Northerns Goodwood Cricket Club 4th team.

My visit this time was different. Representing the Jewish community, the Cape SAJBD together with the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative, the Muslim Judicial Council, Cape Flats Interfaith Declaration, Cape Town Unitarians, the Southern African Faith Communities Environment Institute and other faith-based organisations, came together to say a prayer for the City of Cape Town.

The programme directors, Imam Salieg Isaacs and Rev Nima Taylor welcomed the 40 guests in attendance along with members of the Kalksteefontein community. Members of various faith-based organisations shared their prayers of community, peace, hope and prosperity through either song, prayer or words of wisdom. I was honoured to offer a prayer on behalf of our community. We offered a prayer for a crisis-free year, overcoming COVID-19, assistance to those battling homelessness, poverty and unemployment and asking that those in charge have the foresight and courage to strengthen and unite our communities. I ended off by reciting a prayer which we say each day, "He who makes peace in High places, may he bring peace for us all and let us say Amen. *Oseh shalom bimromav. Hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu. V'al kol Yisrael V'imru AMEN.*"

A truly special moment was when 20 senior citizens and 35 young children from Kalksteefontein were treated to a hot meal and a cold drink. Each of the faith-based organisation representatives handed out a meal to the young and old. The smiles on their faces and the gratitude in their eyes emphasised just how important this kind of initiative is. On that day, Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Bahai and others joined together to bring peace and unity to the community of Kalksteefontein.

In 2022, the Cape SAJBD is committed to working with non-Jewish communities to assist those in need and strengthen the bonds of community. We are one family in the Western Cape and what affects one citizen will affect us all. Let's work together for a united, equal and prosperous Western Cape.

So again, I ask — how are you giving back? If you would like to know more about upcoming Cape SAJBD projects then please contact us at sajbd2@ctjc.co.za.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Using dialogue to overcome distortion

By Tzvi Brivik, Chairperson, Cape SAJBD

Look up Israel Awareness Week and you will find instead Israel Apartheid Week.

It is described as a series of university lectures held on campuses around the world, aimed at educating people about the nature of Israel, spearheaded by the Boycott Divestment and Sanction (BDS) campaign. What it has become, as described by the Ontario Provincial Legislature, is "odious, hateful and inappropriate."

Students at universities, both Jewish and non-Jewish across South Africa are subjected to propaganda, hypocrisy, and distortion of facts. We are proud of our student body represented by the various campus organisations, and the peaceful manner in which they have met and withstood this barrage of hatred. As the Cape SAJBD, we had appealed to the universities to consider — not for the first time — moving all events away from the main centres of the universities so as not to disrupt academic life. These events leave students feeling physically and emotionally vulnerable and it is for us, through dialogue with universities, to protect students from this.

As we return to a normalised environment we continue to engage, educate and empower.

Tertiary institutions in Cape Town offer an exemplary education, both the University of Cape Town and Stellenbosch University consistently rank in the top 500 universities in the world. UCT in particular has had close ties to our community, having educated many generations of Capetonian Jews, and with its alumni organisation headed by a member of our community. Various communal organisations regularly interact and support the university through programmes aimed at upliftment, support, and continued education. We are committed to retaining this relationship through regular meetings, so that we may effectively support the students and ensure that the next generation of Jewish leaders in business, in politics, in

our community and within non-governmental organisations are educated here at home and in these fine institutions.

We have seen a change to our Board over the

last two weeks with Rebbitzin Ann Harris, who was elected to the Board in our previous election in 2020, making aliyah at the insistence of her family. We wish her all the luck in her new ventures. Ann has brought her unique perspective to the Board with her years of campaigning for social justice through various organisations including Africa Tikkun, of which she is a founding member. She has a deep knowledge of South Africa — both its religious and political terrain, which has proved invaluable. Ann chaired our Interfaith & Intercommunity subcommittee where her deep ties with leaders of our own and other religions ensured open communication lines and that our



webinars, which she was instrumental in arranging, were well-attended. Ann also sat on our Country Communities subcommittee in which she had great

interest, she had also held the position of Vice-Chairperson of the African Jewish Union and the South African Small Country Communities organisation.

As we return to a normalised environment we continue to engage, educate and empower. We are following on from our very successful *Know Your Rights* campaign, which was aimed at school-leavers, with a campaign to educate Jewish employees in the workplace on the definition of antisemitism, how to recognise it and who to report it to.

In addition, we have initiated a project to spread the word about the most incredible community and city in which we live! So watch this space.



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!

Dawn Nathan-Jones

Chairperson, Associate Relations subcommittee

Why did you join the Board?

When I moved to Cape Town a few years ago, I was very taken by the warmth and hospitality I experienced from people in the community. After being invited to give a few talks to some of the Jewish associations and shuls, I was honoured to be approached to stand for the Board election in July 2020. Given that we were in the middle of a pandemic, it seemed like the right time to become more involved. I was inspired by the vision of the Board and believed I could make a contribution given my 35 years' worth of business, leadership and entrepreneurial experience. My goal was — and still is — to both shift the sometimes negative rhetoric we face as Jewish people, as well as to amplify all of our impact-driven work so that more of the community and outside world can connect with us, identify with us, and buy into our greater purpose.



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

My mission has been to use the three pillars of the Cape SAJBD: to *Engage, Educate* and *Empower*, in every sphere of my involvement with stakeholders whether they be political, local government, business, interfaith organisations, affiliate bodies or media. We live in a world where media shapes and drives public opinion and I feel it is important to not only create a balanced perspective of the Jewish people, but to find new ways to bring to life for others, the inclusive role that the Board works so hard to cultivate.

What other community organisations are you involved in?

In Cape Town, I have worked closely with ORT Jet as I am passionate about developing talent and future leaders in our community. I have been a judge for the ABSA Jewish Achievers Awards for many years and I initiated an award for Jewish Women in Leadership which has become an important platform to recognise and promote the great leaders and entrepreneurs in the community. For the last two years, I've been a judge for the Shining Light Awards, an initiative started by Staffwise and ORT Jet.

What are your passions?

One of my greatest passions is to work with small businesses and entrepreneurs to build an ecosystem that provides mentorship and networking opportunities to help alleviate the unemployment crisis we have in our country and ignite a sense of hope. As a business leader and an activist for change, nothing gets my blood pumping more than witnessing someone transcend what they think they're capable of — especially the youth of this country. This is what inspired me to co-write the book *Hope Stories*, a collection of short stories about ordinary people who did extraordinary things during our hard lockdown and in times of fear and uncertainty.

What is your vision for the community?

My vision is to help amplify the many contributions the Jewish people make to the local economy, community, education system and political landscape of this country. I want to further advance the positive cycle of impact-driven work we achieve; but to do this we need proactive engagement with all members of the community, to be open to innovative and controversial ideas, and to involve the broader business fraternity and the youth to harness their knowledge, energy and passion to find new solutions to historic challenges.

What do you think is unique about our Jewish community?

The unspoken, unshakeable bond binding the Jewish people together during times of need is remarkable. I am proud to be Jewish because of the unconditional and selfless acts of kindness that permeate throughout the community. Our societal contributions know no bounds.

Simone Sulcas

Chairperson, Antisemitism and Legal subcommittee

Why did you join the Board?

I am motivated and inspired by the work of the Board and believed that my professional experience and qualifications would add value. I felt the time had come for me to give back to the Jewish community in a way that was both meaningful to me and impactful to the community. I felt my logical thinking and measured approach to the decision-making process would allow me to bring a measured voice to the table. I am a team player who values the opinions of others and is open to learning, I saw this as an opportunity to delve deeper into the issues currently facing our community.



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

As Chairperson of the Board's Antisemitism and Legal subcommittee, I have used my legal experience and professionalism to advise the Board on antisemitism cases reported in, and drive Board initiatives aimed at informing the community of legal developments. The bare minimum, in my opinion, is to fulfil our mandate to protect the civil and political rights, status and welfare of our Western Cape Jewish community. I hope to surpass expectations and deliver the kind of service that our community deserves. The cohesion and teamwork between our lay leaders and our professional team will ensure our success.

What other community organisations are you involved in?

I work full-time as Group Legal Advisor for a much-loved South African retailer. I have also assisted various Cape Town Jewish organisations over the years in a legal capacity and am a 2018 Graduate of the Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute.

What are your passions?

Learning new things is my driving passion. It spills into everything I do and shapes me as an individual. I am married with two children and am passionate about ensuring my family's and community's wellbeing in an inclusive South Africa.

What is your vision for the community?

The late Eliot Osrin was the ultimate visionary for the Cape Town Jewish community with his leadership and strategic foresight. My vision for the community is for his legacy to continue with strong new leaders and a community that feels heard, and wants to stay involved in Jewish community life.

What do you think is unique about our Jewish community?

I think the question is best answered by referring to the many times people comment on how our community takes care of its people. Be it the CSO Cape Town, SAUJS on campus, the Bursary Funds or the JCS, there is help and support for those who reach out. It is a privilege to 'do my bit' for this incredible community.

We're all in the same boat

By Gwynne Robins

Remember the story of the man in the boat caught drilling a hole under his seat?

But it is only under my seat” he responds. “Yes, but when the water comes in, we shall all drown.” This is how Rabbi David Rosen summarised climate change, which after the temperature in Table Bay reached 45.2C on 23 January, cannot be ignored.

Climate change was the focus of our annual United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week event this year, at the suggestion of Ann Harris, Chairperson of our Interfaith & Intercommunity subcommittee. The subject was discussed with passion and a sense of urgency by our panelists Bishop Geoff Davies, founder of the Southern African Faith Communities’ Environment Institute (SAFCEI); Imam Salieg Isaacs, a Director of SAFCEI who serves on the Muslim Judicial Council; former ANC MP and peace activist, Ela Gandhi; Tahirih Matthee, former Director of the Baha’i Office of Public Affairs and a member of the International Environment Forum;

and, our own former Marais Road Shul Rabbi David Rosen who has been knighted by the Pope, awarded a CBE by the Queen, is a Director of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia’s KAICIID Dialogue Center and serves on the World Council of Religious Leaders’ Board.

“We have been ignoring G-d’s commandment to look after the earth”, said Bishop Davies. “We are destroying our life support system with our reliance on fossil fuels causing global warming and leading to a mass extinction of life. Those in power,” he said, “do not want to sacrifice their wealth by replacing it with renewable energy.

“Communities must teach the mantra of *Reduce, Recycle and Reuse*”, said Ela Gandhi, who outlined the consequences of climate change, including water and resource shortages, land reduction through rising sea levels, environmental changes leading to more refugees, and more wars and violence. She gave examples from her grandfather Mahatma Gandhi who simplified his lifestyle, believing that although we could not remake the world, we could

remake ourselves, saying, “Be the change you want to see.”

Imam Salieg Isaacs drew our attention to the Islamic Declaration on Global Climate Change, drawn up last year at an international symposium and calling on Muslims to do their part to eliminate dangerous greenhouse gas emissions and commit to renewable energy sources. He made the valid point that we have the tools for change, but lack broader education and knowledge on its importance across all communities.

Tahirih Matthee personalised the issue, outlining the steps she had taken to reduce global warming and arguing that it should not be someone else’s problem. She also suggested that in the same way the Government had held weekly interfaith meetings to update the religious communities about COVID-19, so too should they do so on climate change. She believes this would help conscientise religious leaders to emphasise the message to their congregations.

Religious leaders were betraying the heritage they claimed to represent if they did not affirm that the world was

a creation of the Divine that must be preserved, said Rabbi Rosen, who drew our attention to the cruelty of the livestock trade and linked it to the rise of zoonotic diseases like COVID-19. While our laws were intended to increase compassion, they still allowed animal slaughter. The Torah prohibited waste yet our lifestyle encouraged it, and the consequence of disobeying Hashem’s commandments was leading to the destruction of our planet. Rabbis should educate their communities to address these issues and lobby government to do so. The preservation of the earth was a religious imperative. It was the responsibility of all, and we are all in the boat together.

In thanking the speakers, our Chairperson, Tzvi Brivik said a document would be produced and distributed to different faith-based organisations and religious communities using the ideas that had come out of the meeting.

Click here to watch the full *UN World Interfaith Harmony Week: Climate Change* panel discussion on our Facebook channel (@Cape SAJBD).

Fighting fire destruction on Tu B’Shevat

By Craig Nudelman

From Arbor Day to Earth Day, global citizens acknowledge the importance of trees and environmental awareness.

The Jewish calendar also acknowledges this through the Festival of *Tu B’Shevat*, also known as the New Year of the trees. After the 2021 fires that ravaged Vredehoek, burning down parts of Deer Park and Devils Peak and gutting UCT’s library and its contents, the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies

(Cape SAJBD) collaborated with Herzlia Junior High School and the Friends of Van Riebeeck Park to plant four Yellowwood saplings at the Van Riebeeck Park. Planting these trees symbolises new life and growth for the communities that suffered loss, and demonstrates our commitment to building a greener Cape Town.

On Monday, 24 January, we were joined by Councillor Francine Higham; Herzlia’s Jewish Identity and Community Director Geoff Cohen,

Rabbi Justin Swaine, Gary Anstey from the Friends of Van Riebeeck Park, and members of the Cape SAJBD including Vice-Chairperson Adrienne Jacobson. In front of an audience of Herzlia’s Grade 7 and 8 learners, all spoke about the importance of building up the environment, not just for our current society but also for generations to come.

Rabbi Swaine echoed this message, saying, as we sit in the shade of trees from generations before us, we too

must plant trees so that our children’s children can use their shade.

Councillor Higham was grateful for the effort that all put into creating a greener and eco-friendly public space in the city. She emphasised the importance of being active citizens and driving eco-education.

The Cape SAJBD looks forward to collaborating in further green events with more partners to build a more sustainable and eco-friendly city for all!



Staff and learners from Herzlia Junior High School planting a Yellowwood sapling



Adrienne Jacobson (Vice-Chair, Cape SAJBD) and Councillor Francine Higham



Cape SAJBD Vice-Chairperson, Adrienne Jacobson



Astra Centre bids farewell to Merle Furman

A breakfast for the committee, staff and workers was held at Coffee Time to honour Merle Furman and bid her farewell. Under her leadership, workers were given the opportunity to enjoy meaningful lives based on their reality.

At the same time structures were created to reinforce this positive approach and destigmatise disability. The success of Astra continues to be a role model for both local and international organisations.



Staff and workers of Astra came together to honour Merle Furman, and share memories of her 47 years at the Centre



Selwyn and Merle Furman with their daughter Heidi, granddaughter Keira, son Mark and daughter-in-law Lucy



Selwyn and Merle with past chairmen of Astra — Peter Greenberg, Allan Groll, Ivan Katzenellenbogen, Brian Goldberg and Leonard Sank

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Ahoy there Mateys!

This term our theme at Salisbury House is Pirates. We have used this fun and entertaining topic to explore all our learning areas in an in-depth and authentic way.

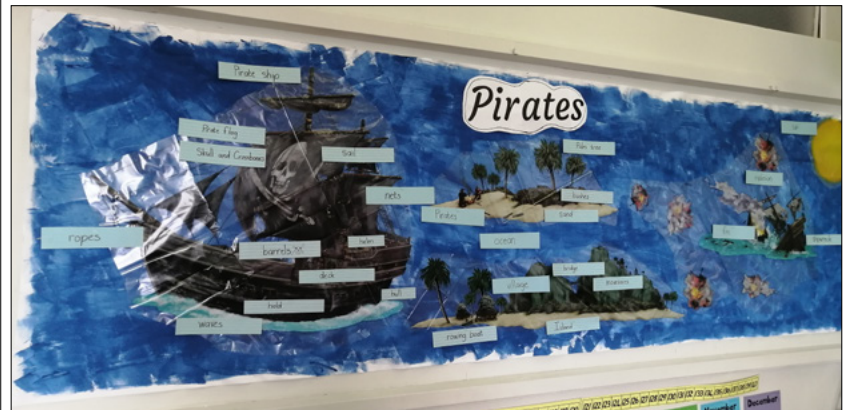
In mathematics we are focusing on directionality and using a compass for navigation. We made our own treasure maps and gave directions using North, South, East and West to help pirates find their treasure. Counting the coins and dividing up the booty equally is also an all-important skill to have, one that needs plenty of practice; especially when the golden coins contain real chocolate!

As well as drawing maps and giving

directions, we have also written about the life of a lonely pirate who has been marooned on a deserted island. What does one need to do to survive? What could one eat and drink? How would one make a shelter?

Our vocabulary has been extended, learning about all the different parts of a ship, where different activities take place; and the dangers of being out at sea for too long.

Our first few weeks were spent learning about the famous *Treasure Island* novel and the adventures of young Jim Hawkins. We will get to experience going out to sea on our first outing of the year, where we will be going on a harbour cruise from the V&A Waterfront.



Our pirate word wall

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Cape Town welcomes new Israeli Ambassador

By Chaya Singer – Executive Director SAZF CC

The SAZF Cape Council is delighted to welcome the new Israeli Ambassador to South Africa, His Excellency Ambassador Eliav (Eli) Belotsercovsky.

The Ambassador presented his diplomatic credentials to President Cyril Ramaphosa at the end of January, alongside several diplomatic missions. The Cape Town Jewish communal leadership welcomed the Ambassador and his wife Elena with a warm meet and greet, and the Ambassador's schedule has quickly filled up with engagements here in Cape Town. We look forward to hosting the Belotsercovskys often, and wish the Ambassador every success in his efforts to strengthen bilateral relations between Israel and South Africa.



SAFI and SAZF CC Ambassador's Welcome Breakfast: Cassandra Mayekiso, Ambassador Eli Belotsercovsky, Cheryllyn Dudley, Karen Marsden Sank, Chaya Singer and Batya Shmueli



HE Ambassador Belotsercovsky and SAZF CC Executive Director Chaya Singer at the Western Cape Legislature Building

"This is my Story"

By Gwynne Robins

Whenever Tamrat Tizita, an Ethiopian Jew, came to Cape Town, he would pop into the Gitlin Library.

One day he gave the librarian Dr Ute ben Yosef a complimentary day pass to Aquila Game Reserve where he worked, and she invited me to accompany her. Aquila is only two hours outside Cape Town, so we took a day off, and had a wonderful game drive and buffet lunch. I enjoyed it so much, I subsequently took my children and grandchildren for the night.

Tamrat kept them enthralled with his experiences. He had escaped from Ethiopia to Israel and some years later when conditions deteriorated, had gone back to rescue his mother, only to be arrested as it was illegal to go to Israel. In 1991 when the Ethiopian regime was on the verge of collapsing in a civil war, Mengistu agreed to sell their Jews to Israel for much-needed money, giving Israel less than two days to carry out Operation Solomon, during which time Israel flew out more than 14300 Ethiopian Jews, including Tamrat, his mom and eight extra passengers born on the flights.

Some years later Searl Derman, Aquila's owner, met Tamrat in Israel, was impressed with him and brought him out to work at Aquila. Whenever the Israeli ambassador was in Cape Town, Tamrat would join the CSO. No one would have suspected that this dark man ambling along the pavement behind the ambassador was a Hebrew-speaking Israeli.

One year I arranged for Tamrat to be a keynote speaker at the Jewish Board of Deputies Interfaith Freedom Seder, talking about his Exodus from Africa to Freedom in Israel. He was in tears, as were many in the audience.

Some years ago I got a phonecall from a film company asking if I knew any Ethiopian Jews. They were in Cape Town to film *The Red Sea Diving Resort*, about the false diving operation Mossad set up on the Sudanese coast to rescue Ethiopian Jews.

I suggested Tamrat and they were thrilled when they met him. He was tall, good-looking and impressive and spoke good English — just perfect for a role as one of the main actors. Tamrat was also thrilled — he told me, "This is my story."

Just before filming was to start I learnt that he had died tragically, driving by night in a heavy mist on a mountain pass, returning to Aquila. I went to his funeral at Pinelands. There was a large contingent of emotional game wardens and staff from Aquila.

He was supporting family in Israel but no-one knew where he banked, nor who they were. I contacted the Israeli embassy but they could not trace them either.

Recently Aquila contacted me. Tamrat had saved his ten and twenty cent pieces. Searl thought the money should go to a Jewish communal organisation. I suggested the Zionist Council because it was Israel that had rescued Tamrat.



Born and died loving and defending Israel

By David Lazarus

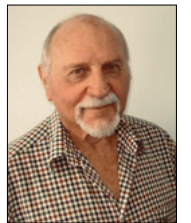
David Abel grew up in Port Elizabeth where his passionately Zionist Revisionist family established Kolnicks Departmental Store.

Steeped in Zionism, the simmering flame of Jewish nationalism burst into an inextinguishable fire when he and his family personally met Ze'ev Jabotinsky on both of his visits to SA in the 1930s, and David became a keen member of Betar and an ardent supporter of Jabotinsky. He proved his commitment by joining the IDF during the Sinai Campaign (1956 — 1958), becoming a member of the World Betar Council while in Israel.

Returning to South Africa he became assistant editor of the *Jewish Herald*, mouthpiece of the Revisionist Party that, in Israel, was called *Herut*, subsequently renamed *Likud*. He also served the local community as SAZF Director, Eastern Cape and Border Zionist Council.

Whilst resident in the Western Cape country town of George, David worked with local Christian Zionists to establish the *Support Association for Zionism*. When he moved to Cape Town, as director of a research and development business, David retained his passion for Jewish nationalism. As the National Vice-Chairperson of *LikudSA*, he launched the *LikudSA* Cape Region and continued to work hard to include increasing numbers of Christian Zionists as members of *LikudSA* in order to grow the support base for Israel in the Western Cape amongst all population groups. Wearing his instantly-recognisable *kova*, he was also a regular delegate, participant, and thought-provoking questioner, at the biennial Cape Zionist Fed conferences.

Tragically, around 19 January, both David and his wife Marion died of Covid within a few hours of each other. Notwithstanding David's reputation as controversial, no one disputes his uncompromising, unselfish and unconditional commitment to, and deeply genuine love for Eretz Yisrael. An eloquent advocate for Israel. A true Zionist role-model.





Youth Movements roundup

Netzer - Introducing our new mazkir for 2022!

Julian Gordon grew up in Johannesburg, but has recently moved down to Somerset West for the next chapter of his life. In 2021, Julian went on Shnat Netzer. This year, Julian will be attending Stellenbosch University for a Mathematics and Science course. Julian is highly passionate about cars and in his spare time, he does boxing and volunteers at a Cheetah Outreach in Somerset West.



Julian Rael Gordon in Israel

SAUJS is here for you

Hello! Wishing all our constituents luck with the start of university. We have no doubt you will all fly this year! If anyone has any questions about their degree or would like access to notes or other assistance, SAUJS has a large network of past and current UCT and Stellenbosch students in a variety of different degrees who are always willing to provide assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact us on Instagram or Facebook, or contact one of our members directly.

With university around the corner, we are expecting that Israel Apartheid week will soon follow. Rest assured that we are monitoring the situation closely, and will ensure that support will be provided to all students who need it in the form of talks and seminars prior to the week, physical presence during that week, should it happen and a debrief thereafter. More details will follow soon. In the meantime; follow our socials to keep in touch: IG@saujs_westerncape.

Deena Katzen, SAUJS WC Vice-Chairperson

Habonim - High hopes for 2022

Habonim Dror Southern Africa has entered 2022 with anxious excitement. Following a tough end to 2021, with the cancellation of our *Machaneh*, the movement has kicked off what we believe will be a truly great year. We are the builders and, in many ways, our unofficial theme this year is rebuilding. The pandemic's toll on the community is unquantifiable, and as members of the community, we have not been spared. Although the challenge of rebuilding is weighty, we face this challenge without fear or doubt. We know that we will overcome, coming out stronger than before, with the help of our loyal *Bogrimot*, as well as with the support of our community.



The Cape Town 2022 Ken Va'ad Poel: Gina Levi (Rosh Bogrim), Brad Gottschalk (Rosh Channichim), Jared May (Rosh Ken), Kerrin Baker (Rosh Ken) and Maven Mendelovitz (Rosh Bogrim)

The challenge of rebuilding was echoed at the first meeting of the *Hannagah Artzit* (National Executive) at the Onrus campsite. The meeting was (as they always should be) one for the history books, full of debate, ideas, and at times strong disagreement. Habo magic was certainly hanging in the Onrus air.

In other news, HDSA is excited to have a four-member *Mazkirut* for 2022 with full-time members in both Cape Town and Johannesburg. Our *Mazkir Klali* for this year is Aaron Kruss-van Der Heever, an already well-known member of the Cape Town community who, unfortunately for us Capetonians, will be taking up residence in the Joburg bayit. However, we won't be alone. Aaron will be supported by *S'gan Mazkir Klali* Jesse Lees, who will remain and work full time in Cape Town, whilst *S'gan* and *S'ganit Mazkirim* Daniel Flaum and Mira Rudnick will work part-time in Joburg.

The Cape Town *Ken* will be led by *Roshei Kenim*, Jared May and Kerrin Baker. We will have two members fresh from *Shnat*, Maven Mendelovitz and Gina Levi, who will be living in the Cape Town Bayit whilst fulfilling the *tafkid* of *Roshei Bogrimot*. *Rosh Channichimot* is well-known member of the Joburg community, Brad Gottschalk, who has moved to Cape Town after *Shnat* and is raring to engage with our *Chanichimot*.

After too long, we look forward to engaging face-to-face with our *Channichimot* by running events in both our *Batim* and on our beautiful campsite in Onrus. We have programmes planned in both South Africa and Israel, including the exciting *Kaleidoscope* (HABO 2020) event and hopefully a return to our annual *Shorashim* programme. We hope to see all of you as we once again experience the Habo Magic we long for. If you would like to know more about any events, do not hesitate to contact us.

To rebuilding atop the foundations left by those who came before us, *Aleh ve'Hagshem*.
Jared May, Rosh Ken, Cape Town

Bnei Akiva CT begins 2022 with a bang!

Bnei Akiva has been very busy for their opening few months of the year. Some of the many activities for that we've arranged for both *madrichim* and *channichim* are the Amazing Race, supping, milkshake-making, a musical *Kabbalat Shabbat* and so much more! Once every two weeks Bnei Akiva has awesome activities for every year group with two or three constant *madrichim* who act like their older sibling; plus incredible weekly events. This means that we've provided over 40 *tochniot* already! We're super excited to continue bringing added fun, meaning and light to our *Channichim's* and *Bogrim's* lives.

By Eytan Labe



Madrichim at the Hachnasat Sefer Torah with Morasha after a jam-packed Sunday with seven activities! Ayelet Glatt, Gali Glatt, Eytan Labe, Sarah Sacks, Dalya Blecher, Akiva Glatt, Josh Blecher and Ben Daniel

Diller Teen Fellows - International Junior Counsellor Seminar 2022

The Diller Staff Team includes two Junior Counsellors — Jonah Schwartz and Silvie Richards. Having recently graduated from the Diller programme, they are now a part of the Cape Town staff team.

In January, they participated in an outstanding virtual training seminar provided by international staff. Diller Teen Fellows brought together junior counsellors from all 16 global communities, and provided them with a seminar to learn new skills and educational tools. Some of the topics included managing discussions and debates, navigating feedback, and the stages of group development.

Speaking about the seminar, Jonah said, "As a result of participating in the Junior Counsellor Training Seminar, I learned how to interact with my Fellows more effectively and create a safer, more inclusive environment for all."

Jonah and Silvie had the opportunity to meet counsellors from all over the world, develop friendships, and share their leadership experiences. We are very proud of them, and look forward to benefitting from all the new tools and skills that they will bring back into the programme!

By Martine Katz



Junior Counsellors from all over the world participating in the online JC seminar

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Director,
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Rex has over 30 years of experience in the wealth management industry and is recognised in the top 100 most influential people in the sector of international pensions.



LOUIS VENTER
B.Com(Law) LLB

Fiduciary Specialist,
Carrick Consult

Louis was the founding director of Citadel Fiduciary Services which he ran for 8 years before taking up leadership roles in RMB Private clients and Maitland South Africa.

THIS EVENT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A Q&A SESSION

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Breakfast with Ali Bacher

Our first in-person event since Covid appeared was a gorgeous summer breakfast on the piazza under the trees.

The guest of honour was South African cricket giant Ali Bacher, who is the subject of our current exhibition, *The Life of Ali Bacher*. In conversation with another cricket legend, Vince van der Bijl, Dr Bacher shared fascinating and often humorous memories of his life on and off the field. Everyone involved enjoyed the buzz, food and anecdotes. Campus staff enjoyed seeing the vibrancy of pre-lockdown days. We are delighted to witness the SAJM and surrounds returning to life with visitors coming to meet and eat, see exhibitions and attend talks and functions. Welcome back, world!



Ambassador of Israel, HE Mr Eli Belotsercovsky (on left) attended the breakfast



Dr Ali Bacher with SAJM Director Gavin Morris and fellow cricket legend, Vince van der Bijl



Young cricket fans enjoyed the event and even got their cricket books autographed



Dr Bacher enjoyed a few laughs with guests before the event

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Intrafamilial Sexual Abuse: Why is it sometimes hard to believe the child?

Charmaine Nicks
Social Worker

Intrafamilial sexual abuse is when someone in the family or close to family, sexually abuses a child. Many people who experience sexual abuse have been abused by someone they know.

Children often blame themselves for sexual abuse. When they are young, they do not have the ability to realise it is not their responsibility to prevent sexual abuse. They often do not report it to adults as they fear the abuser or feel threatened that if they disclose the abuse, they will be harmed. Children may only disclose the abuse when they are older. Older children are often aware of the impact that the disclosure will have on the family. This is one of the reasons why it can take years for children to tell someone they trust. Children who have been sexually abused often feel deeply distressed, blaming themselves for disclosing the abuse, guilt about what it has done to the family, fear of the abuser, may struggle to feel safe within their family and could wish they had not disclosed or that they had disclosed the abuse earlier. Sometimes they can retract the disclosure. The survivor grapples with the knowledge that the perpetrator can be liked, loved, admired and respected by family members and the community which adds to their distress.

False claims by children of sexual abuse are rare. Statistics that are quoted often rely on hypothetical scenarios, inconsistent sampling methods, as well as unclear criteria to judge truth or falsity, rendering the results questionable. Recent studies have found that, most sexual abuse claims are true and while false allegations do occur, the rate is negligible. Therefore, if your child tells you they were sexually abused, it is considered best practice to believe them. So why then does the non-abusing parent sometimes struggle to believe their child?

Myths around sexual abuse abound including that only strangers abuse, sexual abuse occurs outside the home, does not happen in good communities, that children lie about it for attention and that only paedophiles sexually abuse children (it can be a crime of opportunity, that is, situational abuse). These myths can direct attention away from the disclosure of sexual abuse and can result in

secondary traumatising. As recently reported by a young woman, not being believed makes you feel abandoned and betrayed. Also, "why would you make something like this up?" In fact, abusers can appear 'normal', making it difficult to believe that they could sexually abuse someone. Sometimes the perpetrators are upstanding members of the community, friends, relatives or your partner. Sexual abuse frequently happens in the home. Some abusers (situational abuse) commit sexual abuse once or twice and then stop.

If you are the parent of a child who has been abused by your partner, you can struggle with feelings of whether to maintain your relationship, economic hardship if you choose to separate, loss of family or friends when they discover your partner abused your child and making sense of conflicting advice from family, friends and religious leaders. If you are the non-offending family member, it can be difficult to accept that the person you have loved and trusted, sometimes for many years could be the perpetrator. The abuser will, likely, deny the abuse, creating further confusion. Accepting your partner abused your child is extremely stressful. Denial is a defence mechanism which can initially protect the family from the widespread implications of sexual abuse. The feelings when hearing your child tell you they were sexually abused can include, shock, rage, denial, disbelief and guilt. The non-abusing

parent can suffer from divided loyalties and reactions can range from "lock him up and throw away the key" to "hate the sin, love the sinner."

It is important to believe your child so that the child does not feel abandoned or betrayed and guilty for disclosing the abuse. The non-offending parent needs to get support from a therapist dealing with partners of sexual abusers and the child who was sexually abused needs to get support from a therapist experienced in child sexual abuse. The perpetrator needs to get help from a therapist experienced in dealing with perpetrators, as often there are deep underlying reasons, sometimes they were victims of domestic violence and or physical/emotional abuse or neglect as a child themselves, to understand why they abused their child/relative/close family friend and to deal with the consequences of the disclosure.

If you suspect or know someone who has been sexually abused or require assistance with dealing with abuse, please contact JCS on **021 462 5520**.

The impact of sexual abuse includes: Mental health Issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), challenging behaviour such as substance abuse, sexualised behaviour and offending, relationship problems such as intimacy issues and unstable relationships and vulnerability to further sexual or other types of abuse.

References: O'Donohue, W., Cummings C., & Willis B (2018), The Frequency of False Allegations of Child Sexual Abuse: A Critical Review. J Child Sex Abus. 2018 Jul;27(5):459-475. doi: 10.1080/10538712.2018.1477224. Epub 2018 Jun 18. PMID: 29913113.



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#JewishCommunity #FamilyConflict #SexualAbuse





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WATCH THIS SPACE...



How and why does the Jewish community respond to social issues in the ambient society

Jewish initiative led to the establishment more than 55 years ago by Helen Lieberman, of *Ikamva LaBantu* which caters to the needs of thousands every single day, mainly here in the Cape Flats. 140 school principals and teachers are enrolled annually; 2000 senior citizens are reached via 19 clubs; 1321 pre-school children receive effective deworming treatment and 150 at-risk children are provided with academic support programmes.

There are multi-purpose service centres for children, youth and adults to empower the most vulnerable — the disabled, the elderly, pre-schoolers, and provide economic empowerment and business initiatives for working adults. *Ikamva LaBantu* employs hundreds of social workers, occupational therapists, community field workers, nurses and volunteers. It is by far the largest NGO active in local communities.

Rolene Miller was the moving spirit behind the establishment of *MOSAIC*. She saw that abused women in the townships desperately needed help and needed to be empowered and educated about domestic violence and abuse. The programme started in 1994 when 28 women joined a course dealing with these issues. *MOSAIC* is now active in 33 communities. *MOSAIC* was the first organisation in the Western Cape dealing specifically with domestic violence — helping with the writing of affidavits, assisting in the obtaining of protection orders and counselling.

Today *MOSAIC* operates in fourteen magistrate courts in the Western Cape and two in Gauteng, at the request of the magistrates in charge. It also runs special courses for Clerks of the Court. It has 70 staff members of whom 42 are qualified and dedicated court workers.

Our *Union of Jewish Women* has for decades provided early school facilities in the townships around Cape Town, as it does elsewhere in our country. *The Kensington Educare Centre* provides quality education and nutritional support to high-risk

preschool children to ensure their readiness for primary school, improve their chances of successful schooling and ultimately, lead them out of poverty by improving their employment prospects.

The UJW is also involved in the *Vlottenberg Community Centre* which is run by a lay-preacher, Hilton Davids. He and five volunteers keep children off the streets in Wesbank, Blue Downs, and help senior citizens who do not enjoy family support and need money or food. Over 120 children use an unfinished church building for homework supervision and play time, and over 150 children and adults are fed by this project.

In Khayelitsha, Ria Tamele started the *Nolunthu Soup Kitchen and After School Centre* when dozens of children began regularly to pass her home, asking for food. When Ria ran out of money (she was a domestic worker and she used money from her modest wages to start her programme) she was helped by the UJW and for more than 10 years the centre, which is now registered with the Department of Social Development, provides breakfast to an average of 120 children every day, including weekends. Children are also provided with clothing, educational supplies and toiletries.

Babes Creche in Dunoon is supported by the UJW. Over 86 children ranging in age from 18 months to six years are helped by Zuki and a small team of teachers. Today Zuki is also able to provide meals for many members of the local community.

Over 115 children are looked after by *Noxola* in Joe Slovo Park. The UJW has built classrooms, equipped them, and continues with ongoing

support of stationery and backpacks.

For the past four years the UJW has joined with social workers and nursing staff at Somerset Hospital, in providing high-risk mothers with baby bags. *Bags for New Beginnings* not only gives a bag at birth but continues to do so every three months to help the new mother through the first year, and the results show better maternal well-being and allows space for education and intervention.

The *Mama Flo* project also supported by the UJW is to end period poverty. They provide both single-use pads and reusable pads, and menstrual cups to a community in site B, Khayelitsha.

The Temple Sisterhood has been active since 1933 in administering feeding schemes directed to the underprivileged, assisting students across the board, distributing grocery hampers and running courses which teach life skills.

I could go on and on listing various initiatives. The point which I am emphasising is that our small Jewish community is deeply involved in uplifting and improving the lives of those living in marginalised communities — an

involvement far out of proportion to our size. You might well ask why?

Suffice it to say that our Torah gives a very clear message — serving God and serving our fellow human beings are inseparably linked and any split between the two impoverishes both. And let us be clear — that applies to all faiths. It is not what God does for us, but what we do for God, that changes us.

Wherever we live, the Jewish people have rarely lost touch with the simple

ethical imperatives of our faith. We are here to make a difference. We learn that someone else's physical needs are our spiritual obligation. Our Rabbis have always taught that the righteous of all nations have a share in the world to come. You don't have to be Jewish to be good, wise or beloved of God. The God of Israel is the God of everyone.

It was the Jewish prophets who introduced the whole idea of man's responsibility to his fellow man, the concept of social welfare. No-one who reads the Jewish prophets can fail to understand that every individual is sacrosanct; every life is sacred; every human being has inalienable dignity. It was Judaism whose Bible opposed the entire political universe of the ancient world where the kings and pharaohs were seen as gods, where they presided over hierarchal societies in which there was a definite and absolute difference between the rulers and the ruled. Judaism altered that forever.

Judaism vests its faith in certain definite principles — the dignity of the individual; the sanctity of life; the rule of justice over the powerful and the powerless alike; the compassionate society and law-governed liberty. The key is diversity. We are all in God's image, and yet we are all different. Judaism is about making space for us, making space for God, and about human beings making space for one another.

Thirty-six times in our Bible we are told to remember the stranger in our midst; to ignore the suffering around us at our peril. That is the basis of human rights as taught by our Torah. If we claim to be a people of faith, we need to remember that it was in, and as the voice of social protest that the biblical imagination took shape.

Our vision of the universe is anything but comfortable. To imitate God is to be alert to the poverty, suffering and loneliness of others; and to act directly, not only through prayer but through positive action.

Our small Jewish community is deeply involved in uplifting and improving the lives of those living in marginalised communities

Our vision of the universe is anything but comfortable. To imitate God is to be alert to the poverty, suffering and loneliness of others

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Family Announcements

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

ROSE MARGOLIUS
1938-2022

Our beloved mom passed away peacefully on 10 February after an exceptionally long illness stretching more than 20 years.

Forever cherished in the hearts of her devoted children, Jerry and Hilary, Hazel and Jonathan, Marcia and Ian, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We wish to thank everyone including all doctors, Rabbis and Rebbetzins, relatives and friends for all the support you have given us over a very long period.

Your kindness and generosity will never be forgotten.

MHDSRIP

BARBARA SANDLER

A heartfelt thank you to all our family, friends and communal organisations for all your support in our time of bereavement and mourning for our dear mother and grandmother.

Thank you to Rabbi Thurgood for all your help.

In appreciation

Lorraine, Bradley, Glen and Jayde Rabinowitz

Diane Sandler, Juliette and Laurie Rose-Innes

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



The impact of the Nuremberg trials on International Law



Sketchbook of Alfred Rosenberg, 'Nazi Philosopher Number One', who was sentenced to death after the trial. He drew sketches of participants of the Nuremberg Trial including defendants, prosecutors, witnesses, and others. Source: CTHGC Archive

On the 20th of November 2020, a ceremonial event was held in Nuremberg, Germany during which the Nuremberg Trials were praised for laying the foundation of international criminal law and for putting the importance of human rights and a rules-based world order above national interest. What were these Nuremberg Trials? How did they change our general understanding of international law? And what importance do they play today?

The Nuremberg Court

To understand these questions, we need to go back 76 years, to the 20th of November 1945, where Justice Robert H. Jackson, the United States' Chief prosecutor, opened the Nuremberg Trials with the following words:

"The privilege of opening the first trial in history for crimes against the peace of the world imposes a grave responsibility. The wrongs which we seek to condemn and punish have been so calculated, so malignant, and so devastating, that civilization cannot tolerate their being ignored, because it cannot survive their being repeated. That four great nations, flushed with victory and stung with injury stay the hand of vengeance and voluntarily submit their captive enemies to the judgment of the law is one of the most significant tributes that Power has ever paid to Reason."

[Click here to read full article](#)



Renée Samson z"l (1925-2021)

Renée was born in Cape Town to Germaine (Silbermann) and Meyer Hirsch Goldschmidt. Her first years were spent in Hamburg, Germany, before resettling in Cape Town in 1932.

After matriculating (1942) she studied nursing at Groote Schuur, where she met her lifelong friend, Joyce Sacks (Lasovsky, now of Rehovot).

Following marriage to Ernest Samson — a German refugee who had fled to the US in 1936 — they raised two daughters, Jeanne and Claire. Renée worked part-time in the UCT Child Guidance Clinic, helped found the UJW Flower Group, and assisted Ernest fundraise for Jewish Education and Israeli causes. For the Cape Town Jewish community, where her father had played a leadership role, a charitable foundation was established, and contributed significantly to the city's Jewish continuity and welfare.

Renée's brother, Paul Arieli made aliyah with his

wife, May Chait, in 1948. Sadly, their only child, Louis, was killed in an accident in 1971. Renée was a devoted sister, backing their charitable endeavours. In parallel with the Cape Town foundation, the family established an Israeli Goldschmidt Foundation to assist South African Olim, focusing on educating their descendants to play a full role in Israeli society.

In 1986 Renée and Ernest moved from Cape Town to Stamford Connecticut. They both volunteered with the Jewish and secular communities, particularly the local hospice and the Jewish Day School. After Ernest died in 2009, Renée fundraised for many charities, such as Alzheimer's — planning walks and other events. She devoted time and effort to the wellbeing of those living and working in her long-term care facility, and was adored by all. She continued to entertain, cooking and baking for friends and family alike. Israel remained central to her strong Jewish identity.

Renée maintained close contact with her extensive

and devoted worldwide network. She particularly enjoyed hearing about her fourteen great-grandchildren's activities. Covid

sadly meant fewer visits, but she retained keen interest in their daily lives. She is survived by them, by Jeanne Katz (London / Jerusalem), Claire Ellman (San Diego / Herzliyah) and five grandchildren.

At her funeral her eldest great-grandson quoted a shiur for 6 Tevet, the day she died, which he felt expressed her perspective — that learning is never enough, and that true understanding is only achieved when one uses learning to grow oneself, to become a better person and help those around one.

She will be missed. May her memory for a blessing.





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

We are back!

There was much excitement as we opened our doors at every centre in the middle of January.

Observing all COVID-19 protocols we planned a programme to encourage attendance and found that members were so pleased to be back.

Knowing that everyone is not ready to go out and about as yet, we are planning double programmes so that everyone can be accommodated. Daily Zoom programmes continue and we are so grateful to our various presenters who are offering their services to us.

From weekly Medical Matters, Exercise Classes, and Yiddish, where we have participants from all over the world and regular guest presenters who offer a myriad interesting topics, there is certainly something for everyone. Coupled with the Zoom programme, there is also a weekly programme for each Centre with both new activities as well as much-loved activities that were previously enjoyed. The outings have commenced and have all been fully booked and really enjoyed.

A special programme for those who have memory-loss is hosted every Monday afternoon under the guidance of an occupational therapist who encourages participation and includes everyone. If you have anyone who might benefit from this interaction, please contact us for more information.

Our West Coast members are enjoying a new venue. West Coast Chabad has come on board and generously offered their beautiful home as a place for us to meet. Our members have already enjoyed some special time outside, under cover where they can socialise and meet together to catch up and be entertained. Thanks so much to Rabbi and Rebbetzin Deren for being so welcoming.

Membership is due as it is the beginning of the year. The annual subs is R250 per person. Should there be a problem paying for membership, please make an appointment to see the resident social worker at the centre you would like to attend.

Our delicious Kiddush wine is still available at each branch. Special as a gift, and for enjoying at your weekly Shabbat. The wine does have the Beth Din Hecher.

We really would like to have our centres buzzing with members enjoying themselves, so please make the effort to book and join in the activities on offer.

Diana Sochen
Executive Director

January and February outings and activities



Milnerton Members Lucy Woolf, Sarah Daitchs and Shirley Cohen enjoying the surprise tea



Sea Point members enjoying a morning at Coffee Time



Sylvia Quin, Rochelle and Bernie Goldschmidt enjoying tea at Kirstenbosch



Hymie Becker enjoying tea in Milnerton



West Coast Members enjoying an art morning



Hajiera Safdien-Maloon and Sonia Norrie who prepared the surprise tea



West Coast Members enjoyed an outing to the Green Point Urban Park



Milnerton members enjoying Kirstenbosch gardens

Social and Personal

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

Births

Selwyn and Andrea Schiff — Grandson
Hannah Abramsohn — Great Granddaughter

Batmitzvah

Sybil Castle — Granddaughter

Marriage

Wilfred Mirkin — Granddaughter

Special birthday wishes

May Sher – 90th; Carol Barnett – 80th

We welcome new members to CJSA

Iser Bach, Nat Engel, Marcia Faktor, Sandra du Plessis, Fay Zeifert

Wishes of strength to those who are not well

Les Vides, Den Bernstein

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

Family of Paula Baskir, family of Hilary Osrin

HIGH INTENSITY IMPACT TRAINING
FOR THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR

H.I.I.T 2022

A SERIES OF 3 SHORT, PRACTICAL SESSIONS
TO BOOST YOUR ABILITY TO:

**EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE
YOUR STAKEHOLDERS**





BUILDING EFFECTIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

High Intensity Impact Training for the Non-Profits

This March, sign up to Mensch's H.I.I.T Series and learn processes and tools for the meaningful engagement of your stakeholders across the project cycle.

Connecting meaningfully with stakeholders — the people who influence and are impacted by an organisation's choices — is vital to sustainable mission fulfilment. Without this engagement, things can, and often do, go wrong.

About the Programme

Each online 2-hour workshop is interactive and practical. Brought to you by Mensch, in partnership with SA Top Training Consultancy, Southern Hemisphere.

WORKSHOP 1: March 1st	Stakeholder Analysis
WORKSHOP 2: March 8th	Stakeholder Engagement
WORKSHOP 3: March 15th	Stakeholder Relationships




Online Tuesday mornings in March 10am - 12pm

Book your Place:

www.mensch.org.za/hiit-2022

Attend 1, 2 or ALL 3 Sessions and receive a Discount.

THOUGHT READERS
Bookclub

A BOOK CLUB WITH A DIFFERENCE!

Are you an avid book reader, thinker, leader, doer, or just curious to learn? We invite you to join or host a peer-group ThoughtREADERS' Book Club

Based on our very successful pilot, Mensch and the Jewish Literary Festival (JLF) launch the ThoughtREADERS' Book Club (TRClub) which aims to activate and deepen our community's understanding of South African and global social issues through reading and peer-led discussion.

As a host, you get to lead and activate thoughtful discussion and debate around a social issue that matters to you. If you'd prefer to join a group as a book club member, please also let us know.

Find out more! [HERE](#)

MENSCH THOUGHT-LEADER OF THE MONTH

By Janice Lurie

Enabling performing artists to thrive

When I was younger, I was told that nice Jewish girls don't sing for a living.

I always thought it a rather odd statement as there were plenty of 'nice Jewish girls' around the world who are incredible influential artists, performers, creators and creatives.

So started my love affair with the performing arts, with music, singing, production, and my work as owner of *Maverick Warehouse Media* — a creative production, broadcast and soft skills consultancy that brings communication strategies and events to life using experiential engagement. Through *Maverick's* dynamic engagements, corporate launches, activations, live performances and team engagements, I get to work with our beyond-talented, inspirational South African performance artists.

These artists are cultural brand ambassadors for the country and our collective culture storytellers. They are our traditional urban stage or street performers, representatives of our vibrance, creativity and diversity. The arts have always been a space for self-expression, and the performing arts act as a mirror, helping us, across languages and cultures to have empathy, understanding and self-knowledge.

In 2020, the world changed significantly, and people in the arts are still devastatingly affected. Despite the many obstacles faced prior to Covid, artists were still able to make a living through live performances, events, and theatrical shows. International artists could travel here, and local artists could travel to access work abroad. Since Covid, this has declined.

If the tools of your trade are removed and there is no economic, social, or infrastructural support because your trade operates in a cash-based economy and is seen as non-essential; and if you happen to live in the informal settlements and suburbs around the country, how are you to survive, let alone 'pivot' and adjust to our 'new reality'?

While artists are creating content faster than ever, it is only those who are able to afford connectivity, expensive equipment and technology that can do so. For many, this is impossible. Many have been forced to learn a new skillset to survive.

In April 2020 I banded together with friends, colleagues and performing industry freelancers, all of whom live in Alexandra, Soweto, Atteridgeville and Mamelodi; and all of whom wanted to help those in the industry who were suffering.

We started crowdfunding across the

globe, to raise funds for food vouchers for hundreds of artists without an income or safety net. In May 2020, our non-profit *ThusaArtZA* was registered. To date we have managed to ensure hundreds of families have a friend to call if they need help.

ThusaArtZA's vision is to help artists help themselves, enabling them to continue to work, earn a living, learn new skills and thrive beyond the current reality. To perform, teach, inspire, and connect with the outside world via virtual and hybrid platforms, showcasing their craft.

Empathy, ideation, collaboration and productivity

In the home that I come from, Judaism has always been expressed through people, family, community — the collective as an integral part of the experience — *Kehilla*. Now that *ThusaArtZA* had been formed, we still needed to address the urgent need for income. So, without a clue of what or how to do it, we started with what we had: WIFI, a phone, a network, ideas, a performing arts collective, and the willingness to help. We formed the social enterprise *EzaseKasiJHB* so that artists could earn money while helping the community.

EzaseKasiJHB is a bicycle-operated delivery service, loosely based on the *UberEATS* or *Checkers Sixty60* model, running at a grassroots level over *WhatsApp* and *Facebook*. What started as a crowdfunding exercise to get bicycles has turned into a small functional business in Alexandra, Johannesburg, run by our business partners who live in Alex. We have six bikes and two vehicles that run daily deliveries. The cyclists earn between R1000 and R2000 per month and are in turn supporting their families. Rates are from R5 per pick-up, which ensures that pensioners, the elderly, and the indigent all benefit.

What we have learnt

This model works and needs to grow. It is a functional small business that can contribute to actualising the people's economy. By creating a groundswell of small entrepreneurs and community beneficiaries, we know that we can reach many through our national networks.

We have also learnt that it really does take a village. Generous help has come through family internationally and friends at *Noah's Art* and the *Angel Network*, without whose help this would not even have been able to start.



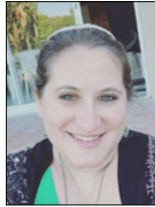
Janice Lurie is a valued member of Jewish Social Justice NGO, Mensch, and a 2021 graduate of the Mensch Leadership Programme, LIFT. To read more about Janice and learn more about her work Click HERE, or visit: www.thusaartza.org and www.ezasekasiJHB.co.za. Learn about Mensch here: www.mensch.org.za

Consider This

Narrow perspectives can lead to broader understandings

By Rabbi Emma Gottlieb (She/Her)

Not long ago, I was studying the famous tale of Elijah and the prophets of Ba'al with my weekly Torah shiur group (Thursdays at 12:45pm online for anyone who would like to join us!).



We read through a contemporary D'var Torah from Rabbi Valerie Lieber in *The Women's Torah Commentary*, a collection of essays on the *haftarot* by female rabbis and Torah scholars. Toward the end of her commentary, Rabbi Lieber writes the following, "Jezebel (was) determined, clever, and ruthless. We forgive Rebekah, Tamar, Michal, and Sarah for these very same characteristics... Had Jezebel been on the side of Judaism and a supporter of (HaShem), she would be praised for all the attributes for which she is maligned... While Elijah leaves the world in a chariot of fire with a reputation for courage, compassion, and goodness, Jezebel's courage, loyalty, and power are usually forgotten. Yet without Jezebel, Elijah would not have risen to glory, nor captured the imagination of the Jewish people."

What an interesting take on the importance of the antihero in biblical tradition! And yet, as one of my students pointed out, we might not have come to this very contemporary perspective on the value of the villain (villainess, in this instance), if we weren't approaching the text from a specifically feminist perspective. As Rabbi Lieber notes, "The description of Jezebel, the strong woman who leads the cause against the one true God, challenges Jewish feminists. Here is one of the few women in the Bible who is named, wields power, and dominates several scenes. As feminists, we want to find characteristics in her to emulate. Nevertheless, it is difficult to respect this queen who has the Jewish prophets slaughtered, and who gives financial support to the prophets of idols."

As contemporary Jewish women, we want to be able to lift up the few-and-far-between women in our sacred texts, however in this case, it is difficult to do so. And yet, that need to find something redemptive in the character of Queen Jezebel leads to the beautiful teaching about the value of the antihero. While a feminist approach to Torah study may not be everyone's cup of tea, it is not a new idea for us to study and interpret Torah through the lens of our own time, context and perspective. In every age, the challenges and learning of a particular generation influence the way they think about, talk about and interact with the Torah. Certainly we can see the different approaches taken by rabbis in different ages of the *Mishnah* and *Talmud*, especially if we compare them to the approaches of earlier or later generations. From the ancient Israelites, to the Rabbis of the Great Assembly, to Rashi and Rambam to the Kabbalists and the Chassidim to our contemporary Rabbis and thinkers — each generation brings their own experience to bear on Torah — each time illuminating new ways of understanding ancient words.

While we may not all aspire to connect to or emulate Jezebel the idolatrous queen, we can each relate to the experience of wanting to feel deep connections with both the figures and concepts within Torah. Sometimes we find our way to those connections through the teachings of previous generations, even when their historical or situational context has little to do with our own. Other times, we find our way there through applying our own lived experience and perspective. Through a narrow focus, we just might find we are able to broaden our understanding and deepen our learning and appreciation for the sacred words we hand down from one generation to the next.

L'shalom

Hesped — Phina Hoberman — Feigel bat Yekutiel v'Esther (1928-2021)

A lifelong leader of Temple Israel has passed on. We remember her here:

Phina Hoberman was born on the 24th March 1928 in the Booth Memorial Hospital in Cape Town to Jack and Esther Shaer. Jack was from Gradno, which is today in Slovenia and Esther was born in Chicago. Jack had come as a child to Cape Town and worked as a bookkeeper and Esther was a nurse on Robben Island having moved there from Piketberg. Phina was the eldest of 5 children who grew up in a warm family home and was always close to her 4 siblings. As her sister Doreen says, Phina was as much a mother to her as an older sister. Max and Harry predeceased her and Doreen lives in Joburg and Josie lives in LA.

Her family moved to the Transkei and then to Vredendal in Namaqualand. The nearest shul was in Van Rhynsdorp where they went for yom tovim and a teacher came to Vredendal to teach Hebrew. Vredendal only had an Afrikaans Primary School so she and her sisters were sent to the Jewish Children's Home in Cape Town in 1942 as boarders. Her nickname at school was "blikkies". Blikkies means tin in Afrikaans and she got this nickname because her family couldn't afford to buy her a new lunch box, so she took her lunch to school in a tin. In grade 7 she was appointed to be the head girl of the school, but at the end of that year she had to leave school because her father needed her to help at work. She loved maths at school and became the bookkeeper for the family store and later for Imperial.

In the meantime, her family moved to Piketberg where her mother had grown up and there was a large Jewish community as well as a synagogue, which is today a museum. Phina proudly attended the 100th anniversary of the Jewish community in Piketberg in 2011 organised by the municipality to acknowledge the Jewish contributions to the town.

Phina was 20 when she got married to David Hoberman on the 16th of January 1949 and they were married for 52 years. Her four children followed, being Pat, Lesley, Linda and Jeffrey. For Phina, family was first and she was the matriarch and scribe for the whole tribe, including her seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She was also the most tech-savvy grandmother you could find, keeping in touch with the whole extended mishpocha around the world with her family newsletters.

Her other family was of course the shul. Throughout her long shul career, Phina was involved in everything that there was



Yolande Kestymier Key
Celebrating Simchat Torah with her congregation Phina and founding Rebbetzin Bertha Sherman (z'l) at our 70th anniversary celebrations

to be involved in. She served on all the committees, was elected to the Councils and Board and became the first Elder of the Congregation when she celebrated her 80th birthday. She was on-and-off many-times chair and or treasurer of the Sisterhood and was the creator of many special brochas for shabbat and simchas including generations of bnei mitzvah. Another special thing about Phina was how she was at the same time the treasurer of the ladies guild at Chabad. She gave of her time and skill to the whole Jewish community.

She was a great artist and artisan, designing and making special Torah covers, ark curtains and bimah decorations for all the shuls and most of the grandchildren received a handmade tallis bag from her. Her work was recognised at home and abroad — the Southern African Union of Temple Sisterhoods (SAUTS) honoured her in July 2000 when they bestowed upon her the honorary life Vice Presidency in recognition of many years of devoted service to the SAUTS, and in December 2001, the sisterhoods of Cape Town presented her with the same honour for "exemplary leadership and many years of devoted, loyal and faithful service to the sisterhood and the congregation." She was nominated and served for three terms on the board of directors of their international organisation, the Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ).

Most importantly, she was a positive and creative do-er. She had a sharp eye and sharper tongue and never let anyone get away with anything, but she led by example. Her devotion to the shul was inspirational and when she no longer was able to continue as the queen of the brochah, she arrived with one of her carers to take her place in Green Point for the Shabbat morning service. As soon as lockdown shut the shuls, Granny Phina was there on Zoom shul, ready to go. So many will miss her smile and wave and her special presence.

As we remember Phina, we need to ask — who will step up to be Phina for the next generation? *Zichronah livracha* — may her memory be a blessing.

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A new president for Temple Israel

After 13 years of exceptional leadership as president and 22 years on the shul Board, Roy Fine has handed over leadership to our new president, Diana Sochen.

Roy has communal involvement in the blood, going back generations to the arrival of his grandparents from Lithuania and his mother from Czechoslovakia as refugees and Shoah survivors. With them came his family's Torah that was used in country communities from Goodwood to Parow and now resides with pride in the ark in Temple Israel Wynberg. Roy and Michelle's three sons all chanted their barmitzvah portions from that scroll, continuing the family legacy. His grandmother was chair of Bnoth Zion, and his grandfather a lifelong member of Gardens Shul. Values like community, compassion and ethics all come from his family.

Roy and his wife Michelle joined Temple Israel in 1988 before they got married. Zelda Kaplan and the Fig family introduced them to the community and Rabbi Robert Leib officiated at their wedding. Roy's passion for Jewish community affairs saw him voted onto the board 22 years ago and he has been there ever since. Thirteen years ago he took on the presidency and looking back, one can only be amazed by how much has happened in that time.

In his time on the Board, the congregation has grown and developed in all areas. Twenty-two years ago there was just one full-time rabbi. Our rabbinic team now comprises three full-time rabbis, two of them South African-born and one our first full-time woman rabbi, as well as a (woman) student rabbi and semi-retired rabbi. Working with our Executive Director we now have a permanent head of the cheder, publications co-ordinator, care programme manager, youth director,

funeral director and an annual Music and Youth intern from the USA as well as admin staff.

One might think with all that growth that people become less connected, but the opposite has happened with increasing networks of engagement. Roy and Michelle have been at the centre of that, opening their home to guests every Shabbat and yomtov. Hundreds of people have passed through the doors of Pine Cottage to join his family for a meal.

The new programmes span the age range from young families to Bnei mitzvah, teens, young adults, adults and elders; with more happening over Shabbat and Festivals as well as events during the year. Our innovative services, adult education, interfaith and diversity and inclusivity has seen programmes like Shabbat Chesed, Pride Month, Ramadan Iftar and Sherman Shabbat become major events in the calendar.

We have completely replaced and upgraded our siddurim and chumashim as well as publishing our own shiva and funeral books, healing books and guides for bereaved families.

The last two years of Roy's presidency were marked by the COVID pandemic, where Temple Israel moved all programming online, connecting people across Cape Town and the world to our innovative services and shiurim. As Roy always says, "Problems create opportunities."

During these years, a new membership category was added — that of the digital member with ex-pat South Africans joining the shul from all over the world. Even as our shuls re-opened, our shabbat services continue to offer online options. The community has grown in numbers, involvement and income throughout Roy's tenure as president and even through the hard past two years.



Roy in his happy place with the Neshama Band musicians Rabbi Greg, Dr Taj Hargey and Roy at Temple Israel's annual Shabbat Chesed and Ramadan Iftar

Roy has also been careful to ensure stable finances during the growth years and that has seen our year-by-year income grow, as well as the establishment of a Capital Fund to preserve the long-term financial well-being of the congregation. Roy's personal example of *give more, take less* has extended to those around him who contribute time, money and energy.

Roy is passionate about connecting Temple Israel with the larger Jewish community and we have our members sitting on the Jewish Board of Deputies, Zionist Fed, JCS, UCF, Cemeteries Board, CSO and more. Roy himself sits on the UJC executive and Priorities board. He has always stressed the need to look beyond our denominations, to the bigger picture of the Jewish community. Again, this was passed down to him from his mother who had no tolerance for anyone who spoke negatively about *this kind of Jew*. "All Jews are equal" she taught, and Roy has lived by that.

So, will we see less of Roy Fine in the coming years? In fact, the opposite, he says. This is a time for re-focus, and to see where he needs to put his (considerable) energy. Besides his continued presence on the Board, and his work in the broader

community, Roy also mentors young entrepreneurs and new Jewish leaders.

In handing the reigns to incoming president Diana Sochen, Roy knows that the growth will continue. Diana is well-known to many in the community through her leadership of the Cape Jewish Seniors Association as well as her many years of service to the Lions Club. She is currently the President of the Sea Point Lions Club.

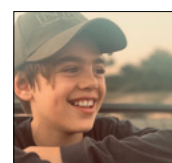
In the words of Rabbi Tarfon, "*lo alecha hamlacha ligmor* — it is not for you to complete the work, neither are you free to desist from it" (Mishna Avot 2:16). We look forward to seeing what the next decade has in store.

Mazeltov to Sofia and Brett

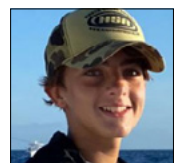


Celebrating the wedding of Student Rabbi Sofia Zway and Rabbi Brett Kopin

Mazaltov to last month's Bnei Mitzvah!



Ben Smollan
12 February



Jesse Kerzner
26 February



Temple Israel Board 2022/23. Top: Diana Sochen (President), Lynette Myburgh (Vice-President), Jeanne Livingston (Vice-President), Roy Fine (Immediate Past President), Ian Morris (Trustee), Johnny Schwartz (Trustee), Steve Lurie (Trustee) and Dean Sandler (Treasurer). Bottom: Greg Flash, Linda Thorn, Kelly James, Andrea Smollan, Dean Hyde, Ryan Goodman, Werner Steffen and Silvana Barbali



2021 Highlights



Telfed wins World Zionist Organisation Excellence Award



South Africans strengthening and contributing to Israel

ALIYAH & ABSORPTION

Largest # of SA olim since 1994 (27 yrs)

- 4,278 info sessions
- 55% increase in Aliyah (from 2020)
- Lobbying for Government benefits for SA Olim



LONE SOLDIERS

180 lone soldiers supported

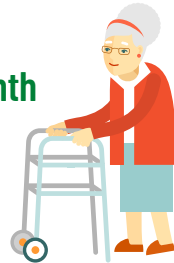
- Holiday gift cards distributed
- Telfed Brunch at Australian Ambassador's residence
- Launch of The Eli Kay z"l Lone Soldier Memorial Fund



WELFARE

450+ community members in need each month

- 20% increase in allocations
- Support for Seniors with Dementia
- NIS 2M distributed in food cards, monetary grants & financial rehab projects
- Assisted SA residents in South to equip bomb shelters during "Guardian of the Walls" operation



EDUCATION

Scholarships distributed to +/- 500 community youth

- 150 PRAS bursary students volunteered 3 hrs/week
- 14,000+ hours of student community service
- 30 Samson SASI (South Africans Studying in Israel) Scholarships



EMPLOYMENT

1,700 career counselling sessions in 2021

- 31% increase in need for advice
- Retraining workshops
- Virtual Job Fair for 40+ demographic
- Seminars incl: Hi-tech Jobs, Technical Writing, Job Search Strategy, LinkedIn, Employment in Israel



INFORMATION

for +/-100k community members

- Government rights & benefits (National & Health Insurance, Foreign Income, Employment, Banking etc)
- Taxation implications for SA Olim



HOUSING

100% occupancy in reduced rental community buildings

- 70 families on waiting list
- Community holiday celebrations
- Up to 30% rental discounts for SA olim



EVENTS

2,327 participants at 61 events incl.

- Webinars: Cyber-security, Israeli elections, A.I., Mental Health, Monetary planning for SA Olim
- Family Quiz, Health Seminars: Corona Vaccine, eradicating Covid, Megiddo & Gush Etzion Tours



VOLUNTEERISM

262 national volunteers

- Regional activities incl. Haifa Picnic, Raanana Coffee Club, Rishon Bowling
- 2 training seminars for volunteers
- Food packing for needy families in memory of Eli Kay z"l



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PESACH AT THE PRESIDENT

Bantry Bay, Cape Town
15 – 24 April 2022

The iconic President Hotel invites you to experience an inspiring Pesach at our popular hotel in Cape Town. The highest level of Kashrut will be maintained under strict Rabbinical supervision of **Kosher SA**. The President Hotel offers breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean set against the backdrop of the famous Lion's Head and Table Mountain,

a stone's throw from the Sea Point Promenade and beachfront. Located in sought-after Bantry Bay, within the **Eruv** and easy walking distance of **five Shuls** and a **mikvah**. Other nearby attractions include **Jewish Museum** and **Holocaust Centre** tours, as well as the flagship **Gardens Shul**.

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- Exquisite Pesach Cuisine by Avron's Catering
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- Chol Hamoed Entertainment
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FOOD

The story of *Pekarnya* — Yana's Bakery



Meet Chana Miriam Opert. Mother of seven, Hebrew teacher, Karate black belt, birth doula, singer songwriter, polylinguist, and most recently, professional baker and owner of *Pekarnya* — Yana's Bakery.

When South Africa went into hard lockdown almost two years ago, Chana's work as a birth doula was forced onto the backburner, as hospitals allowed only the doctor/obstetrician and hospital staff into the delivery room.

Like so many of us, while hiding from the dreaded Covid, she caught that other 'bug' sweeping Cape Town (and the world??) — the BREAD-BAKING bug! So when a friend shared her recipe for sourdough, Chana rolled up her sleeves, and although she didn't know it at the time, *Pekarnya* — Yana's Bakery was conceived!

Water, salt, flour, magic! The results were delicious, and those who tried it commented that it was good enough to sell. Chana notes that although sourdough was being made and sold all over Cape Town, kosher sourdough was nowhere to be had.

Another friend — a successful businessman — had been encouraging her to sell her home-made challahs for a while. Chana thought sourdough would sell better as it was more of a novelty, and challah was readily available. She gave him a sourdough loaf to try. He immediately asked her how many she could make at once, how long it would take, and what it would cost her. From this information she worked out a selling price, and he surprised her by buying 100 loaves upfront. She was to make them and hand them out to everyone that she thought might be interested. The 100-loaf challenge took about two months of hard work and meticulous record-keeping, and *Pekaryayan* bakery was born!

Chana began to receive orders and the business slowly grew. Requests came in for challah, then babke and cinnamon buns. Each time, Chana rose to the challenge, allowing the business to grow on a manageable scale. Her menu now boasts a large variety of sourdough and rye loaves, bagels, babkes, rugelach, cinnamon buns, doughnuts (*sufganiyot*), pizza bases and 'Hamentaschen pockets'.

"What," one might ask, "are hamentaschen pockets?" When Chana made hamentaschen for Purim last year, they proved so popular that requests continued to come in after Purim — from the Jewish community and beyond.

She decided to continue supplying them, but changed their shape to rectangular 'pockets', reverting to the traditional triangle shape only during Purim, so that they retained their special Purim association.



Chana's hamentaschen

In honour of Purim that falls on 17 March this year, the CJC asked Chana to share her hamentaschen recipe with us. Try it out yourself! Or if you prefer, you can order directly from her.

Dough

- 200g water
- 2 tsp dry active yeast
- 3 tbsp sugar
- 400g all-purpose flour (cake flour)
- 6 tbsp vegetable oil

Gradually combine ingredients, starting with yeast, sugar and water, adding the flour slowly. Mix either by hand or in a stand mixer using a dough hook. Cover in an airtight container, allow to rise for two hours.

Fillings

Poppy seed/*mon*

- 80g poppy seeds soaked overnight, drained and crushed in a blender
 - 100ml water
 - 2,5 tbsp sugar
 - 1tsp parev margarine
 - 2 tsp apricot or strawberry jam
 - 1 plain parev biscuit (eg Marie biscuit) pulverised to crumbs
- Place the poppy seeds and water into saucepan and bring to boil, combine the rest of the ingredients in a different bowl, then add them

into the boiling mixture. Reduce heat and keep stirring, cover and leave to simmer for about ten minutes. Allow to cool.

Cream cheese

- 250g cream cheese
- 1large egg
- 3 Tbsp sugar
- 2 Tbsp flour
- 2 Tbsp cream
- 1 tsp vanilla

Chocolate

- Parev chocolate nibs

Streusel topping

- 1/2 cup of flour
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 5 Tbsp vegetable oil

Combine all ingredients and mix well with a fork. If mixture is still too sticky, add sugar and flour.

Method

- Roll out the dough
- Cut out circles 12 cm in diameter
- Place about 2 tbsp of desired filling in the middle,
- Wet the edge of the circle and connect the edges together, to form a triangle. Turn the triangles upside down

onto the baking tray, lined with floured non-stick baking sheet, brush with water and a touch of vegetable oil, and sprinkle streusel liberally.

- Bake in preheated oven at 180°C for 15 — 20 minutes

* Mon and chocolate are parev.



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What makes a good leader?

by Craig Nudelman

President Cyril Ramaphosa's *State of the Nation Address (SONA)* was delivered on 10 February 2022, and although it is one of the most important events in the South African political calendar, I was reluctant to watch it.

Given Covid's impact on every aspect of South African society, I knew that from unemployment to corruption there was no good story to tell.

When all was said and done, the President did use the speech (all two hours of it!) to give some insight into what he would do. His remarks about the failures of his Cabinet, corruption, the energy crisis, and the maladministration of our ports and railway systems showed he acknowledged what has gone wrong. But now, the President needs to show decisive leadership in how to correct these issues. This was his sixth SONA, so he can expect much debate over his leadership, especially going into the ANC's elective conference in December.

Recently, I was accepted into the Nahum Goldman Fellowship's Network Leadership Seminar, where I and eleven other leaders in global Jewry, from Melbourne to Mexico City, will embark on a year-long programme where we'll learn how to lead effectively. The first session happened to be the very same evening as SONA; it seemed *bashert* that examining leadership was the name of the game that evening. In that first session, we looked at what the *Torah* and *Mishnah* say about being a leader. We examined Moshe's leadership style at the beginning of his journey as leader of the Israelites after crossing the Sea of Reeds. Also under examination were the seven characteristics with which judges should be endowed. These were wisdom, humility,

reverence, disdain of gain, love of truth, loved by all, and a man (now person) of good reputation. However, how do we objectively judge whether a leader has these qualities? Also, are these qualities with which we are born, or are they learnt?

These characteristics of a good leader are still applicable thousands of years later. We see these qualities laid out in contemporary articles and papers on leadership and what makes a good leader. There are so many leadership courses and articles about being a good leader, be they of a business, organisational, or philanthropic nature, and yet we still want to find out how we can improve our leadership qualities. In fact, if you look up 'good leadership qualities' on Google, there are 1,920,000,000 results. So let's look at just some of the highlights.

The Northeastern University in the US has a Graduate Programme in Leadership, which 'prepares graduates for the challenges and opportunities associated with leading in a global world'. Brian Eastwood, a journalist and leadership strategist who assists with the programme, uses the findings of Teresa Goode, the associate teaching professor for the programme, in which he speaks about five qualities of effective leaders. The first is that the

individual should be self-aware and "prioritise personal development". Emotional intelligence is key to being a successful leader, and one should focus on being open to criticism, adaptable to more emotive situations, and resilient. This can be achieved by taking responsibility for any mistakes that you may have made along the way, and not being afraid to admit you've been wrong. Mistakes are inevitable — it's how you handle your mistakes that is important.

These characteristics of a good leader are still applicable thousands of years later.

It's not just yourself that you should focus on. You also need to help develop others within your team through delegation, mentoring, or coaching. Leaders look at individuals' unique skill sets and backgrounds. As Eastwood writes, you must "give the team members both the tools and the space to build trust among each other." He also writes that a team leader must be empathetic. This is also a key point that Emma Seppälä writes in the *Harvard Business Review*, where she asks how we should react when one of our team members makes a mistake or does not perform well. She suggests that we should be compassionate and use the mistake to coach, instead of responding with some form of punishment such as reprimanding your employee.

Other leadership skills are to think out-of-the-box and look at innovative ways in which the the organisation is heading. The idea of a flexible and open mindset comes to the fore, where a leader must be willing to try new ideas enthusiastically. This will filter down to the team who will respond creatively, and bring all kinds of ideas to the table. However, a leader must

balance this with making informed decisions and not be reckless in the brainstorming process. If that happens, you risk making unethical or inappropriate decisions that could affect the values of the company or even people within your team.

The final quality of effective leadership, according to Eastwood, follows on from ethical and civic-minded actions, where leaders must "practice effective cross-cultural communication." In an ever-increasing globalised world, we have to be aware of the differences in cultures and how we speak and act around others. Using concise language which is easy to understand, and acknowledging how emails, texts, and social media are nuanced is key to being not only a good leader but communicating well in general.

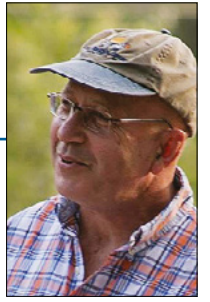
When we look at our leaders, from the President to our direct line managers, it is important to see where they can improve. We can also reflect on how we can grow on our own leadership journeys. I am excited to keep on learning to be a better communal and professional leader, not only through the lens of the 21st century but also through our Jewish texts which are still relevant thousands of years later.



ISRAEL: A JOURNEY MAKING MEANING

Radio memories —

“Daar’s a lied en a glimlag vir jou in hospital tyd onthou” Esme Euverard



Julian Resnick writes from Israel

Is there really a slightly battered, grey, metal cupboard somewhere in Israel?

Daar’s ‘n lied en ‘n glimlag vir jou, In Hospitaal Tyd, onthou, Verkleur die wolke van grys tot blou, In Hospitaal Tyd, onthou, Vanaf Maandag tot Vrydag, om half-eeen Is daar musiek vir moeder, vader - en dogter en seun, Ja daar’s ‘n lied en ‘n glimlag vir jou, In Hospitaal Tyd, onthou!

Calm down Julian. Nobody out there wants to follow this slightly bizarre stream of consciousness. Enough.

But how on earth did you get there? There must be a story in this somewhere. Surely, you did not get to *Hospitaal Tyd* from over 45 years ago from *Springbok Radio* without there being a connection to your life in Israel today? This is what this column is supposed to be about. Remember? You write a regular column from Israel, and you generally write about life in Israel as you experience it as an Oleh from South Africa some forty-six years ago this coming July. Or perhaps about the experiences you have had here over those long years.

So, where does this come from? An explanation is needed.

This is how I got there. A month ago. Shabbat morning. We — Orly and I — were on our way to a Barmitzva in Ashkelon. Our cousin Tali’s eldest, Nitzan from Kibbutz Zikkim (all these details are relevant – it will become clear soon) was having his *Aliyah L’Torah* in the Conservative Synagogue in that southern town. What does one do when driving south from Kibbutz Tzora (our home) to Ashkelon just north of the Gaza strip in 2021? Turn on the radio of course to check that there is no news about tensions which might morph into

incoming missiles from Gaza or minimally incendiary balloons.

It is around 9am and of course it is *Shabbat Olamit* on *Reshet Bet* with Yitzchak Noy.

Now, Israel is divided around many issues: one state or two states, the laws of Torah or the laws of the State having priority, recognising the Bedouin villages in the south or not, Omer Adam or Ivri Lieder as the better recent interpreter of Israeli music, Jerusalem or Tel Aviv as the epitome of Israeli culture. You know, modern versions of *Beit Hillel* or *Beit Shammai*.

The Greatest Divide

And then there is the greatest divide of them all — those who turn up the volume when Yitzchak Noy is on between eight and ten on Shabbat morning, and those who switch the radio off and go into a rant about when he will finally be removed from the radio (he is 79 years old, a Sabra, has a doctorate in history, taught history at both the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and at Tel Aviv University, generally talks down to his listeners and invites academics to talk at great length about issues from our past — nothing sexy about this programme and definitely not aimed at those with an average digital-age attention span of 60 seconds).

He and his guests on this Shabbat morning are talking about a battle in the War of Independence in an area we are travelling through, the Battle of *Nitzanim*; one of the few battles during the war in which our forces surrendered to the enemy and our soldiers went off into captivity as POWs. It has become an iconic moment, partly because of the notion of the ignominy of defeat and it being totally unacceptable in the culture of the IDF to surrender;

and partly because of the statement written by Abba Kovner, at that time the Education officer of the Givati Brigade but more importantly one of the leaders of the Jewish Partisans who fought the Nazis in the Vilna Ghetto and later of course one of the most significant witnesses in the Eichmann trial.

Some of what he wrote that day has become etched into the collective

memory of Israel and the IDF, “... this failure is grave... we do not defend our home only while it is comfortable.

We protect it with everything we have, with our bodies and our souls; and if fate dictates, it is better to fall while protecting the home and its very foundations than to surrender to the murderous invader. It is a disgrace to surrender, as long as we breathe and have one more cartridge or even a single bullet. Going into captivity is a disgrace and worse than death itself.”

After hearing this on the way down to the barmitzva I began to think of what I remembered about listening to the radio as a young person in South Africa (I left at age 22 in 1976), and what the specific experience is in Israel of listening to the radio.

There was no television in South Africa during my years growing up there, and therefore the radio had a far greater impact on our lives than it has today. What do I remember about this experience? *Forces Favourites*, *Hospitaal Tyd*, *Pick a Box*, Pip Friedman, *Mark Saxon and Sergei*, *Superman*, *Test the Team*. Rather random and not exactly the material one can use to describe the culture of the society I lived in — and yet, maybe they did?

Coming to live here meant leaving *Springbok Radio* behind (and *LM Radio* too), but I hardly noticed it at the time as I was caught up in more significant feelings of loss, leaving my parents behind, leaving my grandparents behind, leaving Habonim, Clifton beach, UCT, friends, my dog Brutus (he went to my uncle and aunt in Caledon, not too far from the wild flowers, which anyway he could not see as he was losing his sight).

Greek (Hebrew) to me

In Israel the radio means different things to different people (the same of course was true for SA). For me it was initially unintelligible, as my Hebrew (or lack of it) meant that only the music — or some of it — was accessible to me. The talk-shows, the news, much of what makes radio here — in my opinion — so special was Greek (OK, Hebrew) to me.

But over the years, as my Hebrew improved, I began to enjoy and appreciate the radio more and more. I grew to love the moments which set it apart as the radio of the Jewish State of Israel.

The early morning שמע ישראל (*the Shmah*) on the IDF radio channel which I began to hear at about 6am

during the early morning milking of the cows, first in the dairy on *Kibbutz Nir Eliyahu* and later when I moved, the dairy on *Kibbutz Tzora*, my home today.

The change in the music on special days of collective memory, *Yom Hashoah* and *Yom Hazikaron* (the days we remember the victims of the Holocaust and the those who fell fighting for the State of Israel).

Those awful days during military campaigns in Lebanon and in Gaza and during the two *Intifadas* (Palestinian uprisings) when the tone changed, an indication that we had lost a soldier or that news of a deadly terror attack had just come in.

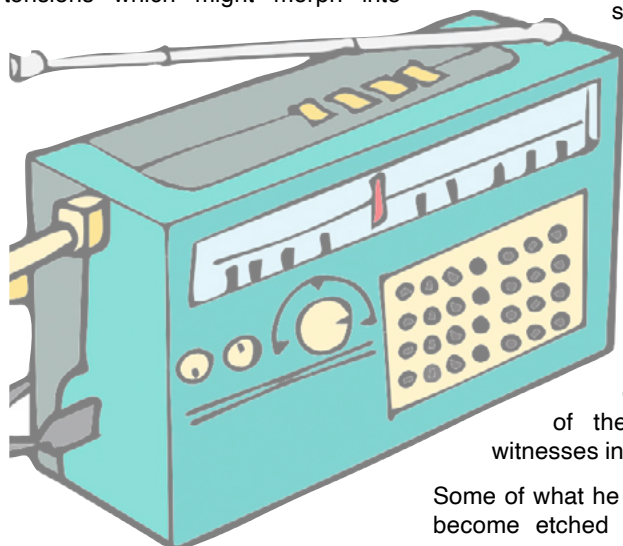
The evolution of the music mainstream as the music of the Ashkenazi musical establishment slowly gave way to a new generation whose melodies and harmonies reflected a Sephardi culture which initially was kept out of the serious musical programmes, and slowly became the dominant new voice in Israeli music.

The interface between our traditional Jewish culture and modern culture in the choice of names of one of my favourite music programmes which, if it were happening in English, would be called *Oldies, but Goldies*, but here is called מתוק מאז (*Matok Me’az*) a pun based on the biblical phrase, מתוק מעז known as *Samson’s riddle*, which is spelled differently, but pronounced identically (unless you are a Yemenite Jew with a pronounced *Ayin*).

So, radio can reflect a culture, a history, a past and most importantly an identity.

The slightly battered, grey metal cupboard? The one we were told held the music played only on *Yom Hashoah* and on *Yom Hazikaron* and, God forbid when a soldier fell; does it really exist? In reality I suppose not, but it is not only that which is real that creates culture.

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



Hate speech against Jews — a South African perspective

By Anton Katz SC

The key feature of a free and good society is protection of the right to freedom of speech and expression.

Voltaire made the point, “I may not agree with what you have to say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.”

Under Apartheid, people were arrested and imprisoned for saying the ‘wrong thing’. Indeed, to criticise the apartheid government would have had serious negative consequences. In some countries it is a crime to write negatively about the president and government. For government to curtail what may be said can — and often does — lead to oppression and deep unhappiness. The Constitutional Court years ago remarked, “Freedom of expression is one of a ‘web of mutually supporting rights’.”

Expression is closely related to freedom of religion, belief and opinion, the right to dignity, to freedom of association, the right to vote and to stand for public office and the right to assembly. These rights, taken together, protect the rights of individuals not only individually to form and express opinions, but to establish associations and groups of people to foster and propagate such opinions.

Without the right to freedom of expression, the right to practise one’s religion of choice could be infringed or violated. Indeed, the practice of Judaism and other religions has been and still is prohibited in many countries.

So, when certain hateful words are uttered at a rally or on social media about Jewish people, it is appropriate for the courts to take action against the purveyors of the hatred. And this must be considered in light of the so-important right to freedom of expression.

This issue arose in the case of Bongani Masuku’s remarks. He said (amongst other), “[A]s we struggle to liberate Palestine from the racists, fascists and Zionists who belong to the era of their friend Hitler! We must not apologise, every Zionist must be made to drink the bitter medicine they are feeding our brothers and sisters in Palestine. We must target them, expose them and do all that is needed to subject them to perpetual suffering until they withdraw from the land of others and stop their savage attacks on human dignity.” Masuku’s comments were made during tensions that broke out in response to the Gaza War of 2008/2009. Supporters of Israeli and Palestinian causes were involved in increasingly fraught demonstrations, debates and communications in Johannesburg.

The SA Jewish Board of Deputies complained to SA Human Rights Commission, which in turn approached the Equality Court. The Equality Court declared Masuku to have committed hate speech and ordered Masuku to unconditionally apologise

to the Jewish community. Masuku appealed to the Supreme Court of Appeal. The Supreme Court of Appeal analysed the statements in the light of the dictionary definition of Zionism, and found that Judaism and Zionism are not synonymous. It concluded that Masuku’s statements represented political speech made in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and amounted to speech protected under the Constitution.

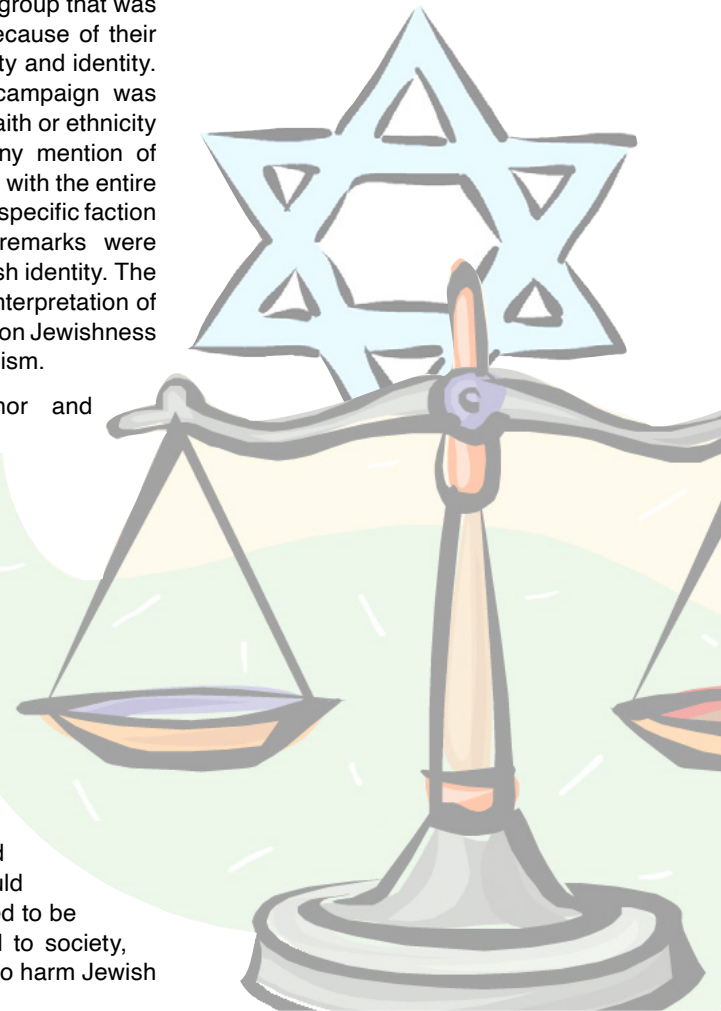
The Constitutional Court disagreed. It found that Masuku’s speech did cross over into hate speech. It considered expert evidence on the complex nature of the nexus between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism. The expert evidence showed that although Judaism and Zionism are distinct, Zionism forms a part of the core identity for many Jews. Responding expert testimony noted that there was also a tendency to silence legitimate criticism of Israel as being antisemitic. As noted by the applicant’s expert, Zionism means various different things to different people. And so the context of the speech needed to be considered. The Court accepted that the reference to Hitler made it clear that the statement was based on Jewish ethnicity. A reasonable reader would have noted that a reference to Hitler to a group that was predominately Jewish was used because of their ‘Jewishness’ — their Jewish ethnicity and identity. Hitler’s antisemitic extermination campaign was not limited to people of the Jewish faith or ethnicity who identified as Zionists. And any mention of Hitler evokes semantic associations with the entire global Jewish community, and not a specific faction (Zionists) thereof. Mr Masuku’s remarks were targeted at membership of the Jewish identity. The Court accepted that a reasonable interpretation of the statement was that it was based on Jewishness as an ethnicity, and not on anti-Zionism.

The Court found that the tenor and explicitness of Mr Masuku’s threats would have indicated to a reasonable reader that his intention was to cause harm. The vehemence and aggression in his tone and allusions to the horrors suffered by Palestinian civilians at the hands of the Israeli forces was enough to give the impression that the aim would be for reprisals or revenge. This sort of threat manifested a clear intention of detestation, enmity, ill-will and malevolence. This expression could be interpreted to have been intended to be harmful to those who heard it and to society, and to have sought to incite others to harm Jewish people and promote hatred.

The Constitutional Court found that Masuku’s exercise of his freedom of expression collided with what it means for Jews to be a citizens of the South African democratic state, and free to live a life in a condition of dignity and humanity. The dignity and humanity of Jews took precedence over Masuku’s free expression rights. The statement was declared to be harmful, and to incite harm and propagate hatred and amount to hate speech. Masuku must apologise to the Jewish community.

Interestingly, the Court concluded its judgment with the following words, “In the context of this matter, and in appreciating the power of words to inflict harm, it is fitting to close with a cautionary and apposite extract taken from the Torah. “Death and life are in the tongue.”

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



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ART

Kaleidoscope — my journey into light

Claire Greenspan is an artist living and working in Cape Town.

Following a childhood in Pretoria, she attended Michaelis School of Fine Art. Thereafter, she obtained a degree in Social Work, and after working in the field for several years, attended City Varsity where she completed a two-year course in make-up for film, theatre and special effects. She has also completed the ASTAR (Awakening Spirit Through Art) training course to become an art facilitator. Over the years, she received invaluable tuition and inspiration from well-known South African artist and family friend Cecil Skotnes.

Describing her life as “a juggle between all things I love and am passionate about,” she finds time to paint alongside her other roles as parent, photographer (many in our community will know her from events covered over the years), and Social Worker in the Special Care Unit at Highlands House.

She has dedicated her current solo exhibition to her husband of nearly 23 years who passed away suddenly three years ago.

The most recent exhibitions that she’s participated in are *In a Frame Mob Art show @ 6 Spin Street* (2019), *Group Exhibition @ Bantry Retreat Guest House* (2020) and *Home is where the Art is, Zeitz MOCAA* (2021/2).



Claire Greenspan

In Claire’s latest body of work, she’s explored potent real-life challenges, processed at a deeper, unconscious energetic level. The materials and even more so, the brushmarks contain emotional content where both chaos and order have found a place to rest within a structured system.

Claire describes her process, “The grid-like framework is noticeably symbolic, like the roots of a tree, or scaffolding. What’s emerged unplanned onto canvas is a grounding arrangement of line and form that has provided a sense of inner calm, at the time of processing grief. The healing, therapeutic capacity of the creative process has been profound.

Colour has been a playground for expression. Emotions evoked, into dark and lightness, indicative of the fleeting colourful kaleidoscope presented by the nature of personal experience.”

Claire will be holding a solo exhibition at The Yard, Silo District, V&A Waterfront from 16 March – 12 April 2022. To attend the opening, please RSVP clairegreenspanphoto@gmail.com

She also continues to sell her work locally and abroad via her Instagram account – [clairegreenspan_art](https://www.instagram.com/clairegreenspan_art).



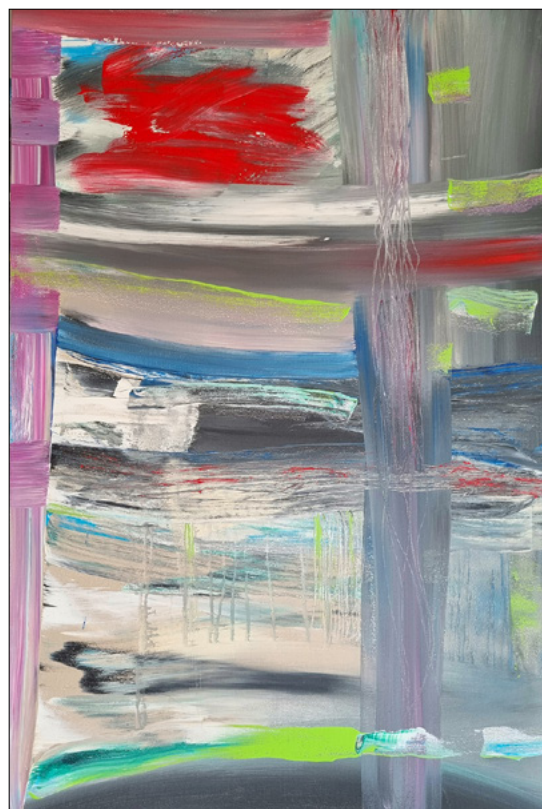
Raising vibrations, Acrylic on canvas, 60x60cm



Fragmented, Acrylic on canvas, 91x91cm



Integration, Acrylic on canvas, 134x195cm



Paint Dance, Acrylic on canvas, 60x90cm
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In search of light, Acrylic on canvas, 134x196cm

SIMCHA SNAPS



Lara Kleinman to Roy Robins

Photo: Kretzmer Keys Photography



Shaun Katz to Martine Kawalsky

Photo: Edo Mostert Photography

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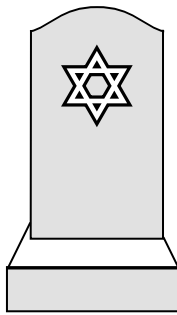
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