JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

VOLUME 39 No 5 JUNE 2022 www.cjc.org.za

Cape Town remembers...

Yom HaShoah veHagvurah ceremony: Rabbi Asher Deren places a cut-out butterfly at the memorial statue, a new initiative to include third-generation survivors

See pages 7 and 8

Yom Hazikaron — a sombre moment as community members light candles to remember those who lost their lives defending Israel or as victims of terror

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... and celebrates

#LetsCelebrateTogetherAgain — Yom Ha'atzmaut 2022 Celebrations, Cape Town

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CAPE JEWISH CHRONICLE

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Des Says...

By Desrae Saacks, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle

Only human

Someone said the nicest thing to me the other day. They said, "You're only human!"

It was a great relief to hear those words. I'm prone to the *frog in the pot of boiling water syndrome*. You know... as the pressure mounts, my natural instinct is to simply absorb it. So sometimes I need reminding that I don't have to take responsibility for *everything* — no matter what!

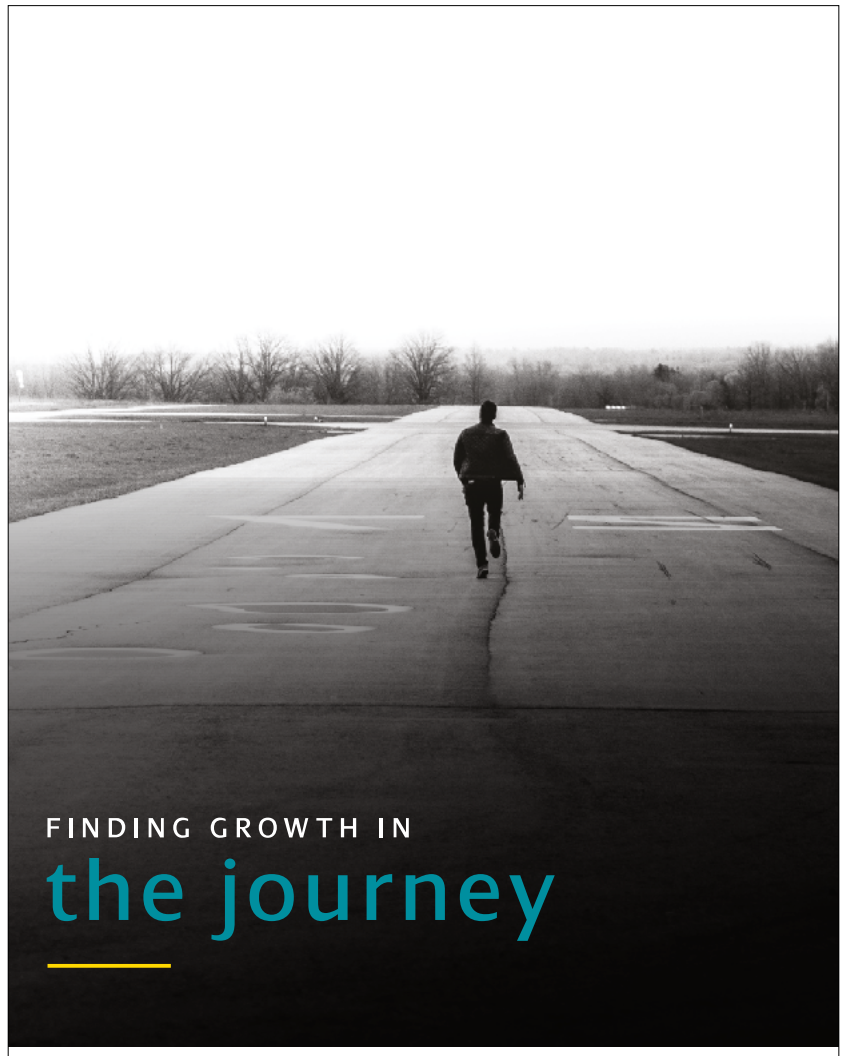
Case in point: right now, as I sit at the last possible moment on deadline day, at 12.50am on a freezing cold Sunday night wondering what on earth to write, the rest of this 36-pager has come together with the usual feast of interesting stories about interesting people saying, thinking and doing interesting things.

And so, mindful of the fact that I am indeed only human, I have opted to give myself a break — and to share this space with information far more useful to you, dear reader, than my own midnight ramblings.

I trust that you'll enjoy the many good reads on the pages ahead. And the choice of paper or digital. Whichever you choose, do check out our website and social media pages!

I'm off to bed now, making sure to set my alarm extra early to assess whether I have resolved this all-too-familiar last minute creative block, or merely deferred it. Either way — for now — this is me giving myself a break!

www.cjc.org.za



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Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		Earliest	Latest	
3 June/5 Sivan	Bemidbar	4.42pm	5.27pm	
4 June/6 Sivan	Shavuot 1st day		6.21pm	
5 June/7 Sivan	Shavuot 2nd day		6.21pm	6.21pm
10 June/12 Sivan	Naso	4.41pm	5.26pm	6.21pm
17 June/19 Sivan	Behaalot'cha	4.42pm	5.26pm	6.21pm
24 June/26 Sivan	Shelach L'cha	4.43pm	5.28pm	6.23pm

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

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Cape Jewish Chronicle

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CAPE SAJBD
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CONNECT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNITY

Greetings and Jewish goodbyes!

By Daniel Bloch, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

A short while ago I heard a joke told by the late Jackie Mason.

The punchline of the joke was as follows (and I quote): "Non-Jews leave without saying goodbye. Jewish people say goodbye without leaving!" At the time I could not stop laughing — this was truly a funny joke and quite accurate. It does seem to be in our genes that when leaving any function or service, Jews feel the need to have to say goodbye to any and everyone we see. I know that I build in a good 10 — 15 minutes of goodbye time at any function, whether it be social or business.

During the month of April, I was fortunate enough to attend, connect and engage with several thousand members of our community by attending a wedding in Oudtshoorn, a bar mitzvah in Sea Point, our Yom HaShoah service at Pinelands cemetery, Yom Hazikaron at the Herzlia High School and Yom Ha'atzmaut at the Green Point Cricket Club. Each function can best be described as unique — the setting, the people I engaged with and the conversations held were all unique. The one constant thing was the goodbyes.

Is it so bad that we take so long to say goodbye? Surely it means that we know lots of people and that many people know who we are?

At each event, I planned on leaving at a certain time and inevitably left 15 to 20 minutes later. The last time I played a cricket match at Green Point Cricket Club, it took me five minutes to walk to and from the pitch — I left with nothing but a duck to my name. Leaving Yom Ha'atzmaut at the same venue took me 35 minutes and I left with several bags of food, candles and jewellery all purchased on the evening.

Is it so bad that we take so long to say goodbye? Surely it means that we know lots of people and that many people know who we are? We should feel lucky that we have so many family and friends still living in Cape Town, that we cannot leave a function without diving into a variety of conversations. It is quite amazing that only when you leave a function, do you get asked questions about your family, what job you are doing, why are you at this particular function and "did you hear what happened to so and so last week" (we do love a good gossip).

I think that Jewish goodbyes are important, as we are able to connect with people. During most functions, we don't get to talk to everyone and in some cases, we didn't even know someone was there. However, when we leave, we manage to see almost everyone, say goodbye, start up a conversation and then say goodbye again.

I have learnt about the importance of greeting people from my father. He is usually the last one to leave Shul as he is too busy saying goodnight to everyone in the vicinity. We always ask him if he plans on locking up the shul!? My father also thinks it is equally important to greet people and during every Shabbat service, he introduces himself to visitors attending the shul — "it is important to make people feel welcomed". These visitors enjoy the service and make it a point to come to my father to say goodbye — something they would not have done had he not made the first move.

If everyone could simply greet each other and give a proper goodbye, perhaps people would be nicer to one another. Next time you are out and about, remember to say hello to the people you meet and take your time saying goodbye. You may be pleasantly surprised by the reactions you receive.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Standing stoic and preserving our heritage

By Tzvi Brivik, Chairperson, Cape SAJBD

Three weeks ago, we celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut at the Green Point Cricket Club.

The event was extremely well organised and well attended. It featured Israeli food, Israeli dancing and various arts and crafts sourced from Israel. It was unfortunate that at the entrance to the event various detractors hurled insults and abuse at members of our community. It was an act of bravery to run that gauntlet and in the face of uncalled-for, hurtful and hateful speech, remain stoic. We commend our community for this.

It is the Board's mandate to build bridges between our Jewish community and all the other peoples of South Africa. We do this in various ways: we host interfaith webinars, we partner with our affiliates to encourage visitors to the Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre, under the palm fronds of a sukkah we host a Sukkat Shalom to which we invite senior representatives of the Western Provincial Legislature and various interfaith community leaders, we encourage dialogue between various youth groups, and so on. We do this so that our community can live peacefully, sharing the beauty of the Western Cape and our country. We hope that by doing so, we eliminate the sense of the 'other' and that instead of being strangers to our neighbours, we are seen as kin — so that when we next celebrate a momentous occasion or commemorate a significant loss we can do so together, free from the fear of being harassed or bullied.

The Board has had great success in pursuing the Masuku hate speech case which culminated in a formal apology from COSATU and a judgment vindicating freedom of religion, the supremacy of the Constitution and the rule of law*. We will in accordance with our mandate similarly investigate and pursue any infringement of our constitutional right to freedom of expression, freedom to gather and to bodily integrity.

Recently we hosted Jonathan Ancer author of *Mensches in the Trenches* at both Exclusive Books Waterfront and at Gardens Sukkah hall. He described how in the face of the apartheid regime and overwhelmed with negativity, there were those individuals who inspired bravery. They were ordinary people who rose above the intimidation and threats, and coalesced into a force of strength effecting change. The book highlights the previously unrecorded stories of some of the Jewish participants and the essential role they played in bringing freedom and justice to South Africa — many of whom we know and who have led our community in the past. We have much to be proud of and a history of opposition to injustice which should be celebrated.

It is the Board's mandate to build bridges between our Jewish community and all the other peoples of South Africa

Looking globally, an $11 million project is underway to restore a number of decaying synagogues and preserve Venice's Jewish ghetto. In just one suburb, five synagogues are hidden, and date back to the 16th century. As part of our mandate we too are tasked with preserving our provincial heritage. There are many institutions dotted around the country community map which require our attention. These include shuls — often preserved as museums or used by the municipalities for clubhouses and to house administration — as well as cemeteries. We must honour our history. Just as being Jewish is fundamental to our lives, so too is the preservation of our heritage. Whilst we may not have the funds which the city of Venice has, it is important for us not to lose the sense of where we were, how we contributed to the development of the province, and the history of how we overcame numerous obstacles.

** This case was covered in the March 2022 Chronicle by Anton Katz: https://cjc.org.za/2022/03/01/hate-speech-against-jews-a-south-african-perspective/*

CAPE **SAJBD**

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ELECTION 2022

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

GET INVOLVED IN OUR ELECTIONS IN 3 EASY STEPS

1

REGISTER TO VOTE

You must register on the communal database to vote. **Registration runs until 5 August 2022** and is completely confidential. Register here: **www.capesajbd.org/elections-2022**

2

NOMINATE

Any Jewish person who is over the age of **18**, currently residing in the **Western Cape** and is registered on the **communal database** is eligible to stand for elections. See section above for details on how to nominate and which ballot to stand on.

3

VOTE

Voting will take place between **11 August and 31 August 2022**, and the results will be announced on **01 September 2022**. All votes will be made digitally. A link to vote will be made available to you in due course, along with your unique voting code.

HOW DO THE ELECTIONS WORK?

Five (5) new members of the Cape SAJBD will be elected by public ballot, the digital election of which opens on **11 August** and ends on **31 August 2022**. A further ten (10) members will be elected by delegates of our affiliated organisations at our Annual General Meeting on **18 September 2022**. This will present us with a new Board made up of 15 members, to serve for two (2) years (2022-2024) and to be announced on **22 September 2022**.

HOW DO I BECOME ELIGIBLE TO VOTE?

To be eligible to stand for nomination, and/or to nominate potential candidates, and/or to vote in the upcoming election, you must be a Jewish person over the age of 18 and currently residing in the Western Cape, whose name and particulars appear on the communal database.

To register to vote or update your details on the communal database, please fill in a **Voter Registration form available on our website**. To simply confirm that you are on the communal database and thus eligible to be nominated, to nominate and to vote, you can email us at **sajbd2@ctjc.co.za**

HOW DO NOMINATIONS WORK?

Nominations opened at 8:00 on 01 May and will **close at 17:00 on 26 June 2022.** Each nominee will need to complete a **digital nomination form** and submit a **signed code of conduct**, which are available on our website: **www.capesajbd.org/elections-2022**. All current members of the Board who want to stand for re-election must also complete a nomination form and sign a new code of conduct.

Each nomination form requires the full names, ID number, residential address, email address and contact number of the nominee, to be supported by the same details of two nominators. Thus, each nomination form lists three people: One (1) nominee, and two (2) people who support the nomination. Anyone making a nomination is responsible to gather this information themselves before filling in the form.

The nominee must also choose which ballot they want to stand in. There are two ballots: the public ballot and the affiliate ballot. If you are a sitting Board member or have been a member of the Board in the previous five (5) years, you do not have a choice of ballot and must stand for election on the affiliate ballot. Anyone else can choose which of the two ballots they wish to stand on and should choose the ballot on which they feel they would have the best opportunity for election.

No nomination forms may be accepted after the advertised closing date and time. All nominees are then vetted by the Electoral Commission to confirm the nominees' and nominators' names appear on the communal database, before being placed on the final nominee roll.

#GETINVOLVED #VOTESMATTER

Public ballot election: 11 August - 31 August 2022 **Affiliate ballot election: Sunday 18 September 2022**

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Know your Board

Each month we shine a spotlight on two 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. So keep an eye out, and get to know your Board!

Raymond Schkolne

Why did you join the Board?

Serving on the Cape SAJBD wasn't on my radar. I was approached by different people in the Jewish Community to put up my hand.

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

My primary foci are a Cape Jewish Leadership that is more inclusive and representative of the entire Jewish Community, more receptive to different perspectives on Israel and that enhances care for Jewish Country Communities. I am respectful of Board members who leverage their experience during previous terms to make a more valuable contribution. I am serving a two-year term only, which is a short window, with limited opportunity to impact meaningfully.

What other community organisations are you involved in?

I am scheduled in June to be at a Strategic Conference in Israel on a special initiative called *Galilee Dreamers* which brings together Jewish and Arab High School learners in the Galilee. They journeyed to Cape Town in 2019. A powerful moment was when learners at Herzlia were asked to point out who of the group on stage was Arab and who was Jewish. They got it all wrong! The crucial insight reinforced for all present is that we are firstly human and only secondly our specific ethnic identity.

The Jewish Democratic Initiative (JDI), which I co-founded in 2018 and continue to actively serve on its *Va'ad Poel* (Executive Committee) advocates for an Israel that is both Jewish and Democratic. It offers the opportunity to grapple with Israeli-Palestinian and also South African challenges, issues and perspectives relevant to our Jewish Community, not offered elsewhere.

I continue to volunteer, making numerous UJC telephone calls each year since 2007. The financial contribution of contributors is important; and as valuable, in my view, is their sustained connection to the Jewish Community.

My involvement in the Hermanus Hebrew Congregation as an active committee member gives me a lot of joy. It is a special Small Country Community!

The *Vision 2040 Project* aims to 'future-proof' our community. A few months ago, I was asked to participate by capturing the Human Resources Practices within our Welfare Organisations and making proposals for the way forward. This involvement has reinforced for me the exceptionally strong and sustained ethos of care, and commitment to the core purpose of each of our Communal Welfare Organisations.

What are your passions?

My family are central to my life. Researching family history is hugely meaningful and rewarding. Israel is inextricably part of my identity — wonderful to be scheduled to travel there again shortly, after the COVID-19 enforced travel ban!

What is your vision for the community?

We have a range of Jewish communities in the Cape, with sharply differing values and perspectives on what it means to be Jewish. We should be more mindful of this when, for example, making pronouncements 'on behalf of the Jewish Community' that represent only some sections of it. My vision is a local Jewish Community that protects and enhances its Jewish identity, and that advocates for the equality of civil and political rights for all human beings in South Africa and in Israel — as envisaged in Israel's Declaration of Independence. It is a vision for an inclusive, well-functioning SA Jewish Community where its leaders set the tone and model 'living the values'.

What do you think is unique about our Jewish community?

We have some exceptional institutions of care in our community, built over many years, that we can be extremely proud of. The support extended and broad collaboration demonstrated during the extremely difficult COVID-19 period across all communal organisations was special.

Jonathan Silke

Why did you join the Board?

I joined the Cape Council of the Board in 1992 as a co-opted member in my role as Chairman of the South African Zionist Federation (Cape Council). When my term of office ended, I stood for election to the Cape SAJBD in my own right and have successfully remained a member ever since.

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

I have always regarded my involvement on the Board as a privilege as it has enabled me to serve our community and have access to and involvement in all the major issues facing our community. Being a small and relatively isolated community, I have always valued and admired our unity and ability to overcome adversity. The Board is well-placed to fulfil the role of an adjudicator and provide the necessary guidelines to the community in times of crisis.

What other community organisations are you involved in?

I have, over the years, also been involved in national Jewish affairs and have always admired the way in which the National Board and the South African Zionist Federation have worked closely together on so many crucial issues. It is also essential that members of the Cape Board have the opportunity to present their views to the National Board. I must compliment the National Board on its recent meeting with our President and for providing such positive feedback.

In regard to public advocacy, it is my hope that we in the Cape will continue to engage both political parties in our local and national legislatures, as well as the host of NGOs in the city to hear their views, introduce our concerns and express our wish to be involved in community structures.

What are your passions?

My particular involvement, being an advocate of many years standing at the Cape Bar, has been in three areas: dealing with legal issues confronting the Board, public advocacy, and fighting antisemitism, the Board's primary mandate. I must compliment the Board for having taken the initiative to prepare a booklet explaining the meaning and consequences of antisemitism, and the dangers that it presents not only for our community but also for the wider population. The World Holocaust Remembrance definition of antisemitism has been adopted by governments in over 30 countries and it is my hope that South Africa follows suit. That definition, very importantly, embraces instances where the delegitimisation and denigration of the State of Israel amount to antisemitism.

It has been very encouraging to see how our constitution provides protection in different ways, and this has been demonstrated in judgments handed down in the Constitutional Court and other courts. It has always been my belief that Zionism is a core value of Judaism and that anyone who says otherwise demonstrates both a callousness toward their fellow Jews and ignorance about the Jew-hating forces that threaten the Jewish future. We must also be constantly aware that waning commitment to Israel enables antisemitism and for that reason, our unity as a community must be based on its core values.

What is your vision for the community?

The Board's stated mission is to work for the betterment of human relations between Jews and all other peoples of South Africa, based on mutual respect, understanding and goodwill, and to protect the civil liberties of South African Jews while being committed to the eradication of prejudice, intolerance and discrimination.

Lastly, and crucially, peace and *shalom bayit* in our community are vital for our future well-being and respect for all streams of Judaism is essential.

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Yom HaShoah veHagvurah: we remember

By Craig Nudelman

Ariella Barnett with the Herzlia Vocal Ensemble

Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein

Cantor Choni Goldman with Cape Town Hebrew Congregation's choir

Audience including Board members Rael Kaimowitz and Karen Marsden, and SAZF Cape Council Executive Director, Chaya Singer

Tzvi Brivik and Ambassador to Ukraine HE Liubov Abravitova

"To forget (the Holocaust) would be not only dangerous but offensive; to forget the dead would be akin to killing them a second time." — Elie Wiesel.

On Thursday 28 April at Pinelands Jewish Cemetery No 2, the annual Yom HaShoah veHagvurah ceremony was held, commemorating the 6 million Jews who perished during the Holocaust at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators. Over 600 guests attended, including first, second and third-generation survivors; members of our community and religious leaders; fellow interfaith and intercommunity leaders; senior officials of the SA armed forces; and, government officials and diplomats.

Setting the tone for the ceremony, Ariella Barnett sang a moving rendition of *Vi Ahin Zol Ich Geyn*, the lyrics of which are as follows: *Where shall I go, who can answer me? Where shall I go, since all the doors are closed* — an appropriate song that speaks of the plight of the Jewish people for centuries, and the millions of refugees around the world searching for a home of their own. Together with the Herzlia Vocal Ensemble's performance of *Eli Eli* and Herzlia learner Simon Karon's guitar rendition of *Papirosen*, these poignant songs of hope and despair ensured that the people gathered were certain never to forget the horrors of the Holocaust.

Isaac Habib wrote and read his poem in Ladino, *The Final Episode*. The imagery describes the forced removal of the Jewish community in Rhodes — once so peaceful and calm — to the horrors of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Dr Veronica Belling read *A Jewish Child* by Chana Kheytin, a poem written in the Shavli ghetto in Lithuania in 1943, that details actions parents were forced to take to save their children from their untimely deaths. A parent's sacrifice to save their children was echoed by second-generation survivor Michal Roozendal, whose parents left him outside a police station so that he would be spared from Nazi persecution, and who was later placed in a Dutch orphanage. This while his parents hid in a small room concealed behind a cupboard for three years. Too emotional to read his message himself, he asked Gwynne Robins to read it. He spoke too of the terrible fighting in Ukraine and the hatred that it has exposed. His simple message, "we do not need tanks, but rather we need to help people in need".

Deputy Ambassador of Israel, Hila Rose Fridman, told of her grandfather who was born in Poland. His Aryan appearance allowed him to get a fake Polish identity card, and he lived in hiding for the duration of the German occupation of Poland. At the end of World War II, he was reunited with his mother and little brother in Germany and left for what would become the State of Israel. Ms Rose Fridman, as a third-generation Holocaust survivor, was able to hear these stories directly from her grandfather and will continue to relay them, as hard as they are to tell, to her children and generations to come.

After the placing of pebbles at the memorial statues, where people were given the opportunity to write messages pertinent to never forgetting, survivors and their children and grandchildren kindled the lights, signifying that the memory of their loved ones will never fade. This year the Cape SAJBD and the Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre began a new initiative to include third-generation survivors in the ceremony. They placed cut-out butterflies by the memorial, while members of the Herzlia SLC read Pavel Friedman's poem, *I never saw another butterfly*. This was especially apt a day after South Africans celebrated Freedom Day, where we celebrate the adoption of a new constitutional dispensation based on equality, human dignity and freedom for all — rights we are reminded never to take for granted.

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Tzvi Brivik, Cape SAJBD Chairperson

Deputy Ambassador of Israel, Hila Rose Fridman

Mmusi Maimane and Phillip Krawitz

Dr Veronica Belling

Gwynne Robins reads Michal Roozendal's speech (seated next to her)

Photos: Shawn Benjamin

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An *Exclusive* launch for *Mensches in the Trenches*

by Craig Nudelman

In the prologue for *Mensches in the Trenches*, former President Thabo Mbeki stated that "they (Jews) were moved by an unshakeable understanding that as human beings we must act together, regardless of colour, race or gender, to shape a common destiny".

This was certainly the running theme when the Cape SAJBD hosted the book launch on 10 May at Exclusive Books V&A for Jonathan Ancer's compilation of Jewish struggle heroes in the anti-apartheid movement. Moderated by chairperson, Tzvi Brivik, the conversation between Ancer and Erica Elk, one of the activists mentioned in the book, was riveting.

Elk's involvement in the struggle dated back to her gap year in Ithaca, New York, where her more radical host 'brother' took her to anti-apartheid protests. Once she returned home to Johannesburg, she knew she had to become active against the oppressive regime and joined the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS). She described her involvement in NUSAS and her days as an activist, speaking with her comrades at all hours of the night while her mother provided tea and biscuits in her house in Cyrildene (typical of a Jewish mother).

Among the many anecdotes told by Ancer, the origin for the name of the book was particularly funny, with his mother, upon hearing the name of the book, commenting that the actual plural for mensch is menschen! Due to this, Ancer said that perhaps the next book would be called 'Honourable Menschen'. He also stated how humbled he was to interview these Jewish heroes, whose humility and lack of ego were inspirational.

While the book provides a historical overview of the known and unknown Jewish heroes who were part of the struggle against apartheid, *Menches in the Trenches* gives an important insight into how we can become active in today's issues within our beautiful country.

Tzvi Brivik, Erica Elk and Jonathan Ancer

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Yom HaShoah veHagvurah: we remember

We must also remember to commemorate those who fought against Nazi and antisemitic oppression during the Holocaust. The stirring words of the Partisan Song — that we will continue to fight for our survival — were sung by the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation's choir and Cantor Choni Goldman. We also had an address by Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein who spoke of heroism, expressed not only by guns and bullets but also by faith and determination. He stated that many Jews' unbroken belief in Hashem in the face of the Holocaust was a sign of immense courage.

The laying of the wreaths by Jewish ex-servicemen and members of the South African armed forces further celebrated this fighting spirit; powerful reminders of the sacrifices made by Jewish and non-Jewish South Africans who fought during the Second World War.

As with all ceremonies where we remember those who are no longer with us, Rabbi Greg Alexander recited the communal Kaddish. The symbolism of saying Kaddish, where we never mention death or dying but rather state our dedication to the greatness of G-d, give all who have lost a loved one a community to assist us in our mourning.

With the moving songs and poems, the emotional accounts of survivors, and the memorialisation of the victims and heroes of the Holocaust, we thank all those who participated and attended to help make this event successful. As said by the Cape SAJBD's Chairperson, Tzvi Brivik, "May we never see another tragedy like the Holocaust taking place. We will always remember, so the world will never forget."

Ray Hasson with her daughter Sarina Blacher and son Richard Hasson

Lt Col Jonathan Lee lays a memorial wreath on behalf of the army to honour Jewish soldiers who lost their lives serving in the South Africa Armed Forces

Community members write names on white pebbles which were then placed at the memorial statue

Henia Bryer and Dr Alan Bryer

Evelyn Blumenthal Kaplan, Ella Blumenthal and Dani Kaplan Katz

Officer Commanding of Western Cape Reserve Signal Unit, Lieutenant Colonel Sharon Fortuin

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COMMUNITY SECURITY ORGANISATION CSO

CAPE TOWN

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Cape Town Community unites to commemorate and celebrate!

By Chaya Singer — Executive Director SAZF Cape Council

Thank you for commemorating and celebrating with us at our South African Zionist Federation Yom Hazikaron ceremony and Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.

Yom Hazikaron is the national day of remembrance in Israel to commemorate the lives lost in defence of the State of Israel. On this day we mourn and remember our fallen soldiers and all lives lost to terror. It was truly an honour to have 200 members of our community join together on the evening of Tuesday 3 May, to commemorate Yom Hazikaron in-person at Herzlia High School, for a moving *tekes* lead by our Zionist Youth Council.

On the evening of Thursday 5 May, 2000 of our community members came together in-person to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut with the SAZF Cape Council. We can't thank you enough for attending and sharing this exuberant, fun, and memorable occasion with us. After two years of separation, it was incredibly powerful for us to be together again and celebrate our love for Israel as a community.

Thank you to our wonderful Cape Town Jewish Community for making this an unforgettable celebration!

Am Yisrael Chai!

On this page, scenes from our moving Yom Hazikaron ceremony.

See pages 18 and 19 for photos of Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations.

Photos: Marc Berman

Youth Movements roundup

Bnei Akiva

Hello everybody! I hope that you are doing well. Thank you for sharing with us such special and meaningful Yom HaShoah and Yom HaZikaron ceremonies, and then the very exciting and uplifting Yom HaAtzamut and Lag BaOmer events. It was so lovely seeing the community united again!

Bnei Akiva has continued to be very busy with our meaningful and fun-filled events for the different age groups of Cape Town youth. We are very excited about our incredible Winter Camp that is happening shortly, and believe it will be our best Winter Camp ever! *By Eytan Labe*

Crumbs and Cream Grade 10 takeover

Habonim — MeYom LeYom

Habo had a whirlwind April and May. We hosted a very successful April Sem for *Sufah* (Grade 11) and *Ogen* (Matric) on the campsite. April Sem is a ten-day machaneh aimed to challenge our new madrichimot with important chinnuchic peulot and ideological questions. It is an experience where madrichimot can learn more about their Habo, Jewish, and community identity. It is also a chance to 'train' our young members in hadracha — our brand of informal education. An April Sem was well needed after the hiatus caused by Covid.

Habonim having a blast at the Yom Ha'atzmaut Celebrations!

As the title of the article alludes, late April and May is filled with the observance of the 'yomim', from Yom Hashoah to Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut. Our bogrimot and channichimot were involved in the many important days we observe. It was special to see just how many came out to remember and celebrate.

Over the course of May we have been running educational and fun peulot for various grades and classes at Herzlia Highlands and Weizmann. So far we've taught the channichimot about the importance of Yom Hazikaron, and a little bit about the kibbutzim in Israel. It was wonderful to engage with our channichimot in their school, so thank you so much to Herzlia for giving us the opportunity to do so!

Be sure to be at our upcoming Winter Camp!

Looking ahead, we are approaching the June/July holidays, and this year we will be having a Winter Camp from 10 to 14 July for grades 3 — 9! We are so excited to have our channichimot back on the campsite, for what promises to be a must-attend event! We look forward to seeing you there. *By Jesse Lees*

Netzer & the Yom of Yoms

Netzer got to attend and pay our respects at Yom Hashoah, where the South Africa Mazkirut Julian Gordon, read a list of names of those who had lost their lives in the Holocaust.

At the Yom Hazikaron event, Maya Reitstein (Netzer S'gan Cape Town) read an excerpt from a speech by Rabbi Jonathan Sacks in honour of those who had lost their lives due to terrorist attacks in Israel.

Netzer is truly grateful for the opportunity to participate in these events alongside the other Jewish youth movements and organisations in the Jewish community in Cape Town. On Yom Ha'atzmaut, Maya Reitstein, Ghaim Atash (Rosh Cape Town) and Em Brooking (Rosh Tikkun) helped out at the event and sold giant chocolate chip cookies. *By Ghaim Atash*

Netzer takes pride in the youth march — Em Brooking and Maya Reitstein

SAUJS Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut

This past month SAUJS, together with the other youth and community movements, mourned our fallen heroes on Yom Hazikaron, and celebrated the birth of our beautiful State on Yom Ha'atzmaut.

SAUJS attended the Zionist Federation's Yom Hazikaron commemoration ceremony. Hearing stories from people who fought for the State themselves, to honouring the lives of those who can no longer tell their stories was incredibly moving. Soon after, we celebrated the culmination of these soldiers' efforts — the anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel at a community event. A big thank you to everyone who came to 'Spread Hummus not Hate' with us once again! We hope everyone enjoyed — we certainly did! *By Erin Dodo and Deena Katzen*

Benjamin Atie (SAUJS National Chairperson), Cassandra Mayekiso (SAUJS WC Director) and Erin Dodo (SAUJS WC Chairperson) 'Spreading Hummus Not Hate' at the annual Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration

WIZO Cape Town
Women's International Zionist Organization

Hole-in-one and best score of the day by the Queridos!

The Grant Querido Classic Golf Day was held on 12 May at the King David Mowbray Golf Club.

The golf day was in honour of the beloved Grant Querido, who sadly passed away from Covid last year — he was a great supporter of WIZO and the community.

Thirty-two four-ball teams arrived in perfect playable weather conditions, ready to have fun. The teams pulled out all the stops and produced exciting golf.

The camaraderie and excitement were high throughout the day. Adam Querido (son of late Grant Querido) scored his first hole-in-one on the 13th hole. And the excitement didn't end there — Donne Querido (Adam's mom, organiser, and 'lady of the green') played her best round of golf, and her ladies' four-ball won 1st place with the best score of the day.

The evening concluded with a delicious dinner, and entertainment provided by comedian Mark Lottering and magician Stuart Lightbody.

Thank you to the dynamic committee of Marc Sternberg, Mark Chamberlin, Adam and Donne Querido, and Chantal Kennedy. A special thanks to all the players, sponsors, businesses, and individuals who donated generously. All funds raised will go to beneficiaries CSO, Jag Foundation and WIZO.

The late Grant Querido

1st place: Kate Tipper, Donne Querido, Jackie Thompson, Tilley Hefer

WIZO Cape Town team

Adam Querido receiving his Hole-in-One certificate

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The Inospace story

Rael Levitt, Founder & CEO, will share his fascinating journey of Inospace and turning it into a R2,5 billion company.

Date
Wednesday 22 June 2022

Time
18h00 to 19h30

Venue
Deloitte, The Ridge,
6 Marina Rd, Portswood
District, V&A Waterfront

RSVP
Link: bit.ly/3vykoNo
Or: lisa@ortjetcapetown.org.za

Covid protocols:
Limited to 80 guests, vaccinated-only

Rael founded multiple real estate, investment, and asset management companies. He launched his first property company at 21, becoming well-known for leading the auction industry in South Africa.

After voluntarily exiting auctions, he obtained an MBA from the UCLA Anderson School of Business (USA) and a further Master's Degree from the National University of Singapore.

In 2017 he founded Inospace, which has become South Africa's largest owner and operator of serviced logistics parks.

Inospace is a growing local success story and recently concluded a significant deal with Fortress REIT, one of South Africa's largest property groups.

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There since '48, and still going strong

By Chandrea Serebro

We all know that wherever South Africans go, we go with gusto, or colloquially known by the locals, *vooma*.

And nowhere more so than in Israel, where Telfed works tirelessly every day to foster that warm feeling of home in the hearts of new and veteran Olim from South Africa and Australia, with that same *vooma*. And it's reassuring for new Olim that when they arrive in Israel, Telfed will be there to offer guidance and a sense of belonging as they settle in Israel.

Few people know just how deep that kinship goes. Telfed was there in 1948 to support some 800 brave South Africans who volunteered in the war effort to aid the newly established IDF and support the foundation of our homeland. These young soldiers were known as the *Machalniks* (overseas volunteers), and on Yom Hazikaron Telfed participated in the Machal memorial ceremony honouring the 123 fallen Machalniks. "They played a major role in our victory", says Dorron Kline, CEO of Telfed, "and without them, we wouldn't have managed to triumph".

Telfed is an integral part of the Machal event every year, but this is just one event in a constant stream of events that Telfed hosts to connect Olim and unite them — a fundamental aspect of Telfed's founding mandate.

And they are doing a great job, giving people a home-away-from-home and a family when they might otherwise not have one. Residents of Telfed's Amishav Street apartments in Tel Aviv held a community seder, inviting Olim who would have been alone otherwise. "I believe that this kind of celebration can help new olim to feel more at home and give them a sense of belonging. Sometimes people come to Israel with many hopes and dreams but struggle to fit in. This was a small but meaningful gathering that left participants with a taste for more," says co-host Vardit Jones. In another such event, over 300 olim from around the country felt it too when they were afforded the opportunity to network and socialise at the recent Pesach picnic.

It leaves a thirst for more — one which Telfed quenches through diverse events across Israel, keeping the olim community connected, as it has done from the very beginning.

Telfed had a strong part to play at the Machal Memorial on Yom Hazikaron (Photo courtesy World Machal)

SA Olim teaching Israel just how to braai at the Telfed Picnic, Kibbutz Tzora. Photo: Brian Spector

UNITED HERZLIA SCHOOLS
בתיה"ס המאוחדים הרצליה

Herzlia's Jewish Life and Learning welcomes Rabbi Sam Thurgood

Geoff Cohen, Director of Jewish Identity and Community UHS and Rabbi Sam Thurgood, incoming Head of JLL UHS

Rabbi Sam Thurgood has been appointed Head of Jewish Life and Learning (JLL) for United Herzlia Schools from July 2022.

Rabbi Sam is known to many in the community as the Rabbi of Beit Midrash Morasha (Arthur's Road Shul), where he has served since October 2012 and will remain involved for a mutually agreed transitional period.

Rabbi Sam shares, "my connection to Herzlia goes back a long way. My aunty Helaine Gorin taught at Herzlia and my cousin is Jos Horwitz, principal at Alon Ashel. I've also taken many opportunities to be involved; teaching Lego Torah stories at the Pre-Primaries, serving as Etgar quizmaster, speaking at a Herzlia Seder and visiting on Purim. I also never truly left the educational sector, even whilst working as a full-time community Rabbi. However, for the last few years, I have longed to return to education full-time, so the timing of this opportunity was perfect for me."

Rabbi Sam continues that, "JLL is at the heart of Herzlia. The reason Herzlia exists as a school is that generations of our community have been committed to the educational and spiritual development of our youth. My approach to Judaism is to create a welcoming environment in which Jews feel that their Judaism is valuable and life-affirming, and those who are not Jewish feel that Judaism cares about them and the broader world. At Herzlia, I envision a learning space in which Judaism will be vibrant and compelling, where pupils will be co-creators of learning. Torah and Jewish life will be seen as relevant and a way to open doors to a meaningful life and a just, healthy society. We are blessed with a wonderful JLL team who, led by Rabbi Sean Cannon and under the directorship of Geoff Cohen, have achieved wonderful results. My first task will be to become more familiar with the pupils, staff, parents and educational infrastructure to see how best to make this a reality. I believe that we must engage with parents and students, be responsive to concerns and chart the way forward together."

Andries van Renssen, UHS Executive Director, says: "With the arrival of a new leader in the JLL Department comes the great opportunity to re-look at everything happening in the school related to 'Jewish Identity', which is one of our strategic priorities. During the leadership period of Rabbi Sean Cannon, a beautiful strategy for JLL encapsulating Hebrew, Zionism and JLL (informal and formal) has seen the light. The diagram articulating this strategy is called 'The Tent of Avraham and Sarah', and I'm looking forward to Rabbi Sam's fresh look and bringing it to life for our pupils. Rabbi Sam's involvement on the board of the Zionist Federation also dovetails well with Herzlia's Israel education. May the integration of Jewish Identity and Israel in all academic subjects become structured and practical and flourish under his new leadership."

Geoff Cohen, UHS Director of Jewish Identity and Community, adds: "Rabbi Sam is a highly qualified and experienced educator, but he's also a family man and a mensch who seeks to be an inclusive and engaging JLL leader for our Herzlia community."

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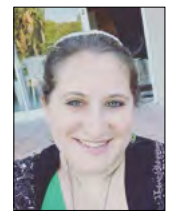
TEMPLE ISRAEL
CAPE TOWN PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CONGREGATION
בית ישראל
75 years

Consider This

Not all Jews read the same parashiyot at this time of year — here's why!

By Rabbi Emma Gottlieb (she/her)



As some of you may be aware, at this time each year, the Progressive and Orthodox Torah-reading calendars in the diaspora fall out of sync with one another.

Why is this? Over Pesach, we read from the Book of Leviticus (*Vayikra*), about the Feast of Unleavened Bread. The Torah describes the first and seventh days of the feast as sacred occasions, when one is not to work at their occupations (i.e. *Chag*). So maybe the real question is: If the Torah specifies that Passover is supposed to last for seven days, why then do some Jews celebrate it for eight days?

Rabbi Jill Perlman teaches that, "The answer lies in both how the Hebrew calendar is determined as well as in tradition. The Hebrew calendar is based on the moon. In ancient times, the beginning of a new month was determined by direct observance of the new moon and only declared when the Sanhedrin made this observation official. While getting the word out was not difficult in much of the land of Israel, it would take much longer for distant communities to know officially when to begin counting the month and therefore when holidays within that month should fall. Due to this uncertainty, it became the practice for those outside the land of Israel to observe two days of each holiday to cover themselves in case they were wrong. (Yom Kippur is the major exception due to the hardship that two days of fasting would produce.) This two-day holiday observance remained in place for the sake of tradition even after the calendar became mathematically fixed."

Today, most Orthodox and traditional Jewish communities outside of the land of Israel still observe Passover with an extra day (making eight days of Passover rather than the biblical seven), while those in Israel observe Passover for seven days. Reform and Progressive Jews follow the practices of those in Israel, adhering to the fixed mathematical Hebrew calendar, thus observing Passover for seven days.

But what does all of this have to do with the Torah-reading cycle? For those who celebrate eight days of Pesach, the extra day bumps the weekly Torah portion ahead by a week, and this is what causes our reading cycles to fall out of sync with one another. The two cycles will come back into alignment in June.

Pesach 5782 with Temple Israel

Temple Israel was thrilled to be able come together for Pesach this year.

Over 70 people attended our Community Seder and we joined with our national Progressive Movement (SAUPJ) for an online 7th Day service. We also held a seder for the young adults as well as our cheder children. Our elder members received Pesach parcels, hand delivered by our rabbis, staff and volunteers.

Abigail Perling, Anna Castle and Jesse Flash participating in the seder

Myra Janie de la Harpe receiving her Pesach parcel

Will Rivlin singing at the children's Pesach seder

The young adults enjoying their seder

Mazaltov to last month's Bnei Mitzvah!

Ben Cohen – 7 May

Adam Faclier – 21 May

Adam Stoller – 28 May

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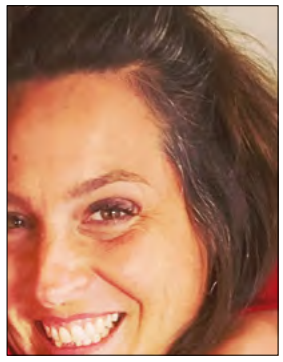
MENSCH EMPOWERING JEWISH PEOPLE, CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE FOR ALL

Meet the Members

Mensch is Southern Africa's largest network of Jewish social change-makers working across broader South Africa. Meet ANOTHER three Mensch Network Members, and Graduates of Mensch Leadership Academy, 'LIFT'. Being a Mensch Member opens doors to productive networking; leadership training; project collaboration; donor opportunities; and community volunteering.



Kristy Evans, Executive Director of the Groote Schuur Hospital Trust (GSH)

Holding a Masters in Public Health, Kristy moved to SA from Canada in 2002 for an internship and never left. She is highly-driven and strategic with a proven track-record of operational and management excellence. Her passions lie in the arts and women's health; her talents lie in communication strategy, relationship management and fundraising.

The newly formed GSH Trust is the fundraising arm of Groote Schuur. Its goal is to ensure world-class pioneering healthcare for all through its partnerships with donors and stakeholders to move the needle on the advancement of healthcare in the Western Cape, SA and globally.

www.gshtrust.co.za

Gill Saks and **Rabbi Emma Gottlieb** launch Tikkun Team (T2)

T2 is Temple Israel's task force for projects of social action and social justice. The team brings together volunteers with an aim to revive the social justice roots of the Progressive movement. Projects range from making holiday gift bags for shul seniors to developing gardening projects. From supporting feeding schemes to upgrading a crèche in Khayelitsha.

Rabbi Emma and Gill bring their passion for activism and building connections between communities to the group, and are excitedly empowering the volunteers to tap into their own superpowers and drive projects from their own places of passion.

www. templeisrael.co.za

Barbara Nussbaum, Founder of Finding US in Music™

As a transformational catalyst, Barbara is an author, educator and social impact leader. She started *Ashoka* in Africa, in Zimbabwe, her birth country in 1990. A Penguin author, she has published several books and many academic articles. As a champion of *ubuntu*, her articles have been published through the World Business Academy, a cutting edge think tank in California.

Barbara pioneered Finding Us in Music™ a group methodology which shifts the way people listen to each other, allowing for deeper engagement. This work has touched thousands of people, teams and groups in South Africa, the USA and the Netherlands

www.findingusinmusic.co.za

Are you a Jewish Social Change Maker working across broader South Africa? Are you looking to join a network of like-minded people? Email jodi@mensch.org.za. See our other Network Members HERE.

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High School learners get exposure to the scope, services and challenges of community organisations

On Friday 25 March, in a collaboration between The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute (EOLI) and UHS, Herzlia matrics of 2022 participated in the launch of our first in-person schools community curriculum project driven by Melissa Zolty (EOLI) and Di Dos Santos (Herzlia).

Students elected to join one of nine Jewish community organisations for a half-day programme. Eager to expose their important work and challenges to fresh young eyes, each organisation curated a mix of experiences and case-studies, and unpacked possible career opportunities; all of which was rated by the matrics to be an inspirational and transformative debut into communal organisations. This G12 community day kick-started the schools' community curriculum concept that emerged from the EOLI 2020 Leadership Development Programme.

"All in all, I think JCS is a vital part of the Jewish community and that it is amazing how many Jews they help on a daily basis with their services."

"It is truly amazing to see how our community takes care of each other. I do not think you would be able to see this in any other community."

"This woke me up, as I live such a privileged life and often do not think that people sitting next to me or in front of me in class may not live the same life as me."

"I also felt incredibly inspired by the way our community looks after each other."

The matrics of 2022 are proof that it is essential to invest in the leadership of tomorrow, today.

Limmud Cape Town: Together Again

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100+ sessions.
Worldclass presenters.
Back in person.
Something for everyone.

(Im)Possibilities of a comparative approach to transitional justice

The Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre presents a discussion forum

In 2018, Taiwan installed a Transitional Justice Commission to deal with its authoritarian past.

To gain a better understanding of different approaches which could be applied domestically, Taiwanese scholars consulted the experiences of countries such as Chile and Argentina, Japan and Korea, Germany, South Africa and many other democracies that emerged after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Within this comparative research, Germany and South Africa stood out as having executed two possible yet very different models of coming to terms with their own past. However, when one compares the internal discourse in the respective countries with the reception of both models in Taiwan, one can discern some considerable differences.

This forum seeks to explore how the German experience of 'coming to terms with the past' and the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission are evaluated inside and outside the respective countries through comparison. How are democracies that undergo the process of transitional justice relying on the experience of Germany and South Africa to deal with their own past? Are there differences in how these experiences are evaluated inside and outside the countries? How does an incomplete, distorted, or biased reception of the German and South African experience reflect in the domestic implementation of Transitional Justice policies in other countries? And what does this mean for comparative approaches to Transitional Justice research in general? These are some common themes which could be explored.

The discussions are set to take place once a week, starting from Wednesday, 15 June until 6 July from 1pm — 2:30pm SAST. The first three events are dedicated to the three respective countries. During the first roundtable, Taiwanese scholars will discuss the current state of Transitional Justice in Taiwan. During the second and third sessions, a Taiwanese scholar will moderate the discussion with experts in the field of Germany and South Africa. The last discussion serves as a wrap-up where common themes will be explored, and open questions can be re-addressed.

PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE

15 June	'The current state of Transitional Justice in Taiwan'
22 June	'Coming to terms with the TRC'
29 June	'Is there a consensus on the history of the Holocaust?'
6 July	'Exploring common themes'

This event will be online and free of charge. Advance registration is required. For more information, go to https://ctholocaust.co.za/events

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Ann Harris makes Aliyah

By MIckey Glass

When I first met Ann Harris about 35 years ago, it was abundantly clear that she was not coming to South Africa merely to serve as a partner to Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, who had accepted an invitation from the Jewish community to serve as its Chief Rabbi.

It was apparent that she was very much her own person, that she was to make her own unique contribution, not only to our community, but to the ambient society as a whole.

Ann possesses independence of thought and ability, and a willingness to confront issues of all kind. Over the years she has spent countless hours counselling and guiding people from all walks of life, from all faiths, and they continued to flock to her because of her experience and her empathy.

Ann is extremely practical and realistic, and we all know that she tells it as it is. In his book *For Heaven's Sake*, Chief Rabbi Harris told the story of how Ann took one look at his first salary cheque as a Rabbi, and immediately decided to re-enter the legal world, rising eventually to become a full partner in a prestigious London practice. Suffice it to say, her relationship with her husband gave meaning to the Talmudic dictum, '*Let a man be careful to honour his wife, for to her alone he owes the blessings of his house'.*

Chief Rabbi Harris has been correctly described as the right person at the right time. Many of his achievements were the result of a partnership — Ann and Cyril Harris both had the capacity to see the whole picture; and we are fortunate that they were here to guide our anxious community to embrace and contribute tangibly to the birth of a new South Africa. South African Jewry owes much of its current confidence and vitality to their ministry.

Whilst the Chief Rabbi and Bertie Lubner conceived Afrika Tikkun, it was Ann who fleshed out the vision. She served as the first Operations Director, in a purely voluntary capacity, and it was her personality, energy and passionate commitment to Jewish values that enabled her to lay the firm foundations on which an impressive and successful organisation has been built.

It is Ann who exemplifies the Jewish heart of Afrika Tikkun. She gives meaning to the generosity of spirit needed to cross divides, and demonstrates that God transcends the particularities of culture and the limits of human understanding. '*He is my God but also the God of all mankind, even of those whose customs and way of life are totally unlike mine'*. (Amos)

As long as there is hunger, poverty and disease in the world, there is work for us to do. And, if we listen carefully, we can hear the voice of God asking us, as he asked the first human, "Where are you?"

Ann is one who has answered that call. She knows that we do not — we cannot — redeem the world altogether in one go. She does it one day at a time, one person at a time, one act at a time.

Ann is one who has answered that call. She knows that we do not — we cannot — redeem the world altogether in one go. She does it one day at a time, one person at a time, one act at a time. Our sages teach us that a single life is like a universe. Save a life and you save the world. Change a life and you begin to change the world. That is called *Tikkun Olam* and that is what Ann Harris personifies.

Following the passing of the Chief Rabbi, Ann initiated the establishment of the Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris Memorial Foundation. Over the past fifteen years, the Foundation has distributed considerable sums to worthy beneficiaries throughout the country.

Whilst she enjoyed the support of a dedicated and committed group of trustees, it was Ann who was the effective face of the Foundation, who interacted with every single beneficiary. As one recipient told me "it was not only the funding that was important, it was Ann's personal embrace of the cause, accompanied by her understanding of the issues facing these organisations, which made the support of the Foundation so valuable."

The Foundation's partnership with the Red Cross Children's Hospital is one example which illustrates the far-reaching effects of the Foundation's support. Children suffering from cancer come to the Red Cross from all over Africa and they, accompanied by a family member, have to spend weeks and weeks in Cape Town while undergoing treatment.

The Foundation made it possible for the hospital to bring doctors and nurses from rural Africa to Cape Town for workshops and seminars, teaching them how to cope with children requiring ongoing treatment. Scores were trained, as a result of which children were able to return to their homes after a relatively short stay in the hospital, knowing that there were professionals available to continue their treatment in the comfort of their homes. This boosted the ability of the Paediatric Oncology Department to treat many more patients and to do so in a cost-effective manner.

Another example of the Foundation's work is exposing our congregational Rabbis to leading overseas experts via seminars and workshops, learning the best and latest international practice in relating to their communities.

On closing, the Foundation presented many educational structures — both Jewish and non-Jewish — with funds to enable them to continue training programmes, upgrade organisational structures and improve communications.

Many in our community have the *z'chut* to enjoy her friendship and confidences. We are grateful for her unstinting friendship, loyalty and support at all times. She remains a generous and caring friend whose all-embracing vision, inspiration, wisdom and guidance will be sorely missed.

Many successful people live in this world. How many can honestly answer the question, 'You have been a success, but have you also been a blessing?' Ann Harris certainly has been, and continues to be. We pray that she will enjoy her well-deserved retirement in Israel for many years to come.

Mickey Glass is former Executive Director of UOS (Union of Orthodox Synagogues), close friend and confidant of Chief Rabbi and Mrs Harris since their arrival in SA, and Trustee of the Chief Rabbi C.K. Harris Memorial Foundation from establishment to closure.

Ann in Mfuleni at an Afrika Tikkun Xmas party

With four of her grandchildren

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SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION
CAPE COUNCIL

Yalla Mesiba! — The community celebrates 74th Yom Haatzmaut

Yalla Mesiba! — The community celebrates 74th Yom Haatzmaut

Photos: Marc Berman

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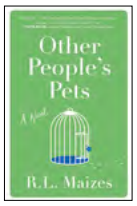
JACOB GITLIN LIBRARY

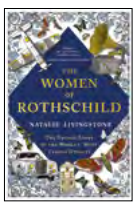
Visit the Jacob Gitlin Library! The only Jewish community library in Africa



OTHER PEOPLE'S PETS by R.L. Maizes. La La Fine relates better to animals than people. Her father Zev is a locksmith by profession but uses his skills for burglary! La La begins studying to be a vet. When her father is imprisoned, she needs to pay for his legal expenses. She starts robbing houses where pets seem to be in need of care. A thief who leaves behind medicine for pets is a puzzle for the police. A quirky, highly enjoyable debut novel.

A KNOCK AT THE DOOR by Ory Slonim. The story of Ory Slonim who for two decades was known in Israel as the 'door knocker', undertaking secret negotiations to find the whereabouts of soldiers taken captive. His mission was to bring them home, dead or alive. Slonim takes you into the world of Mossad, the minds of terrorists and the traumatized lives of parents whose children never came home. The book shows his resilience and compassion.

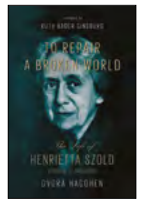
BELONGING AND BETRAYAL by Charles Dellheim. The book showcases the many influential pre-WWII Jewish art dealers, connoisseurs and collectors who changed the early 20th century art world. One example is Paul Rosenberg who had to flee Paris in 1940, leaving 400 works behind. Dellheim attributes the prominence of Jews as art collectors to a means to find respectability. He highlights their fates, fortunes and some of their devastating betrayals.



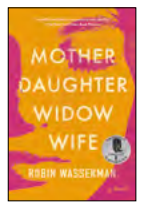
THE WOMEN OF ROTHSCHILD by Natalie Livingstone. This book reveals the role of the Rothschild women whose vision and tenacity shaped history. Livingstone focuses on 15 of these extraordinary women who used their privilege to create their own platforms, beginning in the 1800s in the Frankfurt Ghetto with Gutle the matriarch, to the early 21st century. Their significance in many spheres is not overshadowed by the Rothschild men.

THE VANISHED COLLECTION by Pauline Baer de Perignon. The author grew up knowing very little about her great grandfather Jules Strauss. A chance encounter with a cousin raised the possibility that his collection of art and antiques was stolen by the Nazis. Assisted by researchers, museum curators and even Nobel laureate Patrick Modiano, she began piecing together her family's lost treasures. A heartening and riveting read.

THE SANEST GUY IN THE ROOM by Don Black. Born in Britain to Ukrainian Jewish parents, Black is one of the world's greatest 20th century lyricists. He has worked with artists such as Matt Monro, Shirley Bassey, Michael Jackson, Henry Mancini, Barbara Streisand and Andrew Lloyd Webber. Interwoven with the stories behind his songs such as *Diamonds are Forever*, *Thunderball* and *Born Free*, are vignettes of his life with his beloved late wife Shirley.



TO REPAIR A BROKEN WORLD by Dvora Hacohen. An inspiring biography of Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah. The book is based on letters and diaries, providing a portrait of the woman who devoted her life to the disadvantaged. It offers an insight into the early years of the Jewish community in pre-Israel Palestine, including the story of the first nurses and doctors sent to Jerusalem, and the founding of the Youth Aliyah network.



MOTHER DAUGHTER WIDOW WIFE by Robin Wasserman. A suspenseful and intelligent novel. Wendy Doe, found on a bus to Philadelphia, has total amnesia. She is treated by Dr Benjamin Strauss and his ambitious student. The story flashes forward two decades, when Alice — Wendy's daughter — hopes to find her mother who has disappeared once again, by understanding her past. A multi-voiced narrative of discovery, identity and memory.

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SA JEWS OF SEPHARDIC HERITAGE ARE ELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND AN EU PASSPORT

As the majority of South African Jews are descendants of Jews whose European citizenship was illegally taken from them, they are now entitled to reinstate and obtain an EU passport.

There is a common misconception that European citizenship and EU Passport can only be obtained if one has documents proving his/her lineage.

This is in actual fact not the case for Sephardic Jews who do not have documents to prove their lineage.

Jews of Sephardic Heritage, this is includes Jews from North America, Kongo, Zimbabwe, Middle East, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia as well as descendants arriving from Holland and the UK.

YOU MIGHT ELIGIBLE TO REINSTATE YOUR PORTUGUESE CITIZENSHIP & EU PASSPORT.

I will on behalf of the applicant, apply and obtain an official certificate confirming such an eligibility, on the basis of which an application for Portuguese citizenship is most likely to be approved.

Having a European citizenship offers more than one benefit, besides the fact that it makes traveling far easier than a South African Passport.

As we are all fully aware of the current situation in South Africa where we face many uncertainties.

NOT JUST FOR TODAY BUT FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE AS WELL.

IMPORTANT UPDATE: Portuguese law was recently changed, and last date in which applications for reinstatement of Portuguese citizenship can be submitted is 31.08.22.
After that date, this process will not be valid anymore.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

My name is Avi Horesh, a well known Advocate in Israel and one of the leading lawyers in the field of reinstatement for European citizenship.

With only a 5 hour flight to Lisbon, where I closely collaborate with local professionals in assisting me trace required documents for your successful applications to reinstate a European citizen.

I have been operating in the South African market with our Jewish communities since March 2018, and visit every 3-4 months which will allow us to meet in person.

My next trip will be around June-July 2022.

You can reach me on:

WhatsApp:
+48 783 953 223

Email:
adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com

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ADVERTORIAL

Hotel-style apartment living and world-class medical care rate highly on retirees' wish list

A new wave of modern retirees has entered the retirement property market.

And as Helen Seaman of Constantia Life Developers has discovered, they are informed, discerning, and know that their needs will change as they grow older.

"We have this silver tsunami of socially, physically and culturally active individuals in the 65+ age group, many of whom are still running businesses or serving on boards, but who also look to the future and how their changing needs will be catered for," says Ms Seaman.

"While all buyers seek a combination of quality living and world-class medical care, we now see a growing list of single individuals — mostly women — who believe that pet-friendly, hotel-style apartment living will better serve them."

Great Oaks Retirement Village offers prospective buyers an exclusive portfolio of studio, one and two bedroom apartments — all with balconies and spectacular views. First buyers also reap the benefit of buying off-plan, allowing them to select fittings to suit their unique requirements and style.

The Great Oaks Apartment Advantage

Combining spacious luxury and compact living, apartments are situated on the 1st and 2nd floor of the Great Oaks Lifestyle Centre, and residents get to enjoy hotel-style living combined with direct access to amenities like the restaurant, bar, café, spa, fitness centre, health services and more.

Ms Seaman also notes that retirees who are moving alone and want to feel safe find that apartments offer that additional layer of safety and security, while many buyers are delighted to discover that apartments are pet-friendly to ensure that residents continue to enjoy the companionship and love of their pets.

"We are also approached by swallows who enjoy spending their summers in different parts of the world, and are looking for a seasonal home where their every need is catered for," adds Ms Seaman.

"If you are the kind of person who likes to be in the thick of things, meet friends for breakfast, treat the grandkids to a slice of cake, or have a spa treatment without going too far, a Great Oaks apartment is a great choice."

Comprehensive Medical Care

When Great Oaks opens its doors at the end of 2023, the estate's luxury amenities and comprehensive healthcare offering will offer a fully-realised retirement experience to the discerning senior. With full frail care being available in all the apartments and cottages, residents can be cared for in the privacy and convenience of their own homes until the end of their lives. Apartment-living residents will only be a short elevator ride away from additional world-class medical care services, including specialised memory care.

Primary medical care services include on-site doctors' and nurses' consulting rooms for day-to-day medical needs, 24-hour Call-for-Care assistance, and medical aid authorisations on behalf of residents, facilitated by the Great Oaks care team.

The on-site frail care unit will offer furnished private en-suite bedrooms, including a central nurse's station, garden access from most of the rooms, and easy and limitless access for spouses to their loved ones.

Great Oaks will also offer a unique, holistic memory care service and facility, developed in collaboration with a respected neuro architect who understands the finer nuances of effective and sustainable therapeutic interventions.

The Wellness Centre and Spa — also located in the Lifestyle Centre — will feature hydrotherapy facilities in a heated Ozone pool with advanced features like hoists for residents with mobility issues, a private gym, therapy and beauty rooms, and a function room for various fitness and leisure activities.

Great Oaks Retirement Village in Constantia, Cape Town, aims to meet the needs of the affluent retiree who demands a modern, luxury retirement option that provides world-class on-site care services. Apartments start at R3.8-million, and the Village is set to open for occupancy at the end of 2023.

Visit www.greatoaksvillage.co.za for more information, and contact Lynette or Francis on 073 119 9999 or at info@constantialife.com to arrange a private consultation.

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MENSCH THOUGHT-LEADER OF THE MONTH

Working for mothers' mental health: two decades along the road

By Simone Honikman, Founding director, Perinatal Mental Health Project

In 2002, I was the mother of a 21-month-old girl, working part-time as a doctor in a maternity hospital and basking in the support of a loving husband, family and friends.

Then everything in my life changed. Although I had not been particularly interested in the issue before, a colleague persuaded me to attend a weekend conference on maternal mental health.

There, I learned for the first time how common and debilitating depression and anxiety are for women during pregnancy and in the year after birth — the perinatal period. I learned about the impact that these maternal conditions have on children, if not managed properly. Most shockingly, I learned that one in three women in Khayelitsha, just outside of Cape Town, experience postnatal depression.

There was simply nothing being provided for these women in the public health service! It was not ok to do nothing… so we did something — The Perinatal Mental Health Project (PMHP) was born.

A social worker, psychologist, a few midwives and I developed and piloted a mental health service for pregnant and postnatal women that would be integrated into the routine maternity care setting at a Midwife Obstetric Unit. Over years, the service evolved — new sites opened, and some closed.

In addition to providing on-site counselling, we incorporated psychiatric support, group support, follow-up assessments and case management for complex cases requiring referrals. We also work with several NGOs to support them embed elements of our service model into their usual operations.

We learned from the women how repeated traumas and chronic deprivation left them vulnerable to despair, anger and pervasive worry. We also learned that basic mental health care can make an enormous difference.

Our counsellors would listen to their stories with kindness, acknowledge the feelings and reflect where the women had shown resilience and capability. For the women, this would lead to an increase in self-esteem, a sense of agency and an improved ability to parent well.

We started to train nurses and midwives, doctors and other health workers in maternal mental health. In particular, to develop their empathic engagement skills — to help reduce the common experiences of abuse that women experience at the hands of health staff during pregnancy and birthing.

We realised that detection is often the entry point to care and that the imported screening tools we'd been using in our pilot — were not working well. From this learning, we developed a brief mental health screening tool that is now incorporated into the standard maternity stationery used throughout the country. Our research is now looking at the economic case for national investment in maternal mental health.

Mental health literacy is often low among health providers who do not appreciate the extent of the problem, nor their role in being able to provide support to these women. In repsonse, in addition to the trainings, we developed a range of additional support resources to assist heath providers.

We then started to deepen our work with the Department of Health. In the beginning, we were perceived as a nuisance, arguing for an irrelevant cause — asking the overburdened health system to do more. Chutzpah! Over time, however, the relationships have strengthened. Today, we help lead the psychosocial components of various national guidelines related to maternity care.

But, we are a far way off from being able to rest. Maternal distress has escalated during the pandemic — hunger, domestic violence, social isolation and others. We have learned that we must address these issues at the same time as we address the sadness, the worry, the low self-esteem, the sense of helplessness. To stop the vicious cycle of mental ill-health and social adversity, we need to work with both elements.

We have a unique opportunity — when women are in the perinatal period — to provide them with holistic care. In this way, we will be able to reduce suffering now and for future generations.

Simone Honikman is a valued member of Jewish Social Justice NGO, Mensch.
To find out more about PMHP or just to have a conversation, visit www.pmhp.za.org or email simone.honikman@uct.ac.za

JOIN IN-PERSON OR ONLINE!

MENSCH MANDELA DAY 2022

Community COOK-A-THON

LIVE in LANGA!

SAVE the DATE
SUNDAY 17 JULY

MORE INFO ON MENSCH.ORG.ZA/MANDELADAY22 FACEBOOK & INSTA

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The SAJM joins the fight against bullying

Summerdale High discussing bullying

The SAJM's popular Cultural Diversity Education Programme for school children has made an important change.

While continuing with our interactive workshops on topics of cultural diversity, discrimination, prejudice and the importance of respect and tolerance for all creeds and lifestyles, we have introduced a particular focus on bullying.

Over the last few years, people have begun to take the issue of bullying far more seriously. It has been widely discussed on social media, in movies, TV and radio talk shows and news reports. Bullying incidents have clearly shown to result in high levels of depression, self-harm and even suicide among today's youth. At the SAJM, our visiting school students have increasingly shared their own experiences of bullying, and their teachers have spoken to us of the ever-growing problem at their schools. It became evident that the broader issues of prejudice, discrimination and xenophobia we talk about on our programme were being mirrored on a much more personal level. We realised we needed to round off those crucial discussions by focusing on something relatable — the everyday experiences in children's lives.

The aim of the anti-bullying module is to invite schools to create an entire culture that is strongly against bullying. The module is just the beginning of what students and teachers can put into place for themselves. We start by looking at the issue of bullying from all angles. Motives and emotions of bullies, targets and bystanders are explored. Potential long-term consequences extending into adulthood for all participants are debated. Children are encouraged to find solutions to hypothetical scenarios and, finally, to come up with their own concrete rules and suggestions to fight bullying at their own school.

In the months that we have been running our updated programme we have had enthusiastically positive responses from both teachers and students. If we manage to encourage even a few students to beat the fear and stand up for themselves and others, we will be happy. We have been inspired to keep the fight going and to do what we can to help schools do the same.

On 27 April (appropriately on Freedom Day), SAJM Education Coordinator Belinda Selikowitz took part in a discussion on bullying, hosted by Cape Talk radio station. You can listen to the podcast via the link below.

https://www.capetalk.co.za/podcasts/613/the-morning-review-with-lester-kiewit-podcast/618810/an-hour-on-anti-bullying-program

nechama
COMFORTING THE BEREAVED

Personal Growth Group

The Personal Growth group offers a therapeutic process in a space that is safe, confidential and non-judgemental. The purpose, is for participants to explore aspects of their lives, both past and present, with the intention of gaining a deeper understanding of themselves. It offers a unique opportunity not only to gain self-awareness but also to learn and develop through other people's life experiences.

It is facilitated by Linda Lewis, a psychologist with extensive experience in group psychotherapy.

Dates: Wednesday 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st August 2022
Wednesday 7th, 14th, 21st September 2022

Time: 17H00 – 18H30 | Online, via Zoom

Price: R1200

For further details, contact admin@nechama.org.za or
021 462 5520/066 081 3397 during office hours 08H30 – 12H30

Proud founders Anastacia & Mathilde Tomson-Myburgh and Jacqui & Sixolile Benson-Mabombo are happy to announce the birth of their queer organisation Shemah Koleinu on 24 June 2022 in Cape Town, South Africa.
For more visit shemahkoleinu.org.za

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

www.cjc.org.za

Please use your name and email as payment reference.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPE TOWN

www.jcs.org.za

JCS@WORK

Opening Doors - Jewish Community Services' Community Cottages

Zia Adler
Social Worker

Nestled in the foothills of Table Mountain, Jewish Community Services' Community Cottages, established in the 1990s, provide a home and psycho-social support to eleven individuals, facililtating their integration into society and bringing a sense of inclusion into their daily lives.

In two separate, but linked properties, a comprehensive response to multiple needs is provided, ensuring optimal well-being. This encapsulates live-in house mothers, 24-hour crisis intervention, individual case management, group work, work programme, support worker, community development projects, spiritual enrichment and a recreational space for creative outlet, a library and WiFi/internet connectivity.

Basic human needs for food, shelter, warmth, safety, spiritual, psychological, emotional, and recreational fulfilment are addressed.

Sadly, the Cinderella of needs in a welfare context stubbornly remains a lack or paucity of leisure activities. This can be attributed to multiple factors. Empirical evidence illustrates that leisure activities can facilitate stress management, healing from trauma, improvement of symptoms of depression and promotion of a sense of hope, identity, transformation and connectedness. This in turn leads to an improved quality of life, and better self-esteem and emotional wellbeing; and promotes a state of happiness, eudaimonia and overall health. For many residents the only source of income is a state disability grant, a percentage of which is paid towards board and lodging. A scant budget for airtime, data, transport and sundries quickly ghosts disposable income to spend on recreational and leisure activities, vital in the arsenal of mental health recovery. During the pandemic, the social ingredients of shared communal living provided a protective film against the hurt of self-isolation and restriction of movement. For many of these residents, their pecuniary limits extend this undesirable happenstance beyond the parameters of the pandemic, where the opening of social borders makes obvious the lack of social connection beyond the Jewish Community Services walls of security.

Community members are urgently needed to assist with the implementation of a new proposed lifestyle intervention programme. If you would like to contribute in some way towards facilitating regular social outings and experiences for the residents, thereby ensuring that their leisure needs are met and their lives enriched, please consider pledging your time and registering your services with JCS.

If you are a physiotherapist, occupational therapist, nutritionist, psychologist, massage therapist, chef, baker, dance & movement instructor, yoga instructor, horticulturalist, interior designer, story teller, motivational speaker, event planner or have any other skill that you feel will enrich the lives of the residents...JCS NEEDS YOU!

For more information contact Zia Adler on **021 4625520** or **zia@jcs.org.za**

Community members are urgently needed to assist with the implementation of a new proposed lifestyle intervention programme. If you would like to contribute in some way towards facilitating regular social outings and experiences for the residents, thereby ensuring that their leisure needs are met and their lives enriched, please consider pledging your time and registering your services with JCS.

#JewishCommunity #GroupHomes #AssistedLiving

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General studies curriculum at Cape Town Torah High School

By Daniella Conibear

While Cape Town Torah High may be more associated in the public eye with its Torah educational offering, our General Studies curriculum is breaking ground with an innovative and unique academic programme catering to the modern student and the modern world.

Schools in the twenty-first century are tasked with preparing students for a world that does not exist yet and at CTTH we have curated our secular subject offering to meet this challenge. Our classrooms teach both the practical tools needed as foundations for future careers and empower the critical thinking and independence needed to succeed in an ever-changing world.

In high school, our students have the choice of over 100 internationally accredited courses to choose from when working towards their high school diploma. Additionally, when a student graduates from CTTH they would have had the opportunity to take Advanced Placement (AP) courses in Mathematics, Science, Computer Science, Languages, Politics and History; with most of our students graduating with at least three AP courses. In addition, we have also implemented unique practical courses to provide a well-rounded education and to give students the opportunity to find their voice and express themselves, be that through Art, Drama, Music or Fashion and Design.

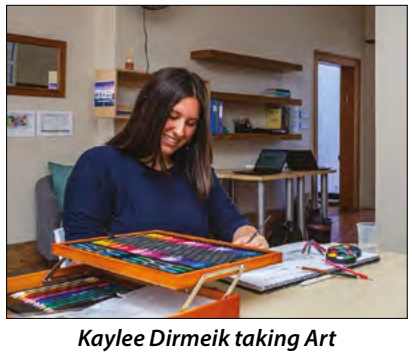
Another integral way that we are equipping our students for the future is through our cutting edge STEM curriculum. Through learning both the practical and theoretical aspects of Computer Science, students have the opportunity to explore this field and specialise in coding, robotics, web design, app development and more.

A pivotal component of our educational offering is also the Humanities and Social Sciences. Central to our educational philosophy is that we want to equip our students to leave school as mindful, active young adults ready to contribute to their community, their country and the world. By learning South African and global history students gain a strong sense of identity, and this is complemented by our unique *Inside Israel* curriculum that all students take during high school.

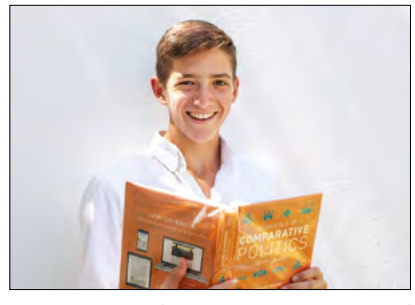
A cornerstone of our WASC accreditation is the mandate to instill global competency in our curriculum and this is why we introduced our graduation project, *Litrom be-Yachad*. Through this, students are given the opportunity to explore the Cape Town Jewish community and learn real life skills in the workplace while gaining an understanding of the important work that the community is doing.

A day in the life of CTTH is marked by agility and flexibility. While studying a dual-curriculum, students still have the opportunity to take part in workshops, sport, student societies and more. Gone are the days when students survived high school. At CTTH we tailor each student's academic trajectory for them to thrive and excel in whichever path they choose.

Shoshana Jubiler, Chana Deren and Rachel Brett taking Fashion and Design



Kaylee Dirmeik taking Art



Nissim Brett taking AP Government and Politics

Esti Hecht exploring Robotics

SA JEWS OF LITHUANIAN & POLISH HERITAGE ARE ELIGIBLE TO OBTAIN EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP & EU PASSPORT

A common misconception people have is that European citizenship and EU Passport can only be obtained if one has documents proving lineage The fact is that not having documents proving lineage, does not lead to your disqualification of eligibility.

In many cases the required documents can be obtained in the European country of origin!

Having European citizenship offers more than one benefit, besides the fact that it makes traveling far easier than with a South African passport…

As we are all fully aware of the current situation in South Africa where we face many uncertainties not just for today but for our children's future too.

While we are still having it relatively good here. We know that the time will come where as Jews we will look for alternative options. **Then having a European citizenship will be that tool we are looking for.**

As we know, the majority of South African Jews are descendants of Jews whose European citizenship was illegally deprived, and therefore you are now entitled to reinstate it and obtain your EU passport.

The most important thing to take into consideration is understanding that prior to the end of WWII, the European map was very different from the one we know today.

Countries like Poland and Lithuania did not exist as independent countries, and till 1918 these territories were only known as Lithuanian or Polish regions/countries of the Great Russia Empire who ruled all of north eastern Europe.

Until 1918 residents of these territories were of Russian citizenship – as Polish and Lithuanian citizenships did not exist. Therefore applications for reinstatement of these citizenships can only be based on if one's ancestor was a Polish or Lithuanian citizen.

However, a descendant of an ancestor who left Europe prior to 1918 – will not be eligible.

In addition, since borders in Europe were shifted during and after WWII, one's eligibility for a Polish or Lithuanian citizenship depends on the City from which his/her ancestor lived in. Where borders shifted and cities changed nationalities Jews who left Vilnus and its region will be declined where as a similar application for reinstatement of Polish citizenship could be approved.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

With only a 4 hour flight to Warsaw and Vilnius this enables me to arrive quickly and safely to Poland and Lithuania, where I closely collaborate with local professionals in assisting me trace required documents for your successful applications to reinstate you as an European citizen.

"Having lived in Poland for 7 years I have great in-depth understanding of European immigration laws'

I have been operating in the South African market with our Jewish communities since March 2018, and visit every 3-4 months which will allow us to meet in-person.

My next trip will be around June-July 2022.

YOU CAN REACH ME ON:
WhatsApp: +48 783 953 223,
Email: adv.avi.n. horesh@gmail.com

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Cape Jewish Seniors Association

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

Moving into winter

We are pleased to say that our members are beginning to really make use of our centres and attend more and more events.

Guest speakers have been coming to our branches and members are enjoying lunches and brunches and most of all, the various outings that we offer every week.

For the first time in over two years, we opened up in Muizenberg and had 17 people, including Rabbi Newfield, attend a wonderful morning with our guest speaker.

Many members took up our offer of supplying and delivering of meals for Pesach and we also delivered meals at the end of Pesach to those we felt would really enjoy them. Thanks to our ever willing volunteers who assisted us to do this special task and our special driver Emmanual who single handedly delivered the meals at the end of Pesach.

Prior to lockdown each centre hosted numerous bridge and kalooki games every week, but during lockdown many people started enjoying online bridge and we are finding it extremely difficult to encourage members to join us for a weekly game of bridge. If you do enjoy a game and would like to play with our members, please call the office and enlist — we really do need a bank of willing players who can be called to fill in when a regular cannot play.

The weekly *Trop Club* — a group of enthusiastic males who used to come to our Sea Point Center to practice the weekly parasha have now returned. They too, resorted to online during the pandemic, but will be starting up and attending every week for this very special study group.

As we move into winter and the threat of yet another wave of COVID, members are encouraged to see that they have had their booster as well as an annual flu shot which usually does the trick in keeping the dreaded flu bugs at bay.

Three best practices for healthy ageing

Throttle back your stress — to ensure that you cultivate and sustain healthy habits you need to reduce your stress. The easiest way to is to deep breathe. This assists with changing your emotional state and calming your nervous system which really benefits the mind and body. Take some deep breaths several times a day, concentrating whilst doing so.

Nourish your body well — eating mostly plants, good food and not too much. Add more pure water to your diet plan and this will enhance your feeling well. Best practices in good nutrition are:

Eat food — real, whole food — lean meats and fish, eggs, nuts and seeds, fruits and veggies (organic, if possible), whole grains (brown rice, quinoa, oats, etc.), good fats (olive or coconut oil, avocados, nut butter, etc.), dairy (if you can digest it — greek yogurt, organic cheese, etc).

Not too much — this is all about portion control.

Mostly plants — up your fruit and veggie intake, organic if possible.

Drink more water — simply start with drinking a glass of water when you wake up and at each meal.

Move your body — exercise is medicinal and moving your body will benefit you greatly with disease prevention, management of pain, increased mobility and much more. 150 minutes of moderate excercise per week or 20 —30 minutes daily of vigorous exercise does the world of good; and for muscle-strengthening, carrying groceries at least twice a week helps. Moving can be in the form of dog-walking, gardening, exercise classes, yoga or swimming.

It is amazing how good one feels after doing some form of exercise, and if the activity can enhance your living, why not try something different as a challenge to yourself?

Have a good month

Diana Sochen
Executive Director

Social and Personal

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

Marriage: Mervyn and Arona Shrand – daughter, Eldred and Eva Polikoff – granddaughter, Arnold and Hilary Murcia – granddaughter, Hannah Abramsohn – Granddaughter

Special birthday wishes: Miriam Herzfeld – 99th, Muriel Sendzel – 90th

Anniversary: Gail and Brian Kirsch – 50th, Malcolm and Annette Roup – 55th

Wishes of strength to those who are not well: Debbie Epstein

Recent outings and activities

Malcolm and Averil Lee in Muizenberg

Lisa Elkaim enjoying crafts and lunch at Chabad

Bernie and Rochelle Goldschmidt in Muizenberg

Sarah Daitsch and Henny Bernstein enjoying Hout Bay

Sea Point members at Quince Restaurant

Craig Nudelman and Eileen Meilach in Milnerton

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WIZO South Africa
Women's International Zionist Organization

Agents of change in Israel and South Africa — WIZO SA continues to make a positive and lasting impact!

By Galya Tregenza Hall

WIZO South Africa has had an industrious and fruitful first half of 2022 — we are an organisation full of dynamic women with a passion for Israel and a desire to always make a positive impact in the lives of those who need it most.

As President, Shelley Trope-Friedman is constantly inspired by the work of WIZO across the country. She said, "Over 18 months ago I stepped into the role as President of WIZO South Africa and I remain committed and privileged to still be holding this role. Our Federation includes our societies in Johannesburg, Pretoria, Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth, and I am honoured to preside over them all. Our WIZO women are resourceful and pro-active and I applaud them all for their contributions to the improvement of social justice for women and children both in Israel and South Africa''.

Over the last several months as the war in Ukraine unfolded before our eyes it has been shocking and heart-breaking to see the trauma and devastation being unleashed on the Ukrainian people.

We have all been impressed and proud at how WIZO has responded in that WIZO has been pro-active and is implementing measures to provide comfort and support to Ukrainians in Israel.

In order to understand this, we must all be aware that when Jewish children anywhere are in distress, the eyes of the Jewish world turn to WIZO. As the Women's International Zionist Organization, we have been caring for Jewish children in crisis, in Israel and the diaspora for more than 100 years. This is who we are. As so it was, through all the decades, all the wars and persecutions and crises — including in the aftermath of the Holocaust — WIZO was there with a loving embrace, food, shelter, education, pride and independence.

Today, once again, we are witnessing the destruction and turmoil of war, and we are seeing how children are being victimised… Yes, we at WIZO are there for them!!

WIZO is absorbing more and more Ukrainian refugee children into our Youth Villages, as well as continuing to care for the 68 Ukrainian youths already studying and living in WIZO Villages. We are reaching out to Ukrainian refugees and immigrants in communities throughout Israel, offering the emotional, social and material assistance they need.

We may be unable to give tangible love and comfort as we are all in South Africa but what we can do is give practical assistance by raising funds for WIZO. All our donations go directly to Israel to help these Youth Villages and other projects. This way we can play a part, even from afar, to relieve the burden and trauma being experienced by these young Ukrainians and all others in Israel who are suffering.

Our WIZO Youth Villages will continue to receive and welcome young refugees from Ukraine. We will do whatever we can to walk the road alongside them — Jews and non-Jews alike — in their darkest hour. At a time in their lives where they are broken and desperate, WIZO is there — to take their hands and guide them through the heartache and trauma.

WIZO SA President Shelley Trope-Friedman with Bridges for Peace SA National Directors Chris and Cecilia Eden

In order to tell this story to local South Africans, WIZO South Africa organized two successful radio interviews on Christian radio stations. World WIZO Executive member and Head of Public Diplomacy for WIZO, Rolene Marks, was interviewed about Israel's mediation and humanitarian role in the conflict, as well as WIZO's role in assisting the Ukrainian refugees that are pouring into Israel. Both interviews were a tremendous success in educating and informing the broader South African audience on topical issues pertaining to Israel.

WIZO SA President Shelley Trope-Friedman with the Israeli Ambassador to South Africa Eliav Belotsercovsky

Further media exposure, albeit on a different topic, was enjoyed by WIZO South Africa when the Woven Destiny Concert, the exemplary Sukkot musical event spearheaded by our Christian Zionist WIZO Branch Chairman Elizabeth Campbell, was aired on Revelation TV, a leading television station in the United Kingdom, in April. President Shelley is thrilled at this development and delighted that people across the UK have had the opportunity to learn more about WIZO South Africa and also the beautiful friendship and partnership that we have with our Christian Zionist friends.

Our Wheelchairs of Hope project remains active across the country. WIZO is honoured to be part of something that enables children with disabilities to become mobile, remain healthy and participate more fully in community life. Our WIZO South Africa leadership were privileged to enjoy a Zoom meeting with the Israeli Ambassador Eliav Belotsercovsky. WIZO has always enjoyed a close relationship with the various Israeli Ambassadors and it was in fact the Israeli Embassy that introduced us to the incredible NGO Wheelchairs of Hope. This is now our main outreach project here in South Africa. There is no doubt that this positive working relationship will continue and that a fruitful partnership between WIZO South Africa and the Israeli Embassy will reap much benefit for all involved.

Our President Shelley says, "I am particularly excited about a wonderful development following a Zoom talk hosted by WIZO Cape Town's Gilah Branch in March, when the Gilah ladies hosted Pamela Ngubane who is the recently appointed General Manager of South African Friends of Israel."

Following the talk, which was viewed by the National Directors of Bridges for Peace South Africa (BFP SA) Chris and Cecilia Eden, Shelley was informed that BFP SA had decided to fully sponsor Pamela to attend their annual Institute of Israel studies programme in Israel last month. BFP is a leading Christian Zionist organisation and very close friends of WIZO. President Shelley says, ''We look forward to partnering with Pamela in the future, and I am confident in her clear ability to be a spokesperson for Israel on the complex South African landscape."

WIZO South Africa is committed to being agents of change and being part of the solution that creates a safer and more beautiful society in Israel and also here in our own backyard. President Shelley says, "As WIZO women, we will always work diligently and give of our time and finances to support and build up our Israel."

Kadima! Here's to making the remainder of 2022 a great success!

Shelley Trope-Friedman and WIZO SA wish all readers a Chag Shavuot Sameach!

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Being *on message*

Julian Resnick writes from Israel

Possibly, because I grew up in Apartheid South Africa…

Possibly, because I have worked in education my entire adult life…

Possibly, because neither Hottentots Holland High School nor Paul Roos Gymnasium (two of my three high schools, there was a third Cape Town High School; why three high schools? That is another story – hint, I was not great at obeying the mighty class teacher)…

Possibly, because Habonim Dror was so significant in my coming-of-age in the above-mentioned Apartheid South Africa…

Possibly, because my work has taken me to many places in the world where *being on message* played a part in what those societies were or are…

I have started with the possible reasons why I am so terribly allergic to sites which demand of me as a guide to be faithful to a central message, that those who have curated the site long to hear from those who guide. I am stubborn about my right to surface all the questions which every site worthy of a visit demands us to consider.

Think of all the really powerful sites we visit on journeys in Israel. From the Western Wall to the Golan Heights; from Yad Vashem to the Israel Museum; from Masada to Kfar Etzion, from Mount Herzl to the promenade in Tel Aviv; from the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth to the statue of Mordechai Anilewicz in Yad Mordechai; from the Memorial of the Helicopter Disaster to the view from the Haas Promenade; from the Peace Wall in Netiv Ha'asara to Ammuntion Hill.

I have guided countless people from around the world; Jews, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and those who self-define as none of the above.

People deeply committed to Israel.
People ambivalent about Israel.
People angry with Israel.
People confused about their feelings towards Israel.
Rarely people apathetic towards Israel.

I see my role as an educator to include:

Clarification — which means enabling them to clarify where they stand, and to understand what the position they take tells us about who they are and what they care about;

Elucidation — which means giving them the knowledge-based tools that enable them to have a serious conversation based on more than opinion;

Challenging them — which means enabling them to think more deeply about the positions they hold about questions on which the site invites us to work.

Just consider for a moment some of the sites I included above...

When entering Yad Vashem via the Avenue of the Righteous among the Nations, the question quickly arises as to whether there was a common denominator which could predict who would step forward and help the Jewish People at great personal risk to themselves and their families?

When standing outside the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, the question of how diversity and empathy interact as values, looks out at us from the many ethnic versions of the Madonna and Child.

I am stubborn about my right to surface all the questions which every site worthy of a visit demands us to consider.

When standing in any one of a number of places on Masada, the space is dominated by the question Josephus puts into the mouth of Elazar Ben Yair, the leader of the rebels — is it better to die as a free person or to live as a slave?

Each one of these questions is a question worth asking, and enriches the visits to these sites.

And then…
Every now and then…
A nervous bureaucrat…
Or an overzealous politician…
Or someone who is genuinely concerned about how/why something is remembered…

...decides to close down the possibilities of real conversation, disagreement, differences of opinion regarding a site, usually deemed of 'great national/religious significance/ importance to Israel/the Jewish People/our memories of them/the moment'.

How is this done? There are, generally speaking, one of two ways to do this: either you only allow those in the employ of the site to guide, or you 'upgrade' the technology of the site so that *the site* talks to people — and not a guide or educator.

Let me give you a great example of this trend. Ammunition Hill is the site of one of the toughest battles of the Six Days War in Jerusalem. I loved the old museum. The area outside had enabled those who wished to talk about the way the battle was fought in the trenches; and the bloody consequences for our army (the IDF) when we took the trenches, the opportunity to do that.

In addition, what the old museum enabled us to do was to humanise the Israeli soldiers via the large pages of information about them, their dreams and desires, their anxieties and their fears, their loves and their passions, their families. They were part of an excellent fighting machine — and all soldiers have to be part of an excellent fighting machine if are they to complete the task which they are given — but at the same time, they remain even in the darkest hours, individuals with individual stories which to a large extent determine how they fight, why they fight, how they get to the other side (if they do, and tragically in Ammunition Hill, the stories we read were those of our soldiers who did not get through the battles in Jerusalem to celebrate the victories of the Six Days War with those whom they loved).

It was a museum with much to say about the costs involved in winning the battles, the fear about being morally compromised, the reflections on recent and not-so-recent moments in our history. Aliyah, Kibbutz life, Family, the Shoah, were all topics in the letters they sent home to those whom they loved. There was a powerful depth to those letters, showing the coming-of-age of soldiers who had lived through one of the most intense periods of modern Jewish History. The Shoah and the creation of the State of Israel both happened in their lifetimes. The Ingathering of the Exiles was a part of their everyday lives. They were from families who had left Germany, Poland, Iraq and Morocco.

They had heard the speeches of David Ben Gurion and Menachem Begin. They had heard the words of Abba Kovner and Katzetnik at the Eichmann trial. They had seen the man in the glass booth. Their doubts, wishes, longings, commitments, bravery and fear filled the museum with a power, that if rendered to them in the guiding, made this one of the more powerful places to visit in Israel.

And then came the change. The decision that this would be a museum to tell the story of bravery, of the will to win, of the feeling that they were a part of Jewish history, of the almost invincible force of the Jewish People when we are united in our purpose. No more space for doubts, dilemmas, moral ambivalence.

Moral questioning out; victory in.

The worry about what our capture of large numbers of civilians might mean for the future moral fibre of the State out; victory in.

Ofer Feniger out; Yoram Zamush in (Feniger died in the battle, Zamush lived).

What has happened to Ammunition Hill worries me. I want to be in conversation about our past, present and future, with as many people as possible. I do not shy away from battle sites. I am proud of and thankful to those whose courage and sacrifice enable us to live here in this special place.

It was a museum with much to say about the costs involved in winning the battles, the fear about being morally compromised, the reflections on recent and not-so-recent moments in our history.

And I really do want to play my small part in keeping this a special place.

And I am worried that when we reduce this place to a set of victory conversations, to a site where it is taught that the crucial qualities we need are physical strength and the determination to win military victories, that we begin to be diminished. And that, I cannot imagine us becoming.

That feels like a betrayal of who we are and why we are prepared to sacrifice for this place.

Free Ammunition Hill from the constraints of 'Being On Message'!!!

Julian Resnick was born in Somerset West and grew up in Habonim Dror. He studied at UCT, and made Aliyah to 1976. He's conducted numerous shlichuyot and educational missions on behalf of Israel, to Jewish communities in England and the USA. He works as a guide in Israel and around the world (wherever there is a Jewish story). He's married to Orly, and they have three children and *six grandchildren and is a member of Kibbutz Tzora*

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Fifteen thousand smiles... and counting

Linda Greenwall was born into a family of dentists. She grew up in Cape Town and after completing her schooling at Rustenberg and Westerford, continued in the footsteps of her grandfather, father and uncle by studying dentistry at the University of Witwatersrand.

After qualifying, she worked at her father's practise; and then went on to study further in London, where she established her Specialist Dentist and Prosthodontist practise.

Eleven years ago, coinciding with a milestone birthday, Linda realised a long-held ambition to create a charity organisation when she established the *Dental Wellness Trust*. She explained that she had been inspired by the teachings of the Lubavitcher Rebbe, who advised that one look to the parsha coinciding with one's Hebrew birthdate to identify one's life mission and a way of doing good in the world.

The Dental Wellness Trust (DWT) was started in London in 2011 with the mission to improve the general health and wellbeing of young children through dental wellness — especially those whose families were unable to afford the most basic dental care.

"We believe that good oral health is a basic human right, yet dental decay is still the most common childhood disease world-wide", says Dr Greenwall.

The establishment of DWT in London was closely followed by the opening of the *Dental Wellness Foundation* (DWF) — the charity's counterpart in South Africa. First established in Mfuleni and Khayelitsha, it has since expanded to have reached over 15 000 children living in some of the Western Cape's most disadvantaged communities. Linda explains that many South African families are unable to afford dental care even at the most basic level of owning a toothbrush and toothpaste. If they are able to afford these, there is often a single toothbrush shared by the entire household.

Compounding this problem, children arriving hungry at school buy cheap sugary sweets from playground vendors, that they keep in their mouths for long periods, releasing a constant flow of sugar. By the time DWF check their teeth at age seven, the teeth have often completely dissolved. By age twelve, 80% of children are found to have a high decay rate; and by the age of 15, this statistic has grown to 85%.

DWF have collaborated with Ikamva LaBantu and UWC and worked with schools to conduct research and make a meaningful difference to the oral health of Cape Town's residents.

At the coal-face of the entire project is a dedicated group of extraordinary women, referred to as *Toothbrush Mamas.* They run the *Livesmart* schools programme, visiting participating schools and providing each child with a toothbrush. The mamas teach the children how to brush their teeth, and visit daily to check on the programme and to teach the teachers. The toothbrushes stay at the school, and the children use them there every day. Feedback from the children and their parents is that they love the programme and the well-being factor of feeling clean and healthy.

When Covid hit South Africa, the DWF responded to the rise in poverty and need for food security, by adding another layer to their contribution, by introducing 12 soup kitchens — eight in Khayelitsha and four in Mfuleni.

This too is run by the amazing sisterhood of 'mamas', who start their day very early, cooking the day's meal, then travelling to the schools to run the *Livesmart* programme, and then returning to serve the food to queues of hungry people. Sadly, it has been decided to close down the feeding scheme, as although the food itself is donated by *Ladles of Love* and *SA Harvest*, the huge running costs are proving too much.

The organisation is currently participating in three research programmes in collaboration with UWC, using their mobile dental truck to visit schools and check the children's teeth. Another dental truck is currently being built, using funds raised in partnership with Rotary.

Looking ahead, there are plans to ramp up the tooth-brushing side of the project, with new programmes about to start at a mine in Kimberly, and in the Eastern Cape.

The project is also growing in the UK where the DWT has been going into refugee communities since last December, to provide dental care.

Dr Linda Greenwall at a party for 600 children who attend the daily Live Smart toothbrushing programme in the townships

There is also a project underway in Nairobi; and plans afoot to start a programme in Israel, together with Hadassah, to work with Bedouin communities.

Dr Greenwall has acknowledged the huge amount of work done by co-chairs Karen Tollman and Rebecca Bryer, to build and grow the Dental Wellness Foundation during Covid times. "We are immensely grateful for their help, together with that of all the members of the Dental Wellness Foundation Advisory Board including Dr Clifford Yudelman and Robyn Zinman, and Dr Ronit Okin."

She concludes, "It's absolutely vital that we are able to continue providing our supervised tooth brushing programmes. People living with poor oral health are at an increased risk of many health complications and potentially more susceptible to the effects of any virus. Therefore it's essential that those most in need have access to a toothbrush and toothpaste in order to keep their mouths clean and healthy. Doing nothing is simply not an option."

The Toothbrush Mamas singing songs from their schools programme, at a party to thank them for their amazing work in Khayelitsha, Mfuleni and Sea Point

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A VIEW FROM THE BAR

The law reports and opera

By Anton Katz SC

A first thing every student is taught at law school is the necessity of reading law reports.

So, what are law reports? Law reports are books or collections of judgments by the courts. The reported judgments set out how judges have ruled in previous cases. Whenever a judge rules on a particular issue, it creates a precedent, and future courts faced with the same issue are bound to follow the earlier ruling. And the way lawyers and their clients know what the law states is by reading the law reports. By the way, the 'fancy' books lined up on lawyers' shelves to impress are mostly law reports.

But in the growing digital world, it may be more impressive for a lawyer to have no paper or books at all in his/her office. Almost all judgments are available online and there is no longer any real need for fancy-looking books in smart wooden shelves.

So, what has that got to do with opera, you may wonder? Reading any judgment written by a decent judge sets out a saga. A saga in which humans have found themselves in conflict and need a court to resolve their dispute. They were not able to arrive at a peaceful resolution without the court deciding how to resolve the conflict.

The word *opera* is an Italian word meaning 'work'. Traditional opera consisted of words (*libretto*, which means small book in Italian) and singing in different modes, mainly *recitative* (singing which resembles ordinary speech) and *arias* (a formal song). What is the link between the law reports and opera?

Operas tell stories by way of music, acting and theatre in general. There are tragedies, comedies and serious historical dramas. Politics, love and jealousy, war and peace, the joys of life and suicide, human rights, freedom, terrorism and authoritarian government all play out on the operatic stage.

Every opera — like every judgment — contains a story about humans. Our joys, our frailties, our hubris, our evil thoughts and deeds, and love lives fulfilled or otherwise, are the stuff of opera.

And the law reports? As one reads judgment after judgment, all human life is exposed. Criminal law involving murders, rapes, robberies and all manner of awful human conduct are analysed and dissected. In family law we read about parents fighting over children; where the kids should live, or which school they should attend and how often each parent sees them, and how the judge viewed the matters. Divorcing couples in ugly disputes about business and financial affairs — love gone awry. Families scrapping over inheritances are depressingly revealed. Labour cases show how former employers and employees end up — sometimes after many years of a close relationship — trying to destroy each other. Shipping, tax, commercial, intellectual property and all other aspects of flawed human conduct are chronicled in the law reports.

And then there is public law. The constitutional and political issues of the day are given judicial life in the law reports. A fleeting glimpse at South African judgments in the 1960s and 1970s demonstrates how racist and authoritarian the laws were, and how the South African government ruthlessly tried to implement them. In the 1990s and early 2000s there is a sense of hope and respect for human rights that bubbles to the surface in the judgments that we read. Issues including the cruelty of, and the abolition of the death penalty; the housing, education and medical challenges, such as the HIV crisis start coming to the fore. But then as the 2000s develop into the 2010s, perhaps what may better be classed as the soap opera concerning a former President starts.

In the last few years there is a notable sense of frustration that creeps into the judgments on a range of levels. The judges seem to say, "we want to deliver justice, but we are hamstrung by the wide range of rights litigants enjoy."

The sordid tactics of so many politicians are exposed, and the judges are wary of standing in the way of government's COVID-19 strategies.

Researching for a matter I am involved in, I find a useful precedent from a case decided in 1916 in the United Kingdom. As I read the judge's words from 1916, I can't help but read around the topic the judge was dealing with. It becomes clear to me that the judge was mindful that the world was at war and that however he ruled then could have lasting precedential value. He (and in those days all the judges and lawyers were men) observed that even in times of crisis, such as war time, the regular process of the law must continue. Rights must continue to be protected, even if the context may be somewhat different.

The many and varied human sagas so magnificently chronicled in operas as theatre are similarly set out in the law reports. Although the law reports are not geared to entertain and enthrall, but rather are meant as merely sets of judgments to be followed by future courts as precedent, they certainly can fairly be described as operatic.

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.

A digital archive for the Woodstock & Salt River Hebrew Congregation

By Juan-Paul (Paysach) Burke

Once upon a time there was a shul in Woodstock called *Agudat Achim*, 'A Band of Brothers', which was home to the Woodstock and Salt River Hebrew Congregation.

Its early members, mostly originating from Lithuania and Latvia, were Yiddish speaking *grienes* (fresh immigrants), hardworking, who lived side-by-side with a variety of races, and who saw their community gradually acclimatise from one generation to the next, becoming South Africans. It was a close-knit community that placed a great emphasis on Jewish education and values, a proud bastion of Yiddishkeit in a suburb beyond the Cape Town City Bowl. Sadly, today it is no longer, the community dissolved and the shul sold in the 1980s. Still, its memory lives on in the hearts and minds of Woodstockers around the world, and in their descendants, to whom its values are imparted.

Yet, thanks to the initiative of three cousins: Cecil Gelbart, Harold Idesis, and Herschel Gelbart; a Woodstock and Salt River Hebrew Congregation Collection was added to the South African Jewish Museum's digital archive. So even non-Woodstockers can now also appreciate and enjoy the memories of the Woodstock Shul. Its history, legacy, and heritage — thanks to the efforts of all involved — are accessible to future generations to research, admire and appreciate.

The collection is divided into several themes, namely: Property; Leadership Eras; Religious Personnel; Talmud Torah; Closing of Shul and Legacy; and Reunion 2004. The collection includes a variety of photographs, documents, audio recordings, published and original articles, and interviews, covering 1914 until the present.

In addition there is an accompanying YouTube channel, where you'll find the hauntingly uplifting traditional chants from that immigrant generation, sung by Mike Gelbart, a *baal tefila/baal kore*. There are fifteen audio recordings covering a variety of tunes, or *nusach*, sung throughout the Jewish year, from the common weekday *mincha* to the once-a-year second day Shavuot Haftora's *Yetziv Pitgam*, as practiced only in the diaspora.

Admittedly, the collection is by no means comprehensive, but it's an excellent start, and the SAJM is willing to accept more material, such as photographs, writings or recordings of memories from the public.

So, I invite you to come and explore this wonderful collection, and if you have any additional material and information to add, please contact the SA Jewish Museum: archives@sajewishmuseum.co.za.

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The dark side of charm

by Craig Nudelman

Charismatic leaders and individuals are often at the forefront of economic and political revolutions and movements.

Their charm, enthusiasm, and confidence inspire and influence how people behave. Think of Mother Theresa, Elon Musk, Steve Jobs, Adolf Hitler, Barack Obama, Jacinda Ardern, and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. They can be good or bad, but they all have the same traits and characteristics. Their magnetism brings people in and can change not only the people to whom they speak but also the global world order. Sometimes, they can even be seen as superhuman. However, do charismatic leaders always build a stronger and healthier environment?

Think of Mother Theresa, Elon Musk, Steve Jobs, Adolf Hitler, Barack Obama, Jacinda Ardern, and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela.

An example of a modern charismatic leader is the Israeli-born serial entrepreneur Adam Neumann, who started the company WeWork. I know this because I'm currently watching *WeCrashed*, a show that I've been watching on Apple TV+, which shows the rise and fall of WeWork. Jared Leto and Anne Hathaway's performances are fantastic, and I highly recommend it. One of the most fascinating elements of the show is Neumann's charisma and ability to make people believe in his vision of a coworking space, based on his upbringing on a kibbutz. From a single floor of a building in New York to 756 locations in 38 countries (including one in Cape Town),

Neumann's vision was embraced by all who met him. It wasn't necessarily his amazing entrepreneurial skills that made him the success he was until he was asked to resign in 2019 due to poor financial choices. It was his charisma and charm that hooked people onto the idea of WeWork and ensured that he was able to grow it into a multibillion-dollar company. His vision was extraordinary, and it did bring about a change. So, what is it about these charismatic leaders that give them these remarkable powers?

Sujan Patel, writing for *Entrepreneur.com*, speaks about five traits that define good leaders, in general: Confidence; creativity; a vision; strategy; and excellent communication. First off, confidence.

A person who exudes confidence draws people in, as they don't show the self-doubt and second-guessing that we mere mortals may experience. Their optimism and self-belief are contagious, and their followers will know that whatever the cost, it is for the greater good.

Charismatic leaders are creative and think out of the box, which connects directly with the vision of what the leader wants, even though it could be seen as risky and, perhaps, problematic. An example would be Adam Neumann losing money for what he thought would be for the benefit of the company. During a spending frenzy in 2016, which led to laying off seven per cent of WeWork's staff and freezing hiring, he said, "I believe that doing the right thing will not only create the best culture and the best product, but you'll also make the most money — even if you're making decisions that lose you money in the short term."

A leader also must be determined to make their vision a reality. Everything that they do and say must set out their goals and work with the team around them to develop an organizational strategy which will work to their advantage. They, in the words of Winston Churchill, will never give up and never surrender, no matter the obstacles they face. And finally, and perhaps most importantly, they need to be able to communicate with confidence and charisma. Both their verbal and body language is used to perfection to pique peoples' attention and ensure their message comes across; their goals and visions are always the focus of the listener.

But charismatic leaders can be detrimental to individuals and society as a whole. One example of such a charismatic leader is Elizabeth Holmes, the disgraced former CEO of Theranos, a now-defunct company focussed on health technology. Holmes envisioned the creation of a medical device, called the Edison, which could analyse blood tests without the use of needles or a lab. She used powerful body language and utilised her naturally deep voice to convey, super-confidently, how her vision of 'democratising healthcare' would change the world for the better. Her charisma and charm saw that, by the end of 2004, she had raised $6 million to fund her firm, and by the end of 2010, she had raised $92 million in venture capital. Not only did she attract investors, but she always had incredibly influential individuals on her board of directors, including former US Secretary of State George Shultz.

However, she was investigated by The Wall Street Journal after a medical expert thought the Edison device seemed suspicious, with many of the machines not actually doing what they were supposed to. In 2015 it was reported that the company had published inaccurate data and Holmes was banned from selling the blood-testing units to stores across America. The company was formally dissolved in September 2018, and Holmes was eventually found guilty of defrauding investors, with sentencing to take place in September this year. However, during the trial, she still insisted to the jury that Theranos's vision was to 'democratise healthcare',

"there are two sides to charismatic leadership. Charisma itself is not wicked or corrupt. It is both an individual and a collective responsibility to establish and maintain ethical cultures, enhance diverse perspectives, and encourage follower's voice."

with *The New York Times* relaying her testimony, "(that it is) not a crime to be optimistic about the possibilities of the technology that she herself was misled about by her own expert staff."

Her charismatic leadership, like that of so many other leaders throughout history with the same qualities, destroyed countless lives through unemployment and fraud. She displayed a lack of transparency about the organisation and created no place for dissent or questioning within Theranos. For more information about her and Theranos, I recommend watching the documentary *The Inventor: Out for Blood in Silicon Valley*.

At a political level, a similar style of leadership took place in Soviet Russia under Stalin, where the Communist party terrorised those who questioned the morality of Russia under his rule. And the cult of the individual in Nazi Germany saw Hitler rise to power and orchestrate the murder of six million Jews, and millions of other individuals deemed 'inferior' by the Nazi regime; not to mention all those others who lost their lives because of the Second World War.

Audrey Murrel, the associate dean of the University of Pittsburgh College of Business Administration, wrote in *Forbes* magazine that charisma itself is not terrible. He states, "there are two sides to charismatic leadership. Charisma itself is not wicked or corrupt. It is both an individual and a collective responsibility to establish and maintain ethical cultures, enhance diverse perspectives, and encourage follower's voice."

We must ensure we hold our leaders accountable, in all spheres of social and economic engagement. It is only through individual action and engagement that we can maintain a society which is ethical, promoting positive change for all.

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

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SIMCHA SNAPS

Jacqui Benson to Sixolile Mabombo *Photo: @ALEXASEDGE*

Adi Futeran to Rei Shapira *Married in Israel*

"The perfect venue for a dream wedding"

Dr Beverly Shrand

I'm writing to thank Steven for our ***incredible wedding*** at Coffee Time! Steven's passion, creative flair and ***attention to detail*** were evident from the first meeting and he delivered ***beyond our expectations***, organising everything from the ***amazing menu*** to the ***spectacular flowers and table linen***! Coffee Time is the ***ideal venue for an intimate wedding***, with its beautiful garden, the pretty façade of the building and the glass doors opening onto the garden. However, it's the TLC with which Steven approached every aspect of the wedding that makes it the ***perfect "one-stop-shop" venue*** for a dream wedding! Heartfelt thanks to Steven and team!

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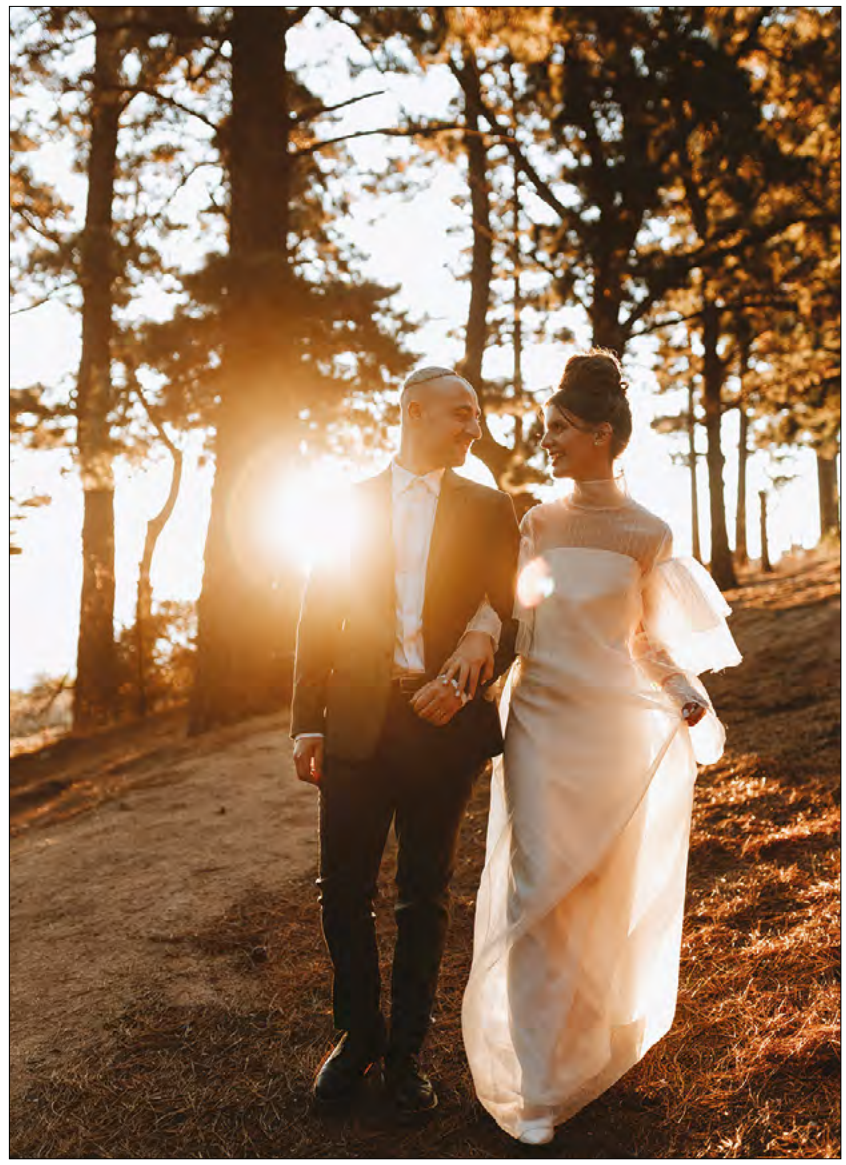

Tao Klitzner to Nathan Esra *Photo: Duane Smith*

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SIMCHA SNAPS

Anastacia Tomson (תחיה שיינה) *and Mathilde Myburgh, October 2020* *Photo: Sharyn Hodges*

Beverley Klein to Justin Williams *Photo: Shirley Fox*

Beverly Shrand to Saul Stein *Photo: Guy Lerner*

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From Lithuania with love, South Africa's preservation of "kitke"

By Leila Stein

"Can I get two kitke please?" is probably the most common question heard by select bakers across neighbourhoods in Cape Town on Fridays as the Jewish community prepares for Shabbat.

While those behind the counter immediately know what you're referring to, it may come as a surprise that outside of South Africa, few people would.

Kitke, a word used by the South African Jewish community interchangeably with the Hebrew word "challah" is not South African in origin. However, it appears to have become ingrained in South African communication over time.

Like much to do with Jewish history, it is a term that has travelled the world as communities have moved and settled. What makes kitke stand out from the rest is that it has settled best in South Africa. In other countries with descendants from the same communities, the word has been largely lost along with English assimilation.

Challah, our portion for the Kohanim

To start off with, when discussing the braided bread delicacy served as part of the Jewish traditions on Shabbat and festivals, the Hebrew word "challah" is standard everywhere.

Much like our prayers are all in Hebrew as a universal language to pass on traditions, this extends to this central item to the holiday meals. Meaning "portion", challah in the Torah refers to the portion of dough that we are commanded to give to the Kohanim.

Challah is used in South Africa interchangeably with kitke today. However, usually only among those in the Jewish community or at least among those taught to refer to it this way.

Among the wider South African community, this is not the go-to word for the sweet, braided bread. This is most notable in the fact that challah baked in a Pick n Pay or Checkers will be labelled 'kitke'.

From Lithuania to South Africa

As many would guess, the term kitke was brought with the Litvak community who made up most of the Jewish people arriving in South Africa in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Kitke is among nine different words that refer to different festival loaves of bread used by the various Ashkenazi communities in Europe, according to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research Language and Culture Atlas. *Khale*, *berkhes*, *barches*, *bukhte*, *dacher*, *koylatch*, *koilitsh* and *shtritsl* make up the other eight.

While these are sourced from the different parts of Europe with historical Jewish communities, kitke is identified explicitly as part of the common lexicon of those in Lithuania.

In some discussions, the Lithuanian word is linked to the Polish word *kitka* which means 'to wear one's hair in a braid'. Understandably this link seems logical as the kitke we know and love is braided, giving it its unique shape.

So why just us?

There is no definitive answer as to why the South African community held onto this word when other Lithuanian communities let it go when they moved to their new homes. This is especially interesting given the fact that Yiddish is rarely spoken, even by those who still say 'kitke'.

It is also notable that the integration of the word outside of the Jewish community has given it South African status.

If you ask at a store for a challah, they may know what you're talking about because of previous interactions, but it's not likely to get immediate recognition. However, asking for a kitke on a Friday afternoon (although this is a little late and it's possible they are already sold out), will get a swift response with the added question of "poppy seeds? Sesame seeds? Plain?"

This has almost formalised the word in the country, so even as younger generations default to challah as they are taught in school — the use of kitke remains firm in the broader community.

A simple kitke recipe

Much like the multiple names for variations on the different types of breads used for Jewish celebrations across communities, there are many variations on the recipe for kitke.

This is one of the simpler options and can make one bigger or two smaller kitkes depending on your preference.

Ingredients:

- ½ cup of warm water
- 1 tsp of sugar
- 1 packet of instant yeast
- ½ cup of oil (vegetable/ sunflower)
- ½ cup of warm water
- ¼ cup of sugar
- 2 tsp of salt
- 2 eggs
- 4 cups of flour
- 1 egg for basting
- Poppy, sesame or sunflower seeds

Start with a bowl you've warmed up with water. Dissolve the teaspoon of sugar in the water and sprinkle the whole yeast packet on top. Leave for 10 minutes. After the rest, check yeast is activating (bubbling or getting foamy) before stirring to dissolve.

Mix in the oil, rest of the warm water, sugar, salt, and eggs. Mix in two cups of flour well. When those are all combined add in the remaining flour until the dough is sticky. Let the dough rest for 10 minutes. Liberally flour a board or surface and turn out the dough. Knead for 10 minutes, adding flour if it becomes too sticky.

Get a fresh bowl or clean the one you were using and lightly grease it with oil. Place your dough ball into it and cover with a cloth or plastic wrap. Place in a warm spot and let it rise for 1 to 2 hours. Once risen punch down and let it rise for another 45 minutes to an hour. For one kitke separate into strands and braid on a lightly greased baking sheet. (can be three, four or six strands depending on experience). Secure the braid by pushing the ends together and tucking them under the base. Cover with a slightly damp cloth and leave to rise for the last time.

When ready to cook, brush with beaten egg yolk and sprinkle with poppy or sunflower seeds. Bake at 200˚ C for around 30-40 minutes. Keep an eye out for a golden brown texture. If unsure the kitke is baked through, take a toothpick and poke through an exposed side. If it comes out clean, you're ready.

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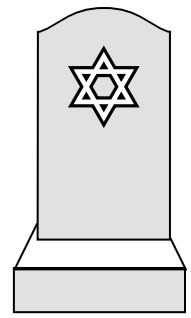

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