

★ JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

VOLUME 39 No 4

MAY 2022

www.cjc.org.za

Connect with us!

@capejewishchronicle



www.cjc.org.za



Thank You!

A SINCERE THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO PAID THEIR
2022 VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTION!

If you have not yet done so, please support the Cape Jewish Chronicle by paying your voluntary annual subscription of R350.

SNAPSCAN



ZAPPER



EFT

BANK DETAILS:
Cape Jewish
Chronicle Trust
Standard Bank
Acc: 070 703 493
Branch: 020 909

Please use your name and email as payment reference.

Regular contributors

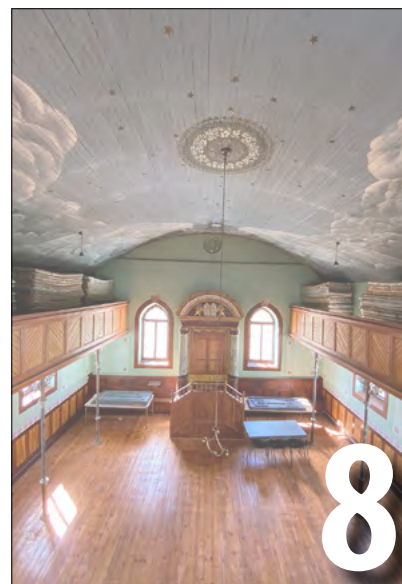
Page 3	Des says... Shabbat Times Voluntary subscriptions
Page 4	United Herzlia Schools SA Jewish Museum
Pages 6-9	Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies
Pages 10-12	SA Zionist Federation (Cape Council)
Page 13	Telfed Family Announcements The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute
Page 14	Salisbury House WIZO Cape Town
Page 15	United Jewish Campaign
Page 16	Temple Israel
Page 17	Jewish Community Services
Page 18	Cape Jewish Seniors Association
Page 19	Mensch Thought-leader of the month Astra Centre Union of Jewish Women
Page 20	Mensch: meet the members
Page 21	Melton
Page 26	Food: celebrating Lag B'Omer
Page 28-29	Simcha Snaps
Page 30	Chronic ads Patrons panel



CSO emergency number for security and medical emergencies
24 hours 086 18 911 18

Features and Opinions

Page 21	Beryl Eichenberger reviews <i>The Lightness of Air</i> by Angela Miller-Rothbart
Page 22	Linda Kavalsky: artist, author, illustrator
Page 23	Craig Nudelman on energy
Page 24	Anton Katz: smoking and the law
Page 25	Julian Resnick: Israel, a journey making meaning
Page 27	Gabriella Saven: bearing the chosen children



www.cjc.org.za

CJC EDITORIAL BOARD Chairman: Lester Hoffman. Ex-officio: Ben-Zion Surdut. Committee: Daniel Bloch, Tzvi Brivik, Geoff Cohen, Barbara Flax, Myra Osrin, Helen Schneider, Jonathan Silke, Chaya Singer. Editor and Layout design: Desrae Saacks, Secretary: Tessa Epstein, Digital coordinator: Lisa Shapiro.

Zapper



Banking details: Standard Bank —

Branch: Thibault Square; Branch code:

020 909; Acc no: 070 703 493;

Acc name: The Cape Jewish Chronicle Trust;

Acc type: Current

SnapScan



DISCLAIMERS

ERRORS, OMISSIONS AND CORRECTIONS The Cape Jewish Chronicle regrets any errors or omissions that may occur in the paper and, where possible, will attempt to rectify these in a subsequent issue, should such a measure be deemed appropriate. No repeat advertisement or credits will be given for small typographical errors which do not appreciably lessen the value of the advertisement. The appearance of an advertisement or photograph does not necessarily indicate approval or endorsement by the Editorial Board for the product or service advertised or photograph reproduced, and it takes no responsibility for any loss or damage suffered by any person as a result of the reliance upon the information contained therein.

LETTERS AND OPINIONS Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editorial Board or its sponsoring bodies. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed. However, by agreement, the writer's name may be withheld in the publication. Letters are published subject to space being available. The Editor and the Editorial Board have the right to decide on the inclusion of any item submitted for publication. Letters may be edited for clarity, space and/or language.

KASHRUT Unless otherwise stated, food and catering services advertised in this publication are not under the supervision of the Cape Beth Din.

FINANCIAL You should always obtain independent expert advice prior to making any financial investment, commercial or other decisions. Do not enter into any transactions of the above nature, based partly or wholly on the content of any advertisements or articles published in the Cape Jewish Chronicle.

Des Says...

By Desrae Saacks, Acting Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle



We need you!

Last month we sent out an appeal for voluntary subscriptions.

We were thrilled by the strong initial positive response, but still have a long way to go.

The Chronicle has been a part of the Cape Town Jewish community for the past 38 years. During all this time we have functioned independently, with no subsidisation from the UJC or any other community body. Your annual subscription is essential to our survival — we would not be able to continue without your support. We thank you for your vote of confidence — those who had already paid, those who responded to our appeal, and those who have yet to respond.

In this month's issue we have tried, as always, to include voices, faces and stories that reflect the vibrancy and diversity of our Cape Town Jewish community.

The Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies bids a fond farewell to that pillar of our community, Gwynne Robins. Gwynne is retiring (retiring used here as a verb — most emphatically not an adjective). Read about Gwynne's remarkable contribution to Cape Town Jewry on page 9. I hope that the Chronicle will continue to provide a platform for her thoughts and knowledge.

Another retiring stalwart is David Resnick, who is taking a well-earned step back from decades of communal service — most recently as UJC treasurer. Read about his invaluable contribution and dedication to our community on page 15.

Angela Miller-Rothbart took advantage of her retirement to pursue her passion for writing. The result is a beautiful and moving novel that is reviewed on page 21. And on the subject of pursuing one's passion, I am delighted to share the story of my one-time colleague at the Samson Centre, Linda Kavalsky, who is making her dreams come true. See her story on page 22.

Mensch Network introduces us to three of their members who are doing inspiring and life-changing work. Read about the work of Abigail Smith, Rachael Glaser and Simone Honikman who are making a real difference in the lives of many South Africans (see pages 19 and 20).

As I write, we are in the midst of the season of Yoms. Thursday 28 April is Yom Hashoah, when we remember the victims, survivors and heroes of the Holocaust. Wednesday 4 May is Yom Hazikaron, a day when we remember those who died or were injured in wars and acts of terror in Israel. Read Julian Resnick's column on page 25, where he shares his Facebook reflections on the recent wave of terror in Israel, and some of the conversations that his post provoked.

Yom Haatzmaut follows immediately after Yom Hazikaron, and celebrates the achievement of Israeli statehood; and then on 29 May, Yom Yerushalayim celebrates the reunification of Jerusalem in 1967. We are also in the period of sefirat-haomer (the counting of the omer) — a time characterised in rabbinic literature as one of semi-mourning.

And in this season of remembering, as we watch with horror news of shocking acts of violence against ordinary Ukrainian civilians by Russian soldiers; and of death and devastation in Kwazulu-Natal in the wake of the recent floods, it is easy to fall into a spiral of despair and helplessness. Rabbi Matitani reminds us on page 16 to prioritise the living. And Abigail Smith writes on page 19, "...no matter how hopeless things feel, it does no good when such feelings become an obstacle to making the world a better place. As it says in Pirkei Avot, 'You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it.'"

And so I send you gratitude and hope in this month of May.

Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		Earliest	Latest	
6 May/6 Iyar	Kedoshim	4.54pm	8.53pm	*6.35pm
13 May/13	Emor	4.50pm	5.37pm	*6.30pm
20 May/20 Iyar	Behar	4.46pm	5.33pm	*6.26pm
27 May/27 Iyar	Bechukotai	4.43pm	5.29pm	*6.23pm

N.B. Please note that the times indicated are the earliest times for candle lighting. Please consult your Rabbi. *Please contact your local Shul to determine their Shabbat acceptance time.

INNOVATION IS
adapting

f t i in
www.bassgordon.co.za

mgibassgordon
AUDIT | TAX | ADVISORY

MGI is a worldwide network of independent auditing, accounting and consulting firms.

Thank You!



**A SINCERE THANK
YOU TO EVERYONE
WHO PAID THEIR
2022 VOLUNTARY
SUBSCRIPTION!**

**If you have not yet done so, please support the
Cape Jewish Chronicle by paying your
voluntary annual subscription of R350.**

SNAPSCAN



ZAPPER



EFT

BANK DETAILS:
Cape Jewish
Chronicle Trust
Standard Bank
Acc: 070 703 493
Branch: 020 909

Please use your name and email as payment reference.

f i in www.cjc.org.za

[back to contents](#)



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

Notice is hereby given that the United Herzlia Schools (UHS), Annual General Meeting will take place on the **25 May 2022 at 18h00 at the Herzlia High School campus, MH Goldschmidt Avenue, Highlands Estate.**

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the elected Governor positions, duly proposed and seconded, must be lodged by 16h00 on Wednesday 18 May 2022. A CV of not more than 120 words must be attached to the nomination form. Please email chairman@herzlia.com or contact **021 286 3468** for nomination forms or more details.

VOTING

Parents in good standing, alumni, trustees, honorary life members and current donors to UHS and The Herzlia Foundation Trust are considered members of UHS and are eligible to vote. Parents, benefactors and donors of the school please accept this as an invitation. Right of admission reserved.

Andries van Renssen
Executive Director

www.herzlia.com



Community History Online Conference



CHOL is an online gathering of people interested in chronicling the personal and communal Jewish history of South Africa.

The second conference opened on 30 March 2022 and ran over three weekly Zoom sessions. Each session featured several speakers from South Africa, UK, USA and Israel presenting their unique projects, which included websites, social media and digital archives. These project leaders and experts shared insights about their processes, lessons learnt and successes.

The first session began with the archivists from the SA Jewish Museum and the Kaplan Centre, Leila Bloch and Katie Garrun respectively, offering a guide on how to organise and add your family history to the SAJM's digital archive. They were followed by the chairperson of the Union of Jewish Women in Cape Town, Karen Kallmann, who is currently writing the history of the Union of Jewish Women in South Africa. Karen spoke about her research and highlighted some forgotten leading lights of the UJW. The final presentation was by Gwynne Schrire who explored the shortcomings of online history websites when compared to hard copy books and magazines.

Unlike previous sessions, the next session on 6 April was held in the evening. This was to overcome the time difference and allow input from the USA. Bramie Lenhoff, formally of Uptington but now living in Delaware, spoke about his approach to documenting the Jewish history of South Africa's small towns. Viewers then heard from Roy Orgus from San Francisco who provided an overview of the Southern African Special Interest Group (SA-SIG), a specialist genealogical portal he maintains for JewishGen.org. Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, aka *The Travelling Rabbi*, then shared how he makes use of Facebook to publicise the work he does to maintain the small town Jewish cemeteries across the country. The final presentation of this session was given by filmmaker Sean O'Sullivan. Entitled *Finding Signal in the Silence: Navigating South Africa's Film & Audio Archives*, O'Sullivan's talk gave insight to the large amount of SA Jewish related film content he has discovered, sitting in film archives that are in urgent need of digitisation.

At the time of writing, the third and final session of this series of talks has not yet taken place. It will be held via Zoom on Wednesday 13 April. This session will include Geraldine Auerbach discussing a project compiling the biographies of several (mostly Jewish) Wits Medical Graduates of 1960. Gail Lustig will present on the role played by Jewish general practitioners and pharmacists in Cape Town's northern suburbs between 1930 and 1980, a project she undertook under the auspices of the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at UCT. The series will close with a presentation by Marc Latilla, author of the book *Johannesburg Then and Now*, in which he will discuss Ferreirstown and the other very early Jewish enclaves in Johannesburg.



These presentations, and those from the first iteration of the Community History Online conference held last year, can be viewed on the SA Jewish Museum's YouTube channel by clicking [here](#).

City Coins CAPE TOWN



NUMISMATICS AND COLLECTABLES

Sole South African representative for Dix, Noonan, Webb (London)

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

Tel: 021 426 2639 Fax: 021 425 3939

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

Grnd Fl, Tulbagh Cntr, Tulbagh Square, Hans Strijdom Ave, Foreshore, CT





RETIRE TO LIVE



Luxurious apartments in an idyllic resort

Be surrounded by pristine landscaped gardens and a clubhouse with world-class facilities offering organised social events and activities.

**24hr back up care from on-site care centre*



Cindy 082 495 7168 • Linda 082 785 6160 • Lorenda 083 270 4755 • Sales office 021 250 0592
www.oasisretirementresort.co.za FB: OasisRetirementResort IG: @oasis_retirement_resort



At Oasis
Care Centre
we make every
season of life
count!



18/CJC 2/2022/VJD



- Assisted Living
- Physical Rehabilitation
- Frail Care
- Alzheimer's/Dementia Care

PLEASE CALL Lizzie Brynard-Brill 021 528 7301 • email: lizzieb@capetownoasis.co.za • www.oasiscarecentre.co.za



CAPE SAJBD
Engage | Educate | Empower

CONNECT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNITY

Leading from the front!

By Daniel Bloch, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

There are many definitions of leadership, yet one element remains constant — people. As a leader, one must work with people to maximise efficiency and in most instances, try to influence the decision-making process. Human beings are at the heart of both these practices.



The May 2022 edition of the Cape Jewish Chronicle will mark a full year of me writing this column. Therefore, I would like to share some insights into my role as Executive Director of the Cape SAJBD — not focusing on events, initiatives and letters but rather on how I have chosen to engage with people to get the job done.

I love people and I find connecting with them one of the most important aspects, above all others. To truly solve a problem, one must understand the challenges and to do so effectively, one must speak directly to the source. If a person or organisation has an issue, reading emails and speaking to someone over the phone will only get half the job done. Meeting in person will allow you to look into a person's eyes, read body language and listen for the tone of their voice. This is by far a more efficient and effective way of solving problems.

Meeting in person will allow you to look into a person's eyes, read body language and listen for the tone of their voice.

Over the past year, I have endeavoured, despite COVID-19 restrictions, to meet with as many people as possible to explore opportunities, resolve issues, educate about our community, educate about antisemitism and empower those around me to work as a team towards a common goal.

I have always believed in leading by example which is why I am usually the last to leave (I try to be the first to arrive as well, however sometimes traffic wins that battle) and I am not afraid of getting my hands dirty. As the leader in any organisation, one should have a sound knowledge of all aspects of the business and be able to do any task. By setting this example for my team, I have been able to get the most out of them, and instead of menial tasks being a problem, they are completed without too much fuss. I am thankful to my colleagues for the support and look forward to accomplishing many more successful initiatives in the future.

Over the past year, I have received many phone calls and emails requesting assistance from the Board. These requests have been anything from investigating antisemitic incidents, Yom Tov exams at university, requests for history about the community, individuals experiencing personal issues within the community and more. I have personally made the effort to either meet in person or make the phone call to try to resolve these issues. People want to be heard and want to know that someone is there to support them. This is why I encourage anyone in our community who has a particular issue, to reach out to me. Though there may not always be a solution to a particular problem, it won't stop me or the Board from trying to help.

Moving forward, I want to meet with as many members of our community as possible with the goal of simply connecting people. Regardless of whether you are religious or not, go to shul, keep kosher, send your children to a Jewish school or simply want to know the latest news from our community — I will be available to listen and assist where possible.

It is important for our community to stay strong and to do this, we do need to stay connected.

It is important for our community to stay strong and to do this, we do need to stay connected.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Workers' Day, Women's Day and Election Day!

By Tzvi Brivik, Chairperson, Cape SAJBD

On 1 May, we celebrate Workers' Day, and commemorate the role of trade unions and labour organisations in the fight for equal rights and social justice in the employment sector in South Africa.



More so than in most countries, this day commemorates the right of employees to regulated working hours and a minimum wage. Ultimately, as it was South Africa's working class who were most oppressed during Apartheid, the struggle for better working conditions was a struggle to overthrow systemic segregation. It was a victory of democracy and human rights in our country.

However, we believe that not until all are free, are we truly free. The Board has a long-standing relationships with refugee communities, working closely with members of the Burundian, Rwandan and Congolese communities. We have also allied efforts with our National body to collect funds for Ukrainian refugees during the current crisis, which has seen a significant amount of money raised and sent to various relief organisations. It is important that we stay connected with organisations and communities abroad and assist where we can.

A mere week later, we celebrate mother-figures everywhere and the great influence they have had on each of our daily lives. Yet, we still have a long way to go towards true gender equality, with the *go-to* — particularly here in South Africa — of the parenting domestic arrangement and care still falling on the mother-figure of the family. South African and Jewish history has been steered by the matriarchs in our families and in our community, and no opportunity to celebrate them should be missed. To this end, we note the Board's newest tribute to the incredible influence of mothers in the form of the book, edited and published by the National Board, called *Mensches in the Trenches* which highlights leading figures in the path to democracy. In addition to these day-to-day obligations and responsibilities which women assumed, they also took on a number of leadership roles in various organisations — a tradition we are proud to say still continues. When we look across the various committees which manage our 67 affiliated organisations, we are proud to say there is significant representation of both women and mothers.

It is important that we stay connected with organisations and communities abroad and assist where we can.

Becoming a member of a communal organisation allows each individual the opportunity to guide the communal structure, revolutionise its activities and participate not only directly in our own community but also in the greater South African community, for the greater good. This year is an election year for the Board, where you get the chance to decide who represents you at our committee table. We have already started our voter education in the past edition of the Chronicle and will continue to do so on our social media channels and website. We want as many members of our community as possible to vote and engage in this democratic and independent election process, overseen by a panel of esteemed members of our community. Make sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@capesajbd), to keep up to date on the latest election news.

Our Board is made up of people who are accomplished in their own right, yet as the saying goes — if you want something done, give it to a busy person! Each of our members makes an important contribution to our Board table, bringing their skills and experience to the foreground, to drive strategy and activities. So, what will your contribution be to the Board and your community and what can you bring to the table? Nominations open on the 1st of May, get involved!



Know your Board

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

Karen Kallmann

Why did you join the Board?

Much like Erin, my position as Chairperson of the Union of Jewish Women granted me a permanent seat on the Board — lucky me!



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

I plan to represent Jewish women's concerns and interests on the Board and to partner with it in areas of mutual interest, such as social development, interfaith and work within the Jewish community. There is so much more we can do together when we pool both our intellectual and material resources.

What other community organisations are you involved in?

I am a previous Chairperson of Limmud Cape Town, and a founding member of a women's Rosh Chodesh Group and a women's group that meets to sing Hallel on the beach every Rosh Chodesh (new moon). I have initiated and hosted feminist seders and am on the coordinating group of a women's megillah reading group in Cape Town.

I am an alumna of the UJC Ignite Programme, the Eliot Osrin Leadership Academy and the Mensch Lift Leadership Programme. I have also been a Rape Crisis counsellor.

What are your passions?

I am passionate about lifelong learning, service to the Jewish and broader community and women's rights issues. I am a vegan for environmental reasons, an obsessive recycler and love growing my own vegetables. I love history and am currently writing the history of the Union of Jewish Women.

What is your vision for the community?

My vision is a community where every person feels supported, nurtured and has the opportunity to express their opinion and reach their full potential. In return, I see a community where people are engaged both in communal affairs and in the broader community, where we can self-actualise as proud Jews and proud South Africans and where we can make a difference in whatever area we are passionate about.

What do you think is unique about our Jewish community?

There are people who care deeply about our Jewish community and its long-term sustainability, and as a result, we have created community structures that are very organised and work to ensure that there are very few gaps through which members of our community can fall through.

The fact that our community has an allocations committee that supports all kinds of initiatives from welfare and education, to cultural and spiritual development, is truly exceptional and really makes our community unique.

Erin Dodo

Why did you join the Board?

I recently became a member of the Board by virtue of my position as Chairperson of the South African Union of Jewish Students' Western Cape branch. Being a Jewish student in South Africa, I realised that — more often than not — Jewish people are left out of people's activism and — despite how 'woke' someone is — left out of the narrative. This, for me, had to end. I found myself in a situation where my history and my people's history was being totally unacknowledged. This really pushed me to join SAUJS and the Board.



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

I hope to make Jewish Students in the Western Cape feel more seen and heard and to create an environment on campus where Jewish Students feel they can freely embrace who they are without fear of what people may do and/or think.

What other community organisations are you involved in?

In addition to being a member of the Board and of SAUJS Western Cape, I am also involved in the Zionist Youth Council, the Board's Generation Next subcommittee and the National Committee for SAUJS.

What are your passions?

My absolute passion in life is definitely politics, and it is one of my majors at UCT. I feel strongly about my beliefs and strive to learn as much as possible about all that I can. Politics was also a major part of my decision to join SAUJS as I knew that it was a great way for me to learn more and engage in more meaningful debates.

What is your vision for the community?

My vision for our community is more active participation in events and in discussions. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, a lot of community activities were halted and many people grew accustomed to the comfort of staying home and being out of the crowd.

My vision is to restore that amazing 'togetherness' we are so lucky to have, and for us to all learn from one other. There are so many incredible people in our community who have such great wisdom to share — I wish for us to engage in these experiences and in these lessons so we can, hopefully, create an environment where we can all learn and teach each other.

What do you think is unique about our Jewish community?

The most unique thing about our Jewish community is the incredible support and care we all have for one other. As soon as you meet another member of the community, you immediately feel at home and welcomed — which is such a rare feeling in a society where everyone is always so busy and preoccupied. In our community, all you need to do is ask for help and you will get all the support in the world. We never leave someone behind!



Visiting roads less travelled

By Craig Nudelman, Programme and Development Manager, Cape SAJBD

With Pesach fast approaching, the Cape SAJBD went to visit the country communities of the Garden Route to wish them a Chag Pesach Sameach.

Daniel Bloch (Executive Director) and Craig Nudelman (Programme and Development Manager) drove over 1300 km and a combined 22 hours over the course of four days, visiting cemeteries, synagogues and communities on roads less travelled. Dirt roads, punctures and a lack of cell phone signal did not dissuade them from their mission, which was enlightening and fascinating.

This trip, between 4 and 7 April, was undertaken as part of the Board's mandate to show support to all of our Jewish communities around the Western Cape, and not just those in Cape Town.

While it has been difficult to engage in person since the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board has maintained contact with these outskirt communities through their respective communal representatives, and visits to their Jewish sites and cemeteries.

The devotion shown by individual community members to the upkeep of Jewish life and heritage in the many towns we visited was both inspirational and humbling. The synagogues and cemeteries in George, Plettenberg Bay, Uniondale, and Oudtshoorn were all in immaculate condition. We also saw the outstanding maintenance of cemeteries in Riversdale, Uniondale,

Montagu and Robertson. However, those in Beaufort West, Caledon, and Ladismith were problematic. It is important for all of us to acknowledge that the memories of our loved ones need attention, and a

donation to keep up the maintenance would not go unnoticed.

The George, Plett, and Oudtshoorn communities have faced problems for the past few years, with the pandemic

a contributing factor. Although these communities were once thriving, they are now faced with several issues: their members are ageing, with many no longer being able to maintain their once-active communal engagement; and those other Jews who do live in the area do not want to belong to formal communal structures.

We met with Myron Rabinowitz of George, Johnny Amoils of Plett and the whole Markus-Lipschitz-Wilck *mishpocha* of Oudtshoorn, who hosted a braai for us on the Wednesday night. All of them were welcoming and appreciative of the visits.

It is up to the larger Cape Town Jewish community to maintain these once thriving and vibrant Jewish centres. We ask that you and your friends, when holidaying in the surrounding areas, go to the shuls on a Shabbat to make up a minyan, especially when holidaying in the popular destination of Plett.

Visit the Julian Gordon Africana Centre in Riversdale, where there is a display dedicated to the Jewish community, filled with old hagaddot, siddurim, and the curtain for the Ark of the old Riversdale synagogue. Go to the cemeteries, the *beitot chayim*, and see where your ancestors once lived and had fulfilling lives as *smouses*, hoteliers and owners of general stores.

The history of these communities must not be forgotten — it is up to us to maintain our heritage that was so integral in the building of the Cape and Jewish life in Cape Town.



Uniondale Synagogue



Robertson cemetery



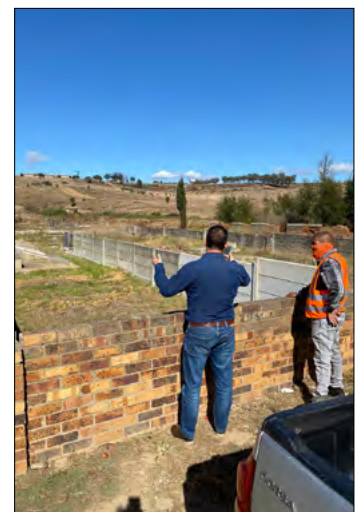
Plett Synagogue



Myron Rabinowitz with Daniel Bloch in George Synagogue



Larry Markus and Daniel Bloch in Oudtshoorn Synagogue



Caledon Cemetery



A tribute to Gwynne Robins on her retirement from the Cape SAJBD

By Craig Nudelman, Programme and Development Manager, Cape SAJBD

It is difficult to give credit to Gwynne Robins in a short article, as her contributions to the Cape Town Jewish community are almost too many to list.

After working for the Cape Jewish Seniors, she moved to the SA Board of Deputies (Cape Council) as it was known 23 years ago. Although starting out as a half-day assistant to the director, she soon understood that being a Jewish professional for the Board does not entail just one role!

Besides taking fastidious minutes at Cape Council meetings, she started using her EQ as a social worker to work closely with Holocaust victims, to ensure that the survivors received compensation from the Claims Conference. She organised the Board's annual Yom HaShoah ceremony, and her knowledge of the ins and outs of the preparation for it ensured its success for over 20 years. One of her key works includes *In Sacred Memory: Recollection of the Holocaust survivors living in Cape Town*, written in 1995 under her *nom de plume* Gwynne Schrire, where she compiled the testimonies of 52 survivors — something which will ensure that we always remember the Holocaust and never forget those who perished, and those who survived.



Gwynne with Judge Albie Sachs

Her interest in Jewish history does not end with the Holocaust. She was, and still is, a prolific writer and researcher of Jewish life in South Africa. Rael Kaimowitz, a past chairman of the Cape SAJBD, said of Gwynne's writing, "your prolific writing skills, legendary encyclopaedic

knowledge, and ability to keep abreast of all that is important, has resulted in you being an asset to every chair and director you have served."

She has written dozens of articles on a multitude of historical topics about South African Jewry for the South African Board of Deputies' journal, *Jewish Affairs*, where she sits on the editorial board. She also wrote to a number of media agencies, under other pseudonyms, about issues pertaining to Jews and the Jewish community, and has often spoken out against discriminatory pieces and editorials. Her attention to detail and meticulous hours of research ensure that her writing comes from a position of objectivity, as do all her interactions with people.

She is not, however, just passionate about the Jewish community. She is a stalwart in the interfaith and inter-community networks. She was a founder of the *Cape Town Interfaith Initiative* (CTII), and a director of the *Faith Based Alliance*

for *Social Development*. Her relationships with leaders of all faiths have led to her spearheading the Cape SAJBD's interfaith initiatives, such as hosting numerous United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week events, as well as her involvement in the Reconciliation Day Interfaith Walk in District Six and the CTII Heritage Day Bus Tour. Her ability to kindle relationships with Muslim, Baha'i, Hindu and Christian denominations continues to inspire and encourage cooperation.

Reverend Berry Behr, CTI chairperson wrote, "You (Gwynne) have created a deep well of compassion, acceptance, and kindness for all of our diverse interfaith components; and it is a well that will continue to nurture generations to come. What an honour to have shared some of your path."



At Mensch's Mitzvah Day

Her passion for inter-community relationships also extended to refugee communities within the Cape. She engaged with members of the Rwandan, Burundian and Congolese societies, as well as other minorities, reflecting her passion for inclusion of a diversity of peoples.

Isaiah Mombilo, Chairperson of the Congolese Civil Society praised Gwynne's commitment to refugees, "No one could value what we were doing as refugees or understand us, but Gwynne gave us this privilege. She enabled us to be a beacon of hope to our community, and she will remain in the book of history for our Congolese community."

Past Chairs, Council members, Executive Directors and colleagues all spoke of Gwynne's love of the community, her guidance, her knowledge, her wisdom, and her passion for connecting with people. Tzvi Brivik, current Chairperson of the Board, spoke of his relationship with Gwynne over the past two decades. He said, "Your breadth of knowledge and the way in which you assess current information have ensured we have remained relevant and very much in contact with our sister organisations both within and outside of the community. You are a vault of information that we hope to still access from time to time. Personally, I will miss your daily emails but I'm sure that you will enjoy your children and grandchildren now that you have more time."

At her last Council meeting (where she still took the minutes as fastidiously as ever!) she said that the most important thing for any leader to say to



Discussing interfaith initiatives for the Holy Cross Primary School Playground

an employee is 'thank you'. Although we may often want monetary compensation for our work, a few simple words of gratitude for the work one puts in are also necessary.

Ann Harris, a fellow champion of interfaith relations said, "What a way to retire — to bow out with oceans of well-deserved praise as the outstanding doyenne of the Cape Town professional community. All your colleagues and friends marvel at the encyclopaedia you carry in your memory of the Jewish history of the Cape. You have more vital knowledge at your fingertips than the entire Cape Council! It has been such a privilege to work with you on the Interfaith subcommittee, I have so admired your knowledge and your ability to put it into practice."

Daniel Bloch, Executive Director of the Board, wrote about how she assisted him during his tenure, saying, "My time with the Board has been short, however I have learnt so much from you. On many occasions, you have shared your experience and knowledge of the community. You speak with such passion that one can only admire and listen intently to each word. I appreciate your honesty and guidance and will miss our conversations."

Gwynne is the epitome of a Jewish professional. May we all strive to be as committed to our community as she is.

Farewell Gwynne!



Gwynne Robins, Stuart Diamond and Jodi Goldberg at a Winter Warmer campaign



A heartfelt tribute to Rodney Mazinter z"l

By Chaya Singer, Executive Director SAZF Cape Council

The South African Zionist Federation Cape Council mourns the passing of beloved communal leader and friend, Rodney Mazinter.

A passionate Zionist and formidable defender of Israel, Rodney's eloquent and prolific penmanship embodied the metonymic adage, 'The pen is mightier than the sword'.

In his own heartfelt words, Rodney humbly spoke of his service to the SAZF CC as, "an ardent Israel supporter, admirer and believer in Israel's people and their achievements, I have found in the SAZF Cape Council a vehicle through which I am able to play a role in support of fellow Jews living in their historical homeland. What really motivates me is that in just 74 years Israel has moved away from being another agrarian society and a haven for the Jews of Europe and the world after the Holocaust, but has gone on to more than pay their dues in being leaders of international development

in the fields of technology, business, conservation, medicine, justice and democracy. I very much want to play a role, albeit small, in this journey."

We honour the enormous and immeasurable role that Rodney played within his South African Zionist Federation journey and the Cape Jewish and broader community. His varied and valued capacities in civic and community affairs

over the years included serving as Vice-Chairman of the SA Zionist Federation Cape Council, Chairman of the SAZF Cape Council Media Committee, member of Knoetze Committee investigating pre-primary school education in SA, member of the Boshoff Pilot Committee on Parental Involvement: Department of Education, member of Advisory Committee for Education Curricula for the Department of Education, member of Teachers' Federal

Council Disciplinary Committee 1985 — 1992, member of Cape Provincial Education Council 1988 — 1991, Past executive member of Federation of Parents' Associations of South Africa, Chairman of the Open Schools Association since

its inception in 1988, Past Vice-Chairman of the Camps Bay and District Civic Association, Past Chairman and life-member of Parents' Association of the Cape Province, Past

Chairman Camps Bay Education Foundation, Past Chairman Camps Bay High School Board of Governors.

Rodney was also a dedicated member of the Rotary Club of Sea Point for 43 years; serving as the director in all four avenues of service.

Rodney had retired from his primary business as supplier of educational materials to schools, colleges and universities, and a business



management training and video production consultancy. He was also the director of Monmaz and CPI International, property investment companies.

We send our heartfelt condolences to his beloved wife Mavis, children Luisa and Jonathan and their families, and to all those who loved and respected him at the SAZF CC. May you be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Rodney, you will be sorely missed.

"an ardent Israel supporter, admirer and believer in Israel's people and their achievements"





Youth Movements roundup

Bnei Akiva — Breaking Free

Hello everybody! I hope that you are well and had a beautiful Pesach.

Bnei Akiva Cape Town ran an incredible Mini Mach with 130 people on the campsite! We had fun and meaningful *tochniot*, delicious food, a holy and united Shabbas, a hike and so much more. Since then we've continued with amazing *tochniot* once every two weeks, hosted events for Pesach, joined the community for a very meaningful Yom HaShoah and joined the community and schools for the rest of the *tamil* as well as doing our own functions. As you can see, we are very busy consistently keeping in touch with our channichim, making sure they have a constantly present role model, and a fun escape. — Eytan Labe



Bnei Akiva Mini Mach: Breaking Free!

Diller Teen Fellows — Leadership in action for Cohort 7!

Last month, the 20 Teens of Cohort 7 experienced a self-management weekend retreat at the Habonim Campsite in Onrus.

Diller offers Teens the unique experience to prepare and run their own Shabbaton — taking leadership from theory to practice. *Kol Ha'kavod* to all our Teens for the hard work and dedication they put into their leadership tasks.

As a special surprise the Teens enjoyed a silent disco *Havdallah*, making memories that will last a lifetime! — Martine Katz



The Teens of Cohort 7

Habonim — April seminar back at the campsite!

April saw yet another month of engagement, activities, chinnuch, and (most importantly in my opinion) good old-fashioned Habo fun!

Riding off the success of our Mini Mach, Habo madrichimot have been in Herzlia schools every week, visiting our chanichimot and catching up with them during their day-to-day lives. Another weekly event we haven't been missing is our FNMs for bogrimot, each one a maddie get-together to either learn a new topic or run a fun activity.

On the event-side of things, over Pesach, we ran our annual April Seminar — the first since April 2019! The seminar is run for Grade 11s and 12s, and is an exploration into their relationship with Habonim as a movement, their political identity, and how they will transition into the bogrimot body after being channichimot — an age-old challenge, but one especially made harder by the fact that there has been a gap of two years; a challenge we are sure this group is now equipped to deal with. The seminar was incredibly successful, filled with thought-provoking education, and also with friends, matza pizza, and paintball on the campsite! Our Bog 3s were on the campsite at the same time for *Shlav Bet*, the reintegration programme for our shnatties to transition back into their wider shichvah back home.

We were also privileged to team up with JDI, Netzer, and Moishe House to host an event focused on interaction between Jewish Youth across different parts of our community during Pesach.

Another community event in which we participated was the Yom Hashoah VeHagevurah commemoration at Pinelands Cemetery. Yom Hashoah is a solemn day for our chaverim. Many have personal connections of family who perished in Europe. Similarly, youth movements commemorate those who perished from their respective movements, as well as the heroes who fought against our oppression (HaGevurim!) — Dror in Poland produced the main leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising for example. It was a touching and meaningful commemoration for all who attended.

And so, what to look forward to in May? Habo is excited to commemorate and celebrate the upcoming Israeli days of importance, such as Yom Hazikaron, and Yom Ha'Atzmaut! Keep an eye out for the normal activities for channichimot and bogrimot... including a chocolate seder for Grades 3-6!

Aleah Vehagshem! — Brad Gottschalk, Rosh Channichimot



Netzer maddie seminar

As much Netzer's first event was a success, there were still improvements to be made and future planning to be done.

We decided to reach out for knowledge from previous madrichimot and have them host workshops and activities to give all our new madrichimot a proper seminar, which some of them weren't able to have due to the pandemic.

Some previous madrichimot were members of Moishe House, and this gave Netzer an opportunity to form a connection with Moishe House. We were able to host our seminar at the Moishe House residence and it has brought us as madrichimot closer as a team and closer to being the ideal leader we all aspire to be. — Ghaim Atash



Netzer's Ghaim with Moishe House's Marc

SAUJS WC spreads hummus

On 21 March, South Africa celebrated Human Rights Day and reflected the atrocities of the Sharpeville Massacre which took place 62 years ago on that day.

As students belonging to the born-free generation, it is important for us to know about the horrific events that took place, so we can prevent them happening again. In this same week, SAUJS engaged in a counter-campaign to the BDS's annual 'Israel Apartheid Week' where lies and deception about Israel are commonplace. SAUJS' counter-campaign was 'Heal Over Hate' where we engaged in meaningful debate and conversations. Miss Iraq, Sarah Idan, joined us for a talk as well as two representatives from *Stand With Us*. The highlight of our week was an event we hosted on campus called 'Spread Hummus Not Hate' where we handed out free hummus, pita and shirts and welcomed students to talk to us. Overall, it was a fantastic event and an incredibly enlightening week. — Erin Dodo



Erin Dodo, SAUJS UCT Chairperson handing out hummus to UCT students during Israel Apartheid week, encouraging peaceful dialogue

TUESDAY 3 MAY 2022

TIME: 18:30



TOGETHER WE REMEMBER



SOUTH
AFRICAN
ZIONIST
FEDERATION



הסוכנות היהודית
לארץ ישראל
ישראל
Every one of us, together.



Diller דילר
TEEN FELLOWS
Cape Town



SAUJS
SOUTH AFRICAN UNION OF JEWISH STUDENTS



THURSDAY 5 MAY 2022

TIME: GATES OPEN 16:30

TICKETS: RIDER R80 | NON RIDER R60 | CHILDREN UNDER 3 - FREE



FOOD! RIDES! MUSIC! AND LOTS MORE...

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE TOGETHER AGAIN!

For more info contact Yvette 021 464 6714 or sazfevents@ctjc.co.za



SOUTH
AFRICAN
ZIONIST
FEDERATION
CAPE COUNCIL



ISRAEL CENTRE
SOUTH AFRICA





Empowering the youth through education

As former President Nelson Mandela astutely said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Education is part of the fabric of the South African Jewish community, and at Telfed, we continue to uphold these values through the services and programmes available to ex-South Africans living in Israel.

For Tali, a new 25-year-old olah from Johannesburg, studying after school

was a pipedream. Soon after making Aliyah, she met with Yael Strausz, Telfed's Employment advisor, who explained the opportunities available to her through the Ministry of Aliyah and Integration and the Student Authority¹. "I am applying for different universities and focusing on improving my Hebrew now," said Tali. "Young olim have amazing opportunities for a bright future."

A new door has opened for South African students who wish to study medicine with the launch of a pre-med

degree in English at Ariel University. "On completion of the three-year pre-med degree, students can then apply for a four-year postgraduate medical degree at the Medical School of International Health at Ben Gurion University, with acceptance dependent on MCAT scores and a personal interview," said Telfed CEO Dorron Kline, whose dream of a seven-year medical degree in Israel, in English, has now been realised.

On 25 March 2022, over 400 Telfed scholarship recipients attended Telfed's annual scholarship ceremony in Tel Aviv. Telfed's scholarship programmes include PRAS (a volunteer-based programme), the Samson SASI (South Africans Studying in Israel) programme, and scholarships allocated based on proven financial need to Israelis of South African lineage.

Through these programmes, education extends beyond the classroom with a volunteering component. For South African students who receive a SASI scholarship, participation in social, cultural and volunteer



SASI students participated in a Telfed beach clean up in Netanya to mark Good Deeds Day.

activities inculcates an awareness of Israeli culture and society that can't be learned from a textbook. In April, SASI students attended a fascinating sensory awareness event at Nalaga'at in Tel Aviv with dinner in the dark, following by a sign language workshop.

In his address to students at the Annual Scholarship Ceremony, Telfed Chairman Robby Hilkowitz said, "Education is the single most important factor for personal advancement and, therefore, it is incumbent on us to help others and give back to society, thereby making our own happiness less transient".



Over 400 Telfed scholarship recipients attended Telfed's Annual Scholarship Ceremony on 25 March 2022 in Tel Aviv.

¹ For more information about integration, education, job opportunities and other klita (absorption) related questions, please be in touch with our team (daniela@telfed.org.il). Telfed offers free career and klita counselling both before and after your Aliyah. www.telfed.org.il

Family Announcements

BEREAVEMENT

LES BULKIN

Les, aged 94, originally from Pretoria, passed away on Monday 28 February 2022 at Humber River Hospital in Toronto, Canada.

Beloved husband, for one day short of 65 years, of Gertie, 98.

Loving father and father-in-law of Ron and Marianne Fehler, Elana Fehler, Howard Bulkin, Carol Poplak and Lionel Bulkin. Devoted 'Oupops' of Mandy and Noah, David, Jolene and Robert, Kerryn and Jeff, Mark and Diana, Michael and Janelle, Lauren, Ashton, Seth, great-grandfather of Chloe, Avery, Sadie, Maude, Paxton, Sloan, Jordana, Cameron, Quinn, Isaac and Evan.

Les will also be sadly missed by his extended family and friends.

A personal message can be emailed to elana.fehler@rogers.com



CONSECRATION

In loving memory of my mother

ROSALIND MOW (NEE JUDES)

28/6/28 – 2/8/20

Born Cape Town, South Africa.

The tombstone will be erected on 8 May 2022 at Chevra Kadisha Cemetery, Browns Road, Springvale, Vic, Australia

Compartment 22 X Grave 32

Raymond Mow – raymow52@gmail.com

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



The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute situates leadership in time. Our Jewish calendar offers us leadership perspectives in time.

Pesach educates all generations to opt in: *Le Dor Va Dor* is an inter-generational injunction — to stand up and be present, now and for the future. Lessons of the past lay the platform for the future. True freedom requires purpose and responsibility for our generation and for those that follow.

The festival of Shavuot reveals the manual for Torah observances, and it also marks how a whole people took on the covenantal commitment of shared values, individually and collectively, with: a shared history and identity; mutual responsibility and compassion; and a shared obligation for action, highlighting the always present potential for development and improvement. Shavuot reminds us each year to recommit to our covenant to strengthen community and invest as a link in the chain of time.

Opt in to our database and follow us on social media





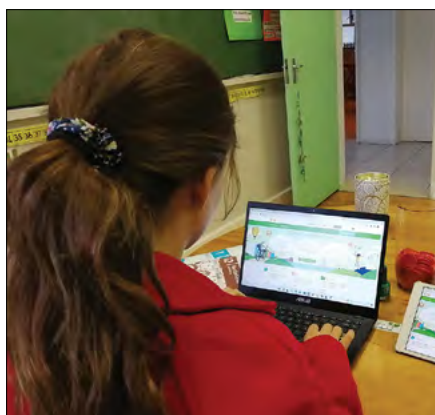
The benefit of using IT for children with special needs

By Aimée Chiat, Founder/Director Head Teacher

The benefit of using IT in the classroom has been debated many times over the last decade or so. At Salisbury House we have explored using online Maths and English programmes with some of our older children who have special needs.

We have found that this opens a window of opportunity for these students to both engage with academic content more independently, and also to learn a life skill, such as data-capturing, emailing and typing.

We are currently using IXL, which has a South African syllabus, including using South African money in its Mathematics syllabus. The student is able to click on each question and it is read aloud, which takes away the added challenge of reading the question, along with figuring out the answer. The visual cues of online programmes are more aesthetically pleasing than a regular text book and they are often interactive. Above all, working on a laptop effectively gives students with special needs a sense of autonomy and an opportunity to enter the regular job market later in life.



Engaging with IXL to facilitate maths learning



Using Starfall for phonics and reading development



Thank you and mazaltov!

By Shelley Trope-Friedman, President, WIZO South Africa

As the President of WIZO South Africa, I would like to record a special word of thanks and Mazal Tov to both the outgoing and the incoming Chairmen of WIZO Cape Town.

Janene Currie, I thank you for your years of faithfulness and dedication. You have served WIZO Cape Town as the Chairman with all of your heart and we so appreciate all that you have accomplished.

Hila Zetler, as you take on the role as the new Chairman of WIZO Cape Town, I wish you every success and much joy and fulfilment in your position. I know that you have much to contribute and I am confident that you will do a great job!



I am inspired by all our WIZO ladies and commend them all for their hard work in assisting troubled children, abused women and Ukrainian refugees in Israel.

Lastly, it is with a heavy heart that I express on behalf of WIZO South Africa that we are deeply saddened by the passing of Rodney Mazinter. Rodney was a steadfast friend and supporter of WIZO — always attending our events and donating generously to our projects — and an active advocate for Israel. He served faithfully over the years to defend Israel and speak the truth. Rodney was a man of great integrity, enormous empathy, endless courage and tenacity in all that he did. WIZO South Africa will always remember his counsel and valuable contributions. A bright light has gone out and the world is a lesser place without him. WIZO South Africa wishes long life to Rodney's wife Mavis, children Luisa and Jonathan and their families. May Rodney's memory be a blessing.

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

It is a common misconception that European citizenship and EU passports can only be obtained if one has documents proving one's lineage. This is not true! Jews of Ashkenazi heritage can qualify through documents obtained in Lithuania or Poland, and Jews of Sephardi heritage need no proof at all!

Adv. Avi Horesh has been operating in the South African market with the Jewish community since March 2018. He visits South Africa regularly, and can meet in-person with anyone interested in pursuing an EU passport.

He has found that the majority of South African Jews are descended from Jews who were entitled to European citizenship, and that they are therefore entitled to claim this right, and accordingly obtain an EU passport.

ASHKENAZI: This advert refers to Jews of Polish and Lithuanian heritage only. It is most important to understand that prior to the end of WWI, the European map was very different to the one we know today. Poland and Lithuania did not exist as independent countries, and until 1918 these territories were known as Lithuanian or Polish regions/counties of the Russian empire. Accordingly, until 1918, residents of



these territories were Russian citizens, as Polish and Lithuanian citizenships didn't exist. Therefore, applications for reinstatement of these citizenships can only be made by those whose ancestor left Europe after 1918. Those whose ancestor left before 1918 will not be eligible.

Additionally, since borders in Europe were shifted once again during and after WWII, one's eligibility for Polish or Lithuanian citizenship depends on the city from which his/her ancestor hailed.

Horesh explains, "Shifted borders resulted in cities changing nationalities, and the resultant effect for descendants of Jews who left Vilnius for example, is that their application for Lithuanian citizenship will be declined; whereas a similar

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

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



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

Adv. Avi Horesh is an Israeli attorney, who lived in Poland for seven years. He is recognised in Israel as one of the leading lawyers in the field of reinstatement of European citizenship. Horesh has an in-depth knowledge and a full understanding of European immigration laws.

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

My travel schedule has been postponed due to COVID-19. I plan to be back in Cape Town June/July 2022. I'm offering to review and advise your case for free. You are most welcome to contact me on adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com or WhatsApp +48783953223



“I know when it’s time to step back and let someone else lead” — paying tribute to outgoing UJC treasurer David Resnick

A tribute from Barry Levitt, Executive Director UJC

David’s concern for the wellbeing of the community is evident in the invaluable support he garners for the UJC from the Trusts he represents.

Being quick-witted and with a sense of humour to boot, David has provided light relief in many a meeting when heated debate has taken place. His affable demeanour and sound logic made him a dependable member of our EXCO meetings, of which he missed very few.

The commitment and enormous amount of time David has spent over the last 17 years as the Treasurer of the UJC is commendable and is an example to the younger members of our community. We are immensely grateful to him for his guidance and dedication.

A prouder husband, father and grandfather you will not find. David just celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary with his wife Lynette — ‘soul mate for 46 years’. They have 3 children, Brandon, Gary and Estee and two beautiful grandchildren — all currently living abroad in the US and Israel. David has often proclaimed, ‘Our children and grandchildren are our gift from Hashem’.

David is a true mensch. We wish him well in all his future endeavours.

David Resnick is not your average bright-eyed, bushy-tailed community leader. Instead, he is an unrepentant realist; someone who recognises the intense challenges and difficulties of the job, and the sacrifices necessary to carry it out.

David has worked as a community volunteer leader for decades. But it certainly wasn’t a natural calling. On the contrary, he actively tried to avoid communal involvement, having seen the effect it had on his late father.

“My father [Bennie] was known as ‘Mr Community,’” David recalls. “He was trustee and president of the Gardens Shul and active in all manner of communal affairs. But the weight of his community work bore heavily on him — the issues he dealt with on a daily basis and the problems he encountered.

“I promised myself never to get involved. But I guess I must have forgotten, because all the things I swore I would never do, I did.”

And yet despite his reluctance, his active shunning of the limelight, David Resnick has been a true community soldier. Indeed, he has spent so long in the trenches, serving on the UJC executive committee and as the organisation’s treasurer, he can’t even recall when exactly he started.

David began his life as a community volunteer in that staple for the civically-minded parent — the school PTA.

“I’m not really sure how it happened — somebody twisted my arm, I saw the need, filled the role, then just rolled with it. Before I knew it, I was Herzlia Middle School PTA treasurer and then UHS executive treasurer for five years.”

The latter role was particularly challenging, requiring David to navigate a series of complex, highly sensitive issues. One of the most challenging, he says, was the formation of the UHS teachers’ union.

“We had to balance the books, and ensure, at the same time, that the teachers were fairly remunerated, that we retained our staff, and that everyone was happy. However, I quickly learnt that a good deal means both

sides are unhappy — that became my mantra for resolving these kinds of conflicts. That is the true meaning of compromise.”

Unsurprisingly, David regards compromise as the cornerstone of communal affairs.

“You can solve any issue no matter how heated. As long as you listen and take everyone’s perspective into account — and not just talk over people — reasonable compromises are always possible.”

It wasn’t always easy. Especially since, as treasurer, the buck literally stopped with him.



“I took a few blows on the chin, but I soldiered on, because I’m a fighter not a quitter.”

Of course it hasn’t always been stressful and relentless. Along the way David has made lifelong friends and shared many great memories.

“My fondest memories are of post-meeting debriefings in the parking lot with my colleagues, that’s when the actual strategising starts, when the real magic happens. Some meetings would end at 10pm and I’d only get home at 12.”

David’s conscientiousness, together with his reluctance to occupy the limelight, meant that, with each leadership role, he would hand over the reins “as soon as I found someone I could rely on who could do the job better.”

“I think I’ve always been a team player,” he says. Everything I’ve accomplished has been a collaborative effort. I’m not in it for the kavod, and thankfully I’ve never needed praise or a pat on the back to do the work I need to do.”

Indeed, David has brought this same loyalty and dedication to his professional career.

“I don’t have much of a CV because I’ve only had one job my whole life,” he says. “I joined Mazars — which was called Baker Rabkin at the time — on temporary assignment in June 1976. I’m still there 46 years later.”

David is proud of having worked with many outstanding leaders over the years. The Cape Town Jewish community is known worldwide for being well run, and he says it “has been an honour to serve this amazing collective.”

And what now for David Resnick? Is the man who swore all those years ago never to be involved in communal work finally going to fulfill that promise to himself?

“Not really,” he says with a smile. “I’ll still be involved in a few foundations and organisations. This will give me some breathing space. You have to know when it’s time to step back and let someone else lead.

“I’m sure my Dad would be proud of my involvement,” he adds. “And that’s all the reward I need.”



David with his beloved grandchildren

Interview by Simon Apfel

Consider This

Honouring the living

By Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani



"And from the day on which you bring the sheaf (omer) of elevation offering — the day after the sabbath — you shall count off seven weeks. They must be complete: you must count until the day after the seventh week — fifty days; then you shall bring an offering of new grain to the Eternal" (Leviticus 23:15-16).

The commandment to count seven complete weeks from the second day of Pesach to the day before Shavuot establishes a ritual link between the two festivals. This palpable connection between the Festival of Human Freedom and the anniversary of the receiving of the Ten Utterances at Mount Sinai makes us aware of the importance of the governance of society by rules of behaviour that preserve human rights and guarantee true liberty from oppression.

The period of *sefirat ha-omer* (The Counting of the Omer) is characterised in rabbinic literature as a time of semi-mourning. The Talmud (Yevamoth 62b) mentions that a plague decimated Rabbi Akiva's twenty-four-thousand disciples because they did not treat each other with respect. The *Shulchan Arukh* (Orach Chayyim 493.1) claims that this took place during *sefirat ha-omer* and thus ruled that one should refrain from marrying at least until the thirty-third day of the omer. Later the cutting of one's hair and the playing of music was also banned during the seven weeks preceding Shavuot, with the exception of *lag ba-omer* and the two *roshei chodesh* that occur during this period.

While based on a legend, the reason for these restrictions is a source of an important truth. We, as a Jewish community are often more concerned about the important concept of *kibud ha-met* (honouring the dead) than the equally, or dare I say it, more important, concept of *kibud ha-chai* (honouring the living). We are very punctilious about mourning a beloved departed by observing all the ritual involved with bereavement, and rightly so. But it saddens me that we are often guilty of degrading and demeaning the living. We are often intolerant of those who are different, either physically or mentally, or who express different points of view.

The beauty of both biblical and rabbinic tradition is the accommodation of alternative opinions and practices. Thus the Book of Ezra expresses the view that it is not possible for a person to convert to Judaism (Ezra 9 and 10) while the Book of Ruth recognises and even applauds the possibility of conversion to Judaism, an opinion that is accepted by all streams of Judaism. The Torah expresses the notion that children shall be punished for the wrongdoings of their parents (Exodus 34:7) while the Prophet Ezekiel declares, "The person who sins, he alone shall die. A child shall not share the burden of a parent's guilt, nor shall a parent share the burden of a child's guilt; the righteousness of the righteous shall be accounted to him alone, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be accounted to him alone" (Ezekiel 18:20).

Both the Mishnah and Talmud are well-known for recording the minority opinion along with that of the majority. Although the *halakhah* is always legislated according to the majority opinion, the sages were careful to respect their colleagues who differed in their interpretation of the biblical text or law, by not assigning their ideas to the metaphorical rubbish heap but including them in the definitive source of *halakhic* authority.

Rabbis Hillel and Shammai are always used as ultimate examples of scholars who disagreed with each other's views in a healthy manner that avoided shaming the opponent. Such care and tact led to their *halakhic* disagreements being classified by the Mishnah as *machalokot leshem shamayim* (disputes for the sake of heaven) — that is 'well-meaning disputes'. These two great teachers sparred with each other on the intellectual battlefield but co-operated with each other on a personal and professional level (Hillel was *nasi* [President] of the bet din and Shammai was *av bet din*, [Father of the bet din]).

We are privileged to live in a city and a country which is inhabited by a diverse and multi-cultural population, and our Jewish community contains many interpretations of Judaism, ranging from ultra-Orthodox to secular. As we count the days and weeks leading up to Shavuot and the anniversary of receiving the life-affirming principles of Judaism (and indeed western society), let us learn the lesson of the legend of the plague that struck the students of Rabbi Akiva: In a free society we have a right to disagree and debate but this right should never be exercised at the expense of preserving the dignity of all human beings (including those with whom we disagree). We must commit ourselves to the Jewish tradition of healthy argument *leshem shamayim*.

Green Point quiz night

An excellent evening was enjoyed together in-person for Temple Israel Green Point's annual quiz night. Thanks to John and Liz, our fantastic quiz masters, all our sponsors for the wonderful prizes, the Green Point council for all their hard work and to everyone who joined us for an evening of fun, laughter and a bit of competition.



Rabbi Emma, Dr Anastacia Tomson, Mathilda Myburgh and Jacqui Benson-Mabombo



Gina Fredman-Jacobson, Gabriella Saven, Zena Kruss van der Heever, Candice Fortuin, Rachael Sara and William Rivlin

Purim

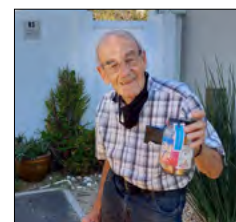
Purim 5782 at Temple Israel once again did not disappoint, with a fun filled kids event, a full egalitarian megillah reading with adult Purim party and mishloach manot deliveries.



Purim fun!



Mahlodi Montlha and Alida Conradie

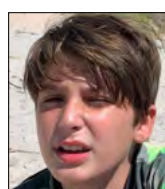


Michael Goldman receiving his mishloach manot

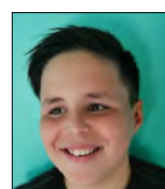


Friends enjoying Purim

Mazaltov to last month's Bnei Mitzvah!



2 April
Hillel Walker



9 April
Joshua Lyons



23 April
Jake Dave



30 April
Adam Katz



AN INITIATIVE OF JCS CAPE TOWN

THE JCS TIKVAH FOODBANK

GINA WINKLER
Tikvah Foodbank Coordinator

My journey with the Foodbank started in 2020 when COVID-19 pandemic first hit. I had been working in the events industry for the past 18 years and all events shut down immediately as we went into Lockdown. Like so many from my industry, I found myself with an abundance of free hours, and felt the need to do something to give back to our community and to keep myself busy. Little did I know, I would eventually be working full time for the Foodbank! I absolutely love my new job and the family that I work with at Jewish Community Services.

I first started volunteering, packing food parcels for 239 individuals – half the number of clients we currently assist. Our community was hit hard during Covid and our numbers have increased dramatically. We now deliver to 504 recipients in a monthly cycle and have grown to over 40 volunteer drivers, who give of their time unconditionally. Each month, our recipients receive three deliveries. The first delivery they receive contains their monthly groceries, items included are tea, coffee, sugar, tinned foods along with toiletries and cleaning material. The second and third deliveries are for fresh fruit and vegetables including, bread challah and eggs. We have incredible donors, who sponsor meals, and clients get so excited when they receive these meals, which are sometimes included in the delivery. I continually inform the community, family and friends about the Foodbank and what is distributed, some who completely unaware of the crisis many are facing post Covid – evident by the increase of individuals requiring support and the demand for the generous parcels that our clients receive.

Our work at the Foodbank is handled with the utmost confidentiality and respect for our clients. We do not share client details and for complete confidentiality, each client is issued with a Foodbank number. We talk in client

numbers only, never mentioning names. We are passionate about maintaining this confidentiality for our clients. The Foodbank is a happy space for all of us. Along with my volunteer-based committee (Lauren Cohn, Chairperson, Lauren Todes, Nicki Wingerin and Shelley Jocum) we meet our volunteers at the Foodbank every week to pack parcels. Funds are diminishing and we source items via three quotes to ensure we are spending the monies wisely.

Our Volunteer base is growing and everyone who assists goes about their work with passion and commitment. It is a very special space – full of love, care and commitment to community.

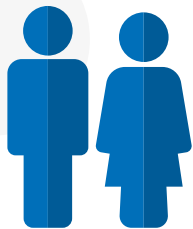
Community members often ask me if we need help and if so, how? The answer is a resounding Yes!!

There are so many ways to help; you can assist by donating your time – to pack parcels or to deliver parcels. Financial donations are always much appreciated as well as purchasing of items that we include in our Foodbank parcels. I invite you to come visit The Foodbank to see what we are all about. We would love to welcome you into our special place, a space where we ensure our community is fed and looked after at all times, with passion and dedication. **Please email gina@jcs.org.za if you would like to arrange a visit to the Foodbank.**



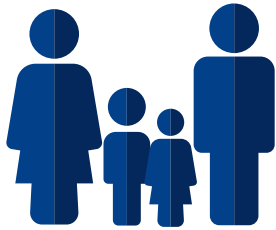
R1010.00

Cost per month for a Tikvah Foodbank parcel for an **individual recipient**.



R1572.00

Cost per month for a Tikvah Foodbank parcel for a **recipient couple**.



R2350.00

Cost per month for a Tikvah Foodbank parcel for a **recipient family of 4-6 people**.

HOW HAS THE NEED INCREASED?

2019

239 People
274 Hampers

2020

439 People
644 Hampers

2021

540 People
777 Hampers

2022

504 People
777 Hampers

Visit our website www.jcs.org.za





Cape Jewish Seniors Association

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

Our doors are always open

CJSA members have enjoyed many events, where they were able to socialise and see friends whilst maintaining all COVID protocols.

Each branch celebrated Purim with wonderful entertainment and lunches. We also hosted our first interbranch lunch in Wynberg with the band *Shades of the Shadows* playing old favourites. Members danced to the music, and sat clapping to the tunes; and then enjoyed wonderful fellowship and a delicious meal prepared by Avrons.

Out of the blue, we received a call from Tony Bentel, a pianist, currently performing at The Baxter. He offered to visit our centres and entertain our members, and we managed to host two great musical mornings in our Sea Point and Milnerton homes.

As a special service, Pesach meals were delivered to our members' homes, courtesy of our wonderful volunteers. Thank you for the incredible donations received from generous members of our community to our *Merle's Meals* initiative. We were able to ensure that every member was able to celebrate Pesach properly. Obviously, those who could afford the service could also order and enjoy the meal, which was prepared by Berkies at Checkers.

There are still a number of our members who are reticent about returning to our normal activities. Below are some suggestions that might make it easier to reintegrate, as you test the waters and assess your feelings of mixing, and joining activities and outings:

- Plan ahead so that you can know what to expect. If you have concerns, call ahead to the venue to ensure that you are comfortable with the safety protocols.
- Manage your stress. Remember that everyone experiences stress in a different way, and you need to find a way of lessening your stress levels with a strategy that works for you.
- Take it slow. Go at a pace that makes you feel comfortable. You can't expect to go at the pace you did prior to Covid, so take it easy and feel comfortable as you reintegrate.
- Our social workers are there for you every step of the way, to help you feel comfortable and assist you in getting back to normal — integrating and enjoying socialisation.



Art Class in Sea Point



Purim lunch in Milnerton



Hajiera Safdien-Maloon and Rosebeth Becker at Post Card Cafe in Stellenbosch



Southern Suburbs members enjoying Purim



Southern Suburbs interbranch lunch and concert



Milnerton members enjoyed an outing to Quince restaurant



99-year-old Miriam Herzfield enjoying Purim in Sea Point



New member Gail Shorkend at the Purim party in Sea Point



Milnerton members enjoyed an outing to Evita se Peron in Darling

Social and Personal

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

Engagement: Eunice Mofsowitz — Grandson

Marriage: Rabbi and Rebbetzin Wineberg — Daughter

Special Birthday wishes to: Sybil Castle — 80th, Keillie Gross — 97th

Batmitzvah: Phyllis Friedlander — Great-Grandson, Rabbi and Rebbetzin Popack — Grandson, Arona and Mervyn Shrand — Grandson

We welcome new members: Roleen Lampel, Regine Friedmann, Dr Stan Katzeff, Naomi Stone, Sue Katz, Dr Bennie Krengel, Roberta Sandenbergh

Wishes of strength to those who are not well: Monica Jacobson

MENSCH THOUGHT-LEADER OF THE MONTH

By Abigail Smith

Working in mental health: A Jewish journey

I was brought up in a Jewish home driven by a sense of activism and community service. I have always wanted to find a way to express these values in my working life.



In 2006 I was based in Cape Town and working in advertising. I had doubts about working in the advertising industry but was unsure what to do next.

As part of the job, I was invited to a workshop run by the World Wildlife Fund who happened to be a client. The discussion focussed on changing people's lives by improving farming techniques. It was a beautiful combination of the practical and the ethical. That workshop gave me the clarity I needed and I knew then that I would build a new career in the NGO sector.

This was roughly at the same time that the South Africa government refused to admit that HIV caused AIDS. Millions were dying needlessly, without medicine or basic human rights. I applied for a one-year contract job with the Community Media Trust, working in and around Southern Africa on their HIV treatment literacy projects. It was hard work and involved coming face-to-face with the intense reality of human suffering.

I was a white Jewish girl from Sea Point working in townships and urban areas across the country, and the work gave me a very sharp awareness of my privilege. It took me several years and several jobs within the NGO sector before I was able to manage my feeling of being an impostor. In reality, such a feeling is never fully resolved when working in South Africa.

Notwithstanding this harsh truth, I've learned that no matter how real my insecurities, no matter how hopeless things feel, it does no good when such feelings become an obstacle to making the world a better place. As it says in *Pirkei Avot*, "You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."

Five years after moving into the non-profit sector, I changed from HIV treatment literacy to a job in education with the NaliBali Trust, a leading national literacy programme. The work involved less travelling around the country and was a more practical option if I wanted to start a family.

Then, during 2021, a friend sent me a job posting for the Executive Director at Lifeline in the Western Cape. I knew quite quickly that I wanted to work there. It's my opinion that — HOW we ensure quality community mental health — is the next public health frontier in South Africa.

As with any other sector, mental health needs funds, but it also needs something else — it needs to be championed and, where possible, given an equal footing with other health issues. My main objective as Executive Director is to ensure that mental health never falls into the background when it comes to the welfare of those most vulnerable.

NGO work is unstable and often dependent on the whims of funders. Over the years I've considered going back to a corporate job, something more 'secure'. It's not an easy career path but, at this point in my life, I've decided that the rewards outweigh the risks. Yes there are challenges, some of them very serious and disheartening. But there are many days where the work is enjoyable and even fun. Above all, the work is consistently meaningful.

As a pupil at Herzlia I gained a range of skills that come from being in an enabling environment. Skills such as being able to think critically; and to apply knowledge when you know how... and to admit when you don't know. As many reading this will be aware, I am far from a unique example in the South African Jewish community. There are many of us out there, veterans of the youth movements and day schools. We remain in this country and are working to change systemic inequalities whether in the NGO sector or by other means. We almost all share a core foundational experience — that of an ethical Jewish family life and education. I believe that it is this foundation that has compelled us to build careers on that eternal indestructible golden rule: do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

I feel proud and at home when I interact with my Jewish brothers and sisters in the NGO sector.

Abigail Smith is a valued member of Jewish Social Justice NGO, Mensch. To find out more about Lifeline Western Cape, visit www.lifelinewc.org.za

astra**Helping you helps us!**

Astra Workers enjoyed a wonderful celebration for Purim with fabulous music by Gabriel Shai. There was lots of dancing, singing, plenty of fun and delicious food to eat. Visiting Cape Town Torah High learners added to the festivities and happy mood of the day.



Helping you helps us!

As part of the therapeutic benefit of keeping our workers occupied, we undertake contract work and offer a quality service at highly affordable and competitive prices. We gladly accept large orders for jobs involving repetitive tasks such as:

Labelling • Folding • Filling envelopes • Packaging/wrapping for wholesalers and retail stores • Bar-coding packaged goods • Confidential paper-shredding service for small businesses

These tasks are available at a negotiated price and are achievable to a deadline. Our enthusiastic workforce will complete your orders timeously, efficiently and cost effectively.

Businesses requiring such services and who wish to support us can contact us on 021 465 4200 to discuss the feasibility of taking on a specific task.

Collaboration

Fundraising Campaign
Projects

Groups Outreach
Community
Stonehaven

Kensington ECD

Annual Events

**The UJW Cape Town
takes great pleasure in
inviting you to our
89th AGM**

Date: 12 May

Time: 10am

Venue: Stonehaven

A donation to our projects
would be greatly
appreciated. eg. non
perishable foods wool or
winter clothing/accessories



Women of Action

RSVP: 6 May 2022
Call 0214349555 or
email
admin@ujwcape.co.za



MENSCH EMPOWERING JEWISH PEOPLE, CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE FOR ALL

Meet the Members

Introducing three of our Mensch Members, Southern Africa's largest network of Jewish social change-makers. Network members are Jewish people who are committed to working with beneficiaries across broader South Africa to help bring social justice to all.

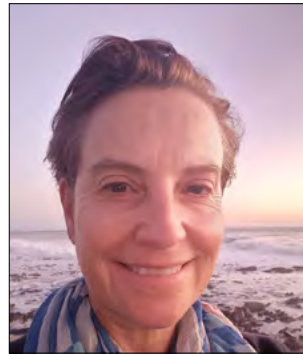
Being a member of Mensch opens doors to productive networking opportunities; subsidised leadership and skills training; education, awareness and advocacy support, project collaboration; donor visibility; and community volunteering. Through these services Mensch supports the transformational work of our community members who contribute daily to provide opportunity to those in South Africa who have less.

Abigail Smith is the new Executive Director of Lifeline Western Cape. Lifeline's vision for over 50 years has been to offer all a safe space of caring counselling excellence.



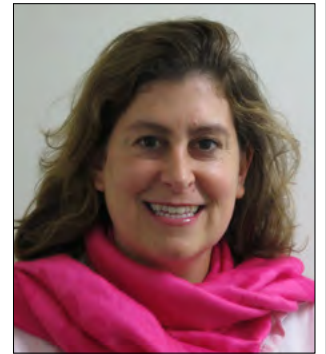
Abigail began her career in international development and public health in Southern Africa 15 years ago. She is passionate about communities in need — helping them to achieve equality in access to public health and advocacy for their human rights. Her expertise spans areas of HIV treatment literacy, dementia, mental health and other noncommunicable diseases (NCDs).

Rachael Glaser is a freelance grant writer, qualitative evaluation researcher, and technical writer.



Her consulting work has traversed the NGO and Government sectors. She is a qualified Speech Therapist and has an MA in International Social Development. Rachael has represented South Africa at the United Nations Commission of Science and Technology for Development. She has worked on projects for local NGOs including Ikamva Labantu and the Kolisi Foundation, and multilateral organisations such as the OECD and WHO.

Simone Honikman has a medical degree and an MPhil in Maternal and Child Health, and has worked in the fields of psychiatry, paediatrics, obstetrics and gynaecology, and HIV medicine.



In 2002, she co-founded the Perinatal Mental Health Project (PMHP), to address widespread common mental health conditions among antenatal and postpartum women who live in communities where poverty, gender inequality, violence and social isolation are rampant. PMHP focuses on cost-effective, evidence-based prevention and management approaches to reduce psychological distress and promote emotional wellbeing and human development.

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](#).

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

It is a common misconception that European citizenship and EU passports can only be obtained if one has documents proving one's lineage. This is not true! Jews of Ashkenazi heritage can qualify through documents obtained in Lithuania or Poland, and Jews of Sephardi heritage need no proof at all!

Adv. Avi Horesh has been operating in the South African market with the Jewish community since March 2018. He visits South Africa regularly, and can meet in-person with anyone interested in pursuing an EU passport.

He has found that the majority of South African Jews are descended from Jews who were entitled to European citizenship, and that they are therefore entitled to claim this right, and accordingly obtain an EU passport.

ASHKENAZI: This advert refers to Jews of Polish and Lithuanian heritage only. It is most important to understand that prior to the end of WWI, the European map was very different to the one we know today. Poland and Lithuania did not exist as independent countries, and until 1918 these territories were known as Lithuanian or Polish regions/counties of the Russian empire. Accordingly, until 1918, residents of



these territories were Russian citizens, as Polish and Lithuanian citizenships didn't exist. Therefore, applications for reinstatement of these citizenships can only be made by those whose ancestor left Europe after 1918. Those whose ancestor left before 1918 will not be eligible.

Additionally, since borders in Europe were shifted once again during and after WWII, one's eligibility for Polish or Lithuanian citizenship depends on the city from which his/her ancestor hailed.

Horesh explains, "Shifted borders resulted in cities changing nationalities, and the resultant effect for descendants of Jews who left Vilnius for example, is that their application for Lithuanian citizenship will be declined; whereas a similar

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

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



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

Adv. Avi Horesh is an Israeli attorney, who lived in Poland for seven years. He is recognised in Israel as one of the leading lawyers in the field of reinstatement of European citizenship. Horesh has an in-depth knowledge and a full understanding of European immigration laws.

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

My travel schedule has been postponed due to COVID-19. I plan to be back in Cape Town June/July 2022. I'm offering to review and advise your case for free. You are most welcome to contact me on adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com or WhatsApp +48783953223

BOOKS

The Lightness of Air by Angela Miller-Rothbart

Review by Beryl Eichenberger, book reviewer, interviewer and broadcaster, member of the JLF organising committee since 2016

Retirement is a time that some of us dread, while others grab and pursue passions that have had to take a back seat during our working years.

So it was with Angela Miller-Rothbart whose passion for writing was the kickstart to joining a writing group with the idea of writing a blog. Alongside that, a passion for people led her to join the Cape Town Jewish Seniors Association. There she met a Holocaust survivor, some years her senior, but whose vitality matched Angela's and they became firm friends. We are natural storytellers and, as with all friendships, it is part of the process to share our personal stories at some stage, and Angela's friend started opening up to her.

Her story captured Angela's imagination and, "it started living with me, it hung around me all the time." Still intent on writing a blog, she was pushed by her writing facilitator to write this story, and what started as a short story began to morph into a novella and then a full-length novel. Angela hastens to add "It is not my friend's story, but so much of what she told me created the platform for the novel, which is a tapestry of many stories. The characters moved in with me, becoming part of my family, to the extent that I could not sleep at night. It was as though they were telling me what to write, almost as if I was a channel for them. Even now they haven't gone home — I can still go to them and disappear into their lives."

The Lightness of Air took three years to write, and after much consultation with writers and friends, publishing was the next goal — a daunting task for any writer but for someone in their 70s, perhaps even more terrifying. But the redoubtable Angela was not about to give up.

The result is evocative and authentic — a novel that will grasp you and not let you go until the last page as you journey with a Bergen-Belsen survivor. The writing will sweep you along in the waves of loss, survival and happiness — a reminder that happiness is of one's own making.



Angela Miller-Rothbart

There are many Holocaust novels, some better than others, but each a reminder of the resilience of the human spirit and the will to live. Each has its place in keeping memory alive and passing on a legacy to future generations, as the last of the survivors pass on. At the Jewish Literary Festival in 2018, author, editor

and publisher Jane Raphaely gave a session on books as a legacy for our children to better understand their Jewish identity. I would include this book on that list. Lest we forget...

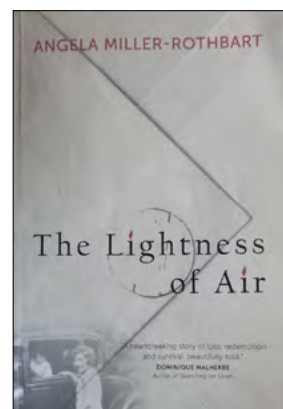
It is a writer's skill to hook us on the first page and so it was when I started *The Lightness of Air*. As the book opens we meet Holocaust survivor Helena Jablonski in 1990. It is afternoon and Helena is at her desk, contemplating what has arrived that day... *'It has been there all day. The long white envelope is weathered with age, the familiar script on the front faded but still legible. That and the foreign stamp, indicate to her what it is certain to contain.'*

And so we are enticed into this story of love and courage... *'She is aware that the contents could alter her life, and she knows how swiftly the world can tumble and change.'* As she muses: *'This is my connection with past and present, but will it deepen old wounds?'*

Helena, from a privileged Polish Jewish family, is incarcerated in Bergen-Belsen. As liberation dawns she is reunited with her closest friend Sofia. The two struggle to the American Zone in their attempt to get to Palestine. Both their futures will be shaped by the kindness of those trying to help the displaced, hollow survivors. Helena is billeted with the motherly Rachel who becomes her lifelong friend. Max Harris, the young American volunteer plays a pivotal role, and we meet new characters who influence and enrich. We travel from Poland to Paris, New York and the Middle East, and Paarl, where Angela herself was brought up. Each stop brings richness and new lessons into Helena's shattered life. It is a testament to resilience, to grabbing opportunity, to opening one's arms to friends who become family.

The empathy and tenderness in this story will resonate with families across the world. Many survivors were unable to speak of their experiences, and so it is with gratitude that we are able to journey with this courageous young woman. Navigating a life post-camp, post-war and across continents to find some peace from her horrific losses, the winding path through the decades is rich and engaging and heart-rending. How survivors of the worst horrors faced a future is hard to assimilate. Angela articulates the basic tenets of loss, love and happiness with a rhythmic prose that is mesmerising.

She has adeptly created the backstories of the main characters. Many of us are descendants of immigrants who escaped pogroms, poverty and war to make a better life for future generations. We were brought up with the stories, we understand the importance of the treasures passed from generation to generation,



we learned about persecution.

Shifting effortlessly from present to past, Angela has created these immigrant families, their hardships, their precious heirlooms, the continuation of their Jewish lives, their successes and sorrows in an ineffable atmosphere that brings the reader into their

homes. Above all the novel is a story of hope and forgiveness while never sidestepping the horrors of the war and the painful blocks on which a survivor rebuilds their shattered life.

Asked if there is another novel in the making Angela says, 'I do feel there is an empty space and I am missing my happy place... but I am waiting for the characters to leave me, let go and then I can pick up the pieces.'

Steve Linde, Editor-in-Chief of the *Jerusalem Report* notes, "This is a poignant, quintessentially Jewish story which is beautifully written..." I could not agree more.

The Lightness of Air by Angela Miller-Rothbart is published by Texture. It will be available in all good book stores in June. The Jacob Gitlin Library has copies for borrowing.

Fine Music Radio 101.3 will be broadcasting a review of this book on 6 June in Book Choice from 12 to 1pm. The programme will be podcast later on www.fmr.co.za/podcasts/

Melton Moments in May

Melton

Midrasha ONLINE Brings you:



PROPHECY:
4 lessons by
Ronnie Gotkin:
Visions of the
Prophets Still
Resonate



BOOK CLUB
2 lessons by
Aviva Laskov:
A. B. Yehoshua,
Insight into the
Israeli Psyche

To subscribe and for more info on all courses:

Lauren Snitcher: lauren@snitcher.org 0828802257

Viv Anstey, Director: vivanst@iafrica.com 0828095414

www.meltoncapetown.org

midrasha
adult education institute
TOWARDS A CULTURE OF JEWISH LEARNING

BOOKS

Linda Kavalsky: from artist to children's book author and illustrator

By Jaime Uranovsky

Cape Town native, Linda Kavalsky has been a creative for as long as she can remember. Her earliest memories include drawing mermaids and gnomes and turning her illustrations into books by stapling the pages along one side.

Today, Linda is a versatile artist who works with gouache, oil, and acrylic paints as well as pastels. "As long as it has colour in it, I'm happy," she explains. While Linda studied marketing and then interior design, and previously worked at Staffwise, she took the plunge in 2014 and started an art business, creating works in various media and teaching both children and adults. She also has ink prints available via *Nifty Posters* and created a notebook and

gratitude journal collection. Linda's most recent project, however, has seen her write and illustrate a range of children's picture books as well as an instructional 'how to paint in watercolour' book.

What is even more impressive is that Linda has executed the entire process herself, from conceptualising the ideas for each story, planning each book, illustrating (using either watercolour or digital art programmes), writing the stories, designing the layout, self-publishing, to selling via Amazon. She can be struck by ideas at any time and has often found, to her delight, that they are mostly fully-formed.

Linda's experience as a children's book author and illustrator began in 2020 during South Africa's strict

lockdown. For Linda, reading was a vital part of childhood. She explains, "I have such incredibly fond memories of it. My love for reading and books comes from my parents and the time that they spent with me. They were both so good at reading to us and we had wonderful books".

It is these kinds of experiences that Linda wants her books to facilitate. She says, "I love the idea of being able to pass a love of reading to other children, and into other homes where their parents can spend time and connect with their children, and read them beautiful stories".

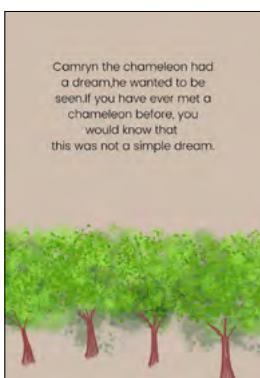
Linda's bright, beautiful and thought-provoking books are generally aimed at children between the ages of three and eight. She currently has seven children's books available, as well as the watercolour guide and

her journals and notebooks. She is also nearly finished another story. Her current books include:



The Brave Brussels Sprout — a watercolour book about Ben the Brussels sprout who goes travelling, enjoying sites like the Leaning Tower of Pear and the Great Wall of Cucumber. Linda explains that when she wrote it, "there was nowhere to go so my Brussels Sprout went travelling because I couldn't". This story is about the importance of stepping out of our comfort zones.

The Chameleon that Wants to be Seen concerns Cameron — a chameleon who dreams of being visible despite the chameleon motto to 'be like the leaf'. This story was inspired by a chameleon that Linda observed outside her house, and is about learning to follow your own path and to stand out.



The Potted Plant that Struggled to Grow is about blossoming in one's own time and way. The potted plant in this story does not grow like the others, but once placed in the sun, it thrives. Linda explains that, with love and a bit of sunshine, people find their place in the world and develop at their own pace.

The Paintbrush without Colour centres around Polly the paintbrush who feels out of place because she is born without colour and wishes to be like all the other paintbrushes. However, she eventually wakes up multicoloured and learns to value her uniqueness. This story is about embracing yourself and what makes you special.

The Dreidel that Did Not Know How to Spin follows Dan the Dreidel who falls down when he spins. Eventually, he confides in his bobba, and she sends him to spinning classes where he masters spinning in time for Channukah. This story is about learning to ask for help. Linda says, "You are going to fall down sometimes, and sometimes you're going to need to ask people for help. But we all start somewhere and if you keep on trying, you will improve". Linda dedicated this book to her late father, Michael Kavalsky who she knows would have appreciated this story and who gave her love of books. She recounts, "My dad used to sit and read to my sister and my brother and me on Shabbat afternoons".

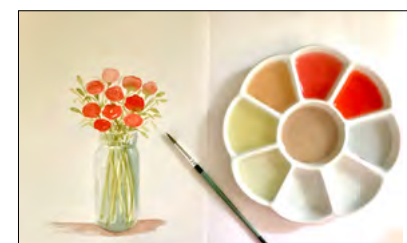


Don't Burst My Balloon is about a grey balloon that bursts the other balloons because of his own unhappiness. Ultimately, the blue balloon avoids this fate by surrounding itself with a protective bubble. This story is about the importance of protecting your energy by stepping away from those who try to bring you down.

Hello Sunshine is a baby book for children aged one to three. It includes rhyming and bright colours.

Let's Paint Flowers is Linda's 'how to paint with watercolour' book. Each double-page contains a completed image of flowers on the one side and a step-by-step guide to mixing the colours and creating the images on the other.

Linda says that the feedback she has received has been wonderful, with adult readers expressing that the messages therein were the kind they wish they had come across as children. Linda says, "I hope that people read the books and feel positive and uplifted in some way. For younger kids, the intention is simply to brighten their day, and if they learn something at the same time that's wonderful". Linda's rich illustrations bounce off the page and engage readers of all ages — and her future projects promise to do the same.



For more information, visit [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Amazon.UK](https://www.amazon.co.uk) and type in 'Linda Kavalsky' or check out her Instagram page, [@brightstarcape](https://www.instagram.com/brightstarcape).



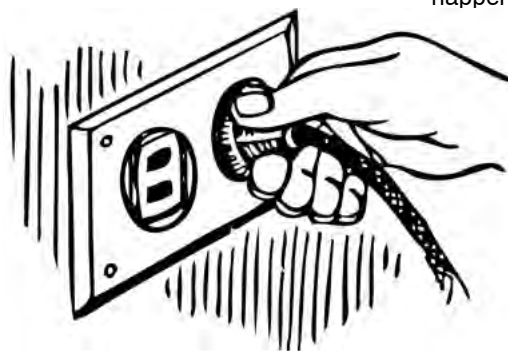
USING MY NUDEL

Energy efficiency in the 21st century

by Craig Nudelman

I don't know how many of you know this, but each year, May is energy month in South Africa.

I find this particularly ironic, since energy is a major issue all year round (isn't loadshedding just wonderful?). The government has designated many different issues to different months. For example, October is National Marine Month, when we should be made aware of our coastal and marine environments. And, although this has not been given a whole month, just a week, 13 to 19 November is Internal Fraud Awareness Week. This, according to the government's website, 'encourages business leaders and employees to proactively take steps to minimise the impact of fraud by promoting anti-fraud awareness and education.' Whether this has been effectively communicated to all South Africans is to be confirmed, but we live in hope.



Anyway, back to energy! We can understand 'energy' according to government's definition as powering the country via Eskom and using fossil fuels for our motor vehicles. The government's website even gives tips on how to reduce our personal energy consumption. Twelve for our personal energy use at home, and twelve for our vehicles. Another way to think about 'energy' however, is through the lense of physical, mental, and emotional energy.

I think it's quite appropriate to speak about this, especially as 1 May is Workers' Day. This offers a chance

to reflect: where should we prioritise our own energy and how should we manage it daily? It is especially important in contemporary times, where 'work-life balance' is a key term used to emphasise the need for spending more time on ourselves to be more productive at work.

I've been watching a show on Apple TV+ called *Severance*. It is a fascinating show and I recommend it to everyone. It is about a company called Lumon which has developed a technique to 'sever' people's work and personal lives. Lumon's employees' 'outies' don't know what happens at work, and their 'innies' don't know their personal lives, which could affect their work productivity. I won't get into the details, but it's an interesting concept of whether we can sever our work and personal lives, and what the effect would be for us. Is it possible for our work to be completely separated from what happens to us on a day-to-day basis?

The answer to that is "probably not", according to most psychologists and businesspeople, especially during Covid, where work-from-home has become the norm in many companies and organisations. Dr Melba Nicholson Sullivan, writing for fastcompany.com, suggests that we can no longer use the term 'balance', but rather try for a 'work/life blend'. To balance work and life becomes difficult, especially as we spend a third of our lives working, according to researchers. Sullivan explains that we can't see work and life as two opposite ends of a spectrum. Instead, she states, "Your work and your life exist at the same time. Sometimes, that means you have to work outside of normal working hours, while other times it means you have to handle 'life things' during your workday." During the pandemic this was especially important, as Zoom fatigue and constant emailing did not allow us to focus on our mental

health or our personal relationships with those important to us.

The blend approach, according to Sullivan, will ensure a culture of transparency and trust between employers and employees. As a double-income household, when Gabi or I can't pick up Jessie or Livi from school or an extramural, we need to help the other out. In a traditional 9-to-5 work environment, this would not be possible. However, with the flexibility that we have now been afforded, as long as we get the job done within the time provided, we can also find ourselves and our relationships.

This fluidity is important, not only for employees but also for employers. Retention of workers has become a big issue within the past decade. In the US, the turnover rate would be concerning to any company. In 2018 the turnover rate was 27% and in 2019 it was 36%. Not only that, but before Covid, an employee would have stayed 4.2 years at a single company before moving on to 'greener pastures'. Steve Cadigan, a global talent strategist and author of *Workquake, Embracing the Aftershocks of COVID-19 to Create a Better Model of Working* states that we are going to end up in, what he calls, the 'Great Resignation'. According to Cadigan, "Forty percent of people are considering quitting their jobs, and the highest number of voluntary resignations ever has already been recorded." He further says that, even though the US has 8.4 million people unemployed (at the end of 2021), there were 10 million jobs available across the country.

To retain employees, employers must ensure that they create an energy-efficient work environment. *The Harvard Business Review* published an article about this 15 years ago, where Tony Schwartz and Catherine McCarthy spoke about the physical, emotional, and mental tolls that our jobs demand of us. With constant access to work emails, texts, and

phone calls, jobs have become increasingly demanding. They say that this has created "declining levels of engagement, increasing levels of distraction, high turnover rates, and soaring medical costs among employees".



Although time may be finite, our energy can be increased by employers shifting away from the traditional expectations of working at a desk from 9-to-5 and milking maximum productivity from employees at any cost. The blended approach — of getting things done efficiently without compromising your mental, physical, and emotional energy — is an important way to ensure a positive work environment.

So, here are some tips from the government to be more energy efficient (insert metaphors as you will):

- Don't fill the kettle — only boil the water that you need
- Switch off all appliances when they are not in use
- Turn the lights off when you leave a room
- Lighten the load in your vehicle
- Travel early/late to avoid known traffic areas
- Change gears according to your speed

We can only be productive if we look after ourselves. So, to avoid personal loadshedding, make sure you use your energy as efficiently as possible, without compromising on the essentials.

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.



Thank You!

**A SINCERE THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO PAID THEIR
2022 VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTION!**

If you have not yet done so, please support the Cape Jewish Chronicle by paying your voluntary annual subscription of R350.

SNAPSCAN



ZAPPER



EFT

BANK DETAILS:
Cape Jewish
Chronicle Trust
Standard Bank
Acc: 070 703 493
Branch: 020 909

Please use your name and email as payment reference.

A VIEW FROM THE BAR

Smoking and the law

By Anton Katz SC

In the past while, after a two year Covid-enforced absence, my young boys and I have returned to watching rugby (the Stormers and Western Province) live at Cape Town Stadium in Green Point.

It has been fantastic. We have loved and enjoyed every moment, especially because the Stormers are doing well. But just being able to share the fresh air and positive energy at the matches has been great. And rugby crowds — unlike those at soccer matches — are famously friendly and jovial.

What triggered this piece is that I recall in the 70s and into the 80s attending Newlands rugby with my dad and thoroughly enjoying myself. Obviously, many things have changed in the past forty years. One of them is the current ban on smoking at the matches. In the 80s, fans could smoke anywhere and as much they liked. But today smoking anywhere inside the stadium is absolutely prohibited. Of course, there are, and I guess will always be, a few silly spectators who light up during the match



much to the annoyance of those around them.

These thoughts triggered this piece about smoking and the law. What are the laws regarding smoking and what do they say? An absolute ban on smoking (cigarettes or tobacco products) would be an unjustifiable violation of constitutional rights, and would be invalid. Just like the absolute ban/prohibition on the use of marijuana was held to be invalid by the Constitutional Court, as I discussed in an earlier issue of the Chronicle in October 2019. (click here to read)

In regular times (that is, in the non-Covid-19 pandemic lockdown situation) the regulation of tobacco use is mainly contained in a law called the Tobacco Products Control Act of 1994. The Tobacco law has been amended a number of times. Each time the law

imposes greater restrictions on the advertising, sale, and use of tobacco products. The main purpose of the law is stated to be: to prohibit or restrict smoking in public places; to regulate the sale and advertising of tobacco products and to prescribe what is to be reflected on packages. The Tobacco Act states that it is recognised that smoking is extremely injurious to the health of smokers, non-smokers and other users of tobacco products; has caused widespread addiction in society; warrants, in the public interest, a restrictive legislation.

It further states that the association

of the use of tobacco products with social success, business advancement and sporting prowess through advertising and promotion may have the particularly harmful effect of encouraging children and young people to use tobacco products; and that the extent of the harmful effects of the use of tobacco products on health calls for strong action to deter people, especially the youth, from using tobacco products, to protect non-smokers from exposure to tobacco smoke and to encourage existing users of tobacco products to quit.

Parliament then resolves to align the health system with the democratic values of the Constitution and the World Health Organisation's Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, and to enhance and protect the fundamental rights of citizens by discouraging the use, promotion and advertising of tobacco products in order to reduce the incidence of tobacco-related illness and death.

The tobacco law regulates what may be contained in cigarettes. How and whether tobacco products may be advertised and sold are also regulated. So, each box of cigarettes must have labels warning of the dangers of smoking. No secondary advertising is permitted. No person shall offer any gift, cash rebate or right to participate in any contest, lottery or game, or any sporting, cultural, social or recreational event, to any person in exchange for the purchase of a tobacco product. No person shall sell or supply any tobacco product to any person under the age of 18 years. Also, smoking is banned in many public spaces, such as sporting events. The law states that: No person may smoke any tobacco product in — a public place; any area within a prescribed distance from a window of, ventilation inlet of, doorway to or entrance into a public place; any motor vehicle when a child under the age of 12 years is present in that vehicle. Employers must ensure that: employees may

object to smoking in the workplace without retaliation of any kind; employees who do not want to be exposed to tobacco smoke in the workplace are not so exposed; it is not a condition of employment, expressly or implied, that any employee is required to work in any portion of the workplace where smoking is permitted; and employees are not required to sign any indemnity for working in any portion of the workplace where smoking is permitted.

Violations of the law can be convicted of a criminal offence and fined up to R 100 000.

What is interesting is that during the Covid-19 lockdown, the government banned the sale of all cigarettes. In a challenge to the absolute ban by the tobacco industry, the High Court in Cape Town found that the cigarette ban was not proportional. The medical evidence put by the government ban did not prove that the absolute ban balanced against the violation of rights has been properly calibrated. On the other hand, the High Court in Pretoria ruled in favour of the government and held that the ban assisted in protecting against the some of the harsher insidious effects of Covid-19.

Ultimately I suppose, like all aspects of the law, the government must balance competing interests in how it regulates the tobacco industry. Humans do not want to be controlled by a nanny state on the one hand; but they also don't want selfish smokers to be able to blow unhealthy and ugly smoke in their faces. And is it fair for the tobacco industry geared towards profits, to be able to encourage children to take up smoking, and to glamourise smoking as being sexy, sporty and a measure of success? My view is no.

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.



Connect with us!

www.cjc.org.za



@capejewishchronicle



@CapeChronicle



@capejewishchronicle



@cape-jewish-chronicle

ISRAEL: A JOURNEY MAKING MEANING

148 Dizengoff Street, Tel Aviv

Julian Resnick writes from Israel

Like many people here in Israel, I was deeply affected by the terrorist attack in Tel Aviv on Thursday night, 7 April. It took me a few days to respond on FB as I was unsure that I had anything important to add to the conversation.

When I did post something there were some fascinating responses. This is part of the conversation which followed...

My FB post on April 10th

JR: I was a simple infantry soldier in the IDF doing my compulsory service in the late 1970s, and my reserve duties until the late 1990s. I was, I suppose, a grunt. A soldier who turned up every year for 30 days to do either border patrols, generally along the border with Jordan and once along the border with Syria; or during the first Intifada in the area of Jericho, facing occasional small groups of young, angry Palestinians.

I never went to officers' school, in fact not even to the NCOs course. Not because I was not good enough, but possibly because of the injury I sustained during a training exercise. I would not qualify for hero status and, more importantly, do not have the qualifications to make any authoritative statement about military strategy.

So, having put myself down appropriately, unlike so many FB commentators who would have us believe that they are in possession of vast amounts of knowledge which qualify them for the status of 'experts', I will now make a statement, although some might question my right to do so.

But first, I need to identify who I am ideologically, with pride. I am a Jew. I am a Zionist. I am a progressive. I also need to say that I am the father of three Israeli children who live in Israel and the grandfather of six Israeli grandchildren who live in Israel. And I care about them desperately.

So why put myself on the spot where many can now fire potshots and accuse me of a variety of things (the adjectives will probably not reflect on what I say, but will reflect the position on the political map they wish to claim for themselves)? Possibly because I am so saddened by what happened in Tel Aviv on Thursday night and possibly because this is going to continue to happen until we recognise something (I am now preparing for the first arrows) we have not fully recognised.

We have not recognised who the enemy is (fire away, but wait a moment, this is not the 'equivalency' pitch, not at all). I am not going to waste your time by telling you who the enemy is not, I am going to state very clearly who I think the enemy is.

The enemy to a peaceful life here in Israel and in Palestine (take an arrow out of the quiver) are all those racist haters in our society. Whether they hate because of their false readings of the Koran, the Torah or the Scriptures, they are the enemy.

They are the enemy whether they support the Hamas, the Islamic Jihad or Otzma Yehudit.

They are the enemy whether their hatred is aimed at Jews, Christians, or Moslems.

And secular folks are not going to get off the hook here either. If their hatred is based on false readings of Karl Marx or Ayn Rand, it makes them no less part of the hate brigade than those who profess a religious basis for their hatred.

We need to rid our society of these people.

This is the battle we need to win.

Part of the conversation which followed:

JG: This is not fundamentally a military problem, is it?

JR: While not fundamentally military, we also have to employ the instruments of law, policing and military tools to deal with what education cannot take full responsibility for. I believe that progressive societies have to, at times, use force to prevent the forces of reaction and hatred from exploiting our understandable reluctance to use force to maintain open and fair societies. As we used to say in one of the positions I once had, "There is nothing soft and fluffy about believing in human rights."

PA: Too true; but how to "rid our society of these people"... That comes across as more sinister than you meant.

JR: there is nothing sinister implied here. What is meant is having laws which protect the open society and actions supported by these laws, with full access to a robust court system for those who would destroy the open society.

PA: as I said it came across more than you meant — I was sure you intended nothing untoward. It is about protection from and education of....

JSR: 100%! But of course, the wording "get rid of" leads to several interpretations. Knowing you are not a violent man; the question is, how. Because so far not much seems to be working. In the case of the hilltop youth, this is really on our justice system... They get little to no consequences. But for those outside our community... The change needs to come from within their own society.

JZ: Welcome to the mud-wrestling ring. So far, nice people are saying nice things. And in a way you are saying nice things... all extremists are to blame. Which in this case is true. Unfortunately, my experience is that in ruthless conflict, usually one side is to blame. Just look at Eastern Europe right now. So, the conclusion is that all bad, radicalised people are to blame. So, what's new?

JR: I am not claiming that this is an original opinion. I think that for good reasons we often fail to see what the real issues are, especially at painful moments such as these.

GLL: I still think that the gap between racist hate and killing is vast. We're talking about taking the lives of innocent people.

Prejudice, the precursor of hate seems to be a human trait.

'Thou shalt not kill' probably easier to deal with and enforce...

JZ: Agreed, but sometimes the state machine creates a culture and an environment that enables its actors, down to the simple soldier, to commit crimes. We have a situation today where Palestinians are shot and killed for rioting, and protest sometimes without any violence to cause that, and its done without too much thought because the rules are gray and the culture enables that. Take that loss to a family who has lost a father, and you can be sure it will never be forgotten.

We have a problem here, and we have created a monstrous reincarnation of Kahanism since the assassination of Rabin, who many still regard as a blessing. That trickles all the way down. Sometimes it isn't necessarily the madman, or the hate-filled terrorist who pulls the trigger, it's the simple soldier at the check-post who takes things a bit too far. The damage leads to exponential hatred which is hard to reverse. (see article by Gideon Levy and Alex Levac, *Ha'aretz* 1 October 2021) one of many that we gloss over and don't think about too often. Sometimes it's not only the extremists. It's the guy on a hill hundreds of metres away, with a gun, not thinking too much...

DM: I believe that *sinat hinam* (baseless hatred) is something that eats away at societal strength from within, and in no way am I belittling that as a corrosive factor. I do however take issue with that fact that you are not looking at the general political picture. I believe that the Palestinian terrorists are very astute manipulators of the media. It is clear that this rash of terrorist activity started up with the recent collaboration of all the international foreign ministers meeting in Israel to cooperate in dealing with the Ukraine Russian war. Israel has been named a king-pin in the negotiations by both the Ukrainians and the Russians. It is much to the Palestinians' dismay that they look on, as all the work to make Israel look like the world's most abusive country is turned on its head, and Israel is seen as the saviors. Israel has also had a bout of accords being signed with Arab countries. The Palestinians have a lot of experience in knowing how to make Israel look bad in the media, and how to make us (Israel) respond violently, and hence they play the terror card so well. I am a firm believer that internally and throughout the world, we should extend a hand to each other in collaborative endeavors on a personal level.

We can only win if we can anticipate such media-driven events which drive Palestinian terror and Jewish retribution. Being ahead of the game is what will protect us all. And on a personal level, making the effort every day to reach out and develop real relationships.

JR: Thank you for such a thoughtful reply. You have opened the picture onto a much wider canvas and thank you for that.

May we always disagree in this spirit and never get to the moment when we move from difficult discussion to violent responses.

Julian Resnick was born in Somerset West and grew up in Habonim Dror. He studied at UCT, and made Aliyah in 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, with whom he has three children and six grandchildren, and is a member of Kibbutz Tzora.



FOOD

The ultimate quick-fix Lag B'Omer braai

By Leila Stein

Lag B'Omer, may be the most South African of all the Jewish holidays if not for any other reason than it revolves around an open flame.

Celebrated on the 33rd day of the Omer (this year, evening of Wednesday 18 May through to Thursday 19 May), this festival pauses the mourning period with a celebration of the life of Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and the end of the plague that killed Rabbi Akiva's students. It is marked all over the world with bonfires, and children playing with bows and arrows.

Unlike other holidays, like Pesach which has just passed, there aren't codified commandments on

what exactly to eat. However, this doesn't mean that traditions haven't formed around certain foods to prepare and eat to celebrate this day.

This is where the South African and Jewish elements combine. Since there is already a bonfire available, much of the Lag B'Omer traditions involve cooking food on the embers of these flames.

While cooking over a fire is something many cultures participate in, a braai is something specifically South African. Its uniqueness lies in the pageantry of putting together the fire, standing around chatting and having very specific opinions on how to get the meat cooked just right.

This is not the only similarity to be found. Alongside the food, Lag B'Omer is known as a holiday celebrating the resilience of the Jewish people.

Jewish South Africans carry this resiliency both because of our Jewish heritage and our South African one. Despite all the challenges we face, South Africans are known for our hardiness and ability to find the best, or at least most positive outcomes no matter the circumstances.

To celebrate this coming together of our identities, we've put together a braai menu that can be whipped together quickly, that doesn't need to take all day but still brings a South African flavour to the spirit of Lag B'Omer.

Lemon and herb chicken sosatie

Since Lag B'Omer is all about the bonfire, meat on the braai is a must. The sosatie is a South African braai staple and while it can be made with a variety of meat, we have chosen chicken for its universality.

This recipe is for four people and makes two sosaties per person.

Ingredients

- 4 chicken breasts, cut into equal cubes
- 8 kebab skewers

For the marinade

- 2 cloves of garlic, crushed
- ¼ cup of lemon juice
- ¼ cup of olive oil
- ¼ cup of white wine
- a sprinkle of mixed herbs

Instructions

Combine the garlic, lemon, and olive oil in a bowl and combine. Pour into a pan on low heat and add the white wine. Wait until the wine has mostly reduced. Throw in the mixed herbs and allow to reduce a little more. Turn off the heat, place the marinade in a container with the chicken and allow it to sit for 3-24 hours in the fridge. *If you don't want to include wine, then just add all the other ingredients together, including the meat and seal in the fridge.

Dampen the kebab sticks before sliding on the chicken pieces. This ensures the sticks don't get hot and burn before the chicken has time to cook. Put the compiled sticks on the braai and season with salt and pepper. Cook until slightly charred on the outside, turning as you go. Continue this for about 10-15 minutes. Remember to check your chicken is cooked all the way through, if not continue on the braai a bit longer.



Roast potato braai boats

Another tradition for Lag B'Omer is to roast potatoes on the fire. Commonly, these are simply whole potatoes wrapped in tinfoil and left to cook on the fire — providing a smokey flavour and a light burning of the potato skin.

To level up this simple tradition, try expanding the offering by turning the roasted potatoes into delicious mixed vegetable boats.

Ingredients

- 4 large potatoes
- 2 mielies, rinsed
- 1 red onion, chopped
- olive oil, for coating
- paprika

Instructions

Halve the potatoes and cover all over with olive oil, paprika, salt and pepper. Wrap in tinfoil before placing them on the braai coals. While the potatoes are cooking, place the mielies on the grid and cook until lightly charred. Remove the potatoes once tender but not overcooked — best to test with a fork.

Once the mielies are ready cut off kernels from the cob. Scoop out the middle of the potato without breaking the skin. Mix the potato filling with the kernels and red onion. Check if the mixture is seasoned enough, if not add some more salt and pepper.

When all mixed together, refill the hollowed out skins and re-wrap in tinfoil. Place back on the coals and cook for another 5 minutes or until hot.

Overnight carob date balls

Finally, for dessert, we are moving away from the traditional South African desserts like melktert and malva pudding. This is because carob is a central food for Lag B'Omer but not that popular an ingredient in our local post-dinner choices.

It is believed that while Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai and his son were hiding in a cave from the Romans for 13 years, they sustained themselves with carob pods from a tree that sprung up outside the cave.

While carob has a close-to-chocolatey taste, eating a carob pod raw is not really ideal. As such, a great, *pareve* option to finish off your braai are some simple carob-date balls. These are quick and easy to make and will also ensure a sweet treat after what is often a rather large meal.

This recipe makes around 12 balls depending on size.

Ingredients

- 1½ cups of pitted dates
- ⅓ cup of tahina
- ¼ cup of carob powder
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- a sprinkle of salt
- your choice of coating for rolling: desiccated coconut, cocoa powder, or crushed nuts.

Instructions

Place the dates, tahina, carob powder and vanilla extract into a food processor. Pulse until everything is well combined and is a sticky consistency. Remove a heaped teaspoon at a time and roll into balls, slightly damp hands help to prevent getting your hands too sticky.

Finally roll the balls in your coating of choice and store in an airtight container in the fridge until you are ready to serve.


[back to contents](#)

Bearing the Chosen Children: continuity and the South African Jewish Community

By Gabriella Saven (This article first appeared on dafkadotcom.org on 24 March 2022 and is republished with permission)

Babies are always on my mind. Not because I have any, or plan on having one soon, but because as a young South African Jewish woman whose identity revolves around family and community, conversations around reproduction can feel ubiquitous.

My Honours thesis explored reproductive attitudes in the South African Jewish community amongst self-identifying progressive women. Despite a growing field of reproductive research in South Africa and abroad, there is little research into the intersections of reproduction and religion. I asked how progressive Jewish women in Cape Town reconcile communal expectations around gender and reproduction with their secular and progressive outlooks.

But this question is merely one part of our understanding of South African Jewish continuity, the role of women in our community, and the paradox of our community's simultaneous interest in and seeming apprehension around open discussion of reproductive issues like adoption and infertility.

Though diverse in its interpretation, to the Jewish community reproduction essentially means 'survival'. Considering that the Jewish Community Survey of South Africa (2019) (JCSSA) 'strongly suggests the South African Jewish population size is considerably smaller than most current estimates indicate', the question of 'survival' becomes that much more pressing. The maintenance of our community's highly organised structures and remarkable vibrancy depends on deeper engagement with issues that are leading to demographic and affiliative decline, including that of reproduction.

Reproduction and Jewish continuity are complex and emotive topics. This is not a condemnation of any sector of the South African Jewish community, nor a suggestion that the experiences of my study's participants are representative of the experiences of all South African Jewish women¹. Instead, the purpose of this article is to draw from the findings of my study in order to encourage dialogue and inclusion when it comes to reproductive experiences, particularly those considered to be on the 'fringes' of the Jewish community, for example LGBTQIA+ community members, adoptive parents, and those who

choose not to have children. Additionally, some heteronormative assumptions on how reproduction "should look" and how the "natural order" of life should evolve (find a match, get married, have babies...) need to be challenged and certain contextualisation needs to be made so that we are able to have these conversations in nuanced ways.

First, the female reproductive body is inherently connected to women's social identities inasmuch as "Women's ability to bear children has become their externalised signifier, and the place that they have come to occupy within society is derived from their wombs". This statement is true for South African Jewish community where many women of childbearing age are expected, at least, to be considering when they will start to have babies. This is especially true for married women in heterosexual relationships.

Second, for Jewish South African women, reliance on black women for domestic labour has allowed greater freedoms and opportunities for Jewish women to prioritise careers, leisure time and involvement in communal development as compared to other South African and Jewish diasporic communities. The assumption of paid, child-rearing assistance has altered our perception of reproduction and child-rearing. The way Jews have children in South Africa is deeply connected to the presence of black women — who often have to leave their own families and children — employed by white women².

Third, Judaism's 'preoccupation' with reproduction originates in the first mitzvah, 'be fruitful and multiply'. Though intended for men, the implications for women are obvious. Culturally, the expectation on women to 'continue' Jewish lineage remains dominant and is intensified by the memory of the Shoah, fears around assimilation, and Orthodox Judaism's matrilineage. This is further exacerbated by a global Jewish preoccupation with Jewish continuity.

Lastly, this expectation provides further challenges for women who

contribute to the social and cultural but not necessarily the biological reproduction of Judaism, including those unable to have biological children (or who choose not to), queer womxn and unmarried women.

But continuity, and survival, are big words. What then is the relevance of studying, understanding and discussing reproduction in our community? Why are the opinions of an unmarried Jewish woman with no children important?

Our community is facing a reproductive crisis, but one that has been conceived narrowly as biological rather than encompassing the metaphorical reproduction of culture and identity. All South African Jews need to be responsible for the latter, irrespective of gender identity or parental status.

As opportunities for Jewish women increase, professionally, economically, politically and socially, the prioritisation of biological reproduction is changing. For many

in the community, the "Nice Jewish Girl" narrative is being disrupted. As one of my study's participants put it, "[T]here was this wonderful Roy Lichtenstein poster that I once had with a woman putting her hand to her forehead and saying, 'Oh my god, I nearly forgot to have children!'". With this shift, comes a shift in

our understandings of womanhood, femininity, gender, sexuality, and family structures.

What to do then? If we do, in fact, need increased birth rates to address our reproductive crisis, how do we encourage reproduction without placing excessive, gendered pressure on women in our community?

There are many methods that could encourage inclusive and increased reproduction. Some examples include organised community organisations further advocating for and embracing LGBTQIA+ community members; greater cooperation between Orthodox and non-Orthodox communities on issues of Jewish continuity and reproduction; the acceptance of adopted children as Jewish by virtue of their adoption; and lowering the cost of communal education. According to the JCSSA,

as a result of the cost of a Jewish education, "almost two out of five households (39%) with school-age children" consider in "their decision to limit the number of children they chose to have." To ensure South African Jewish continuity, educationally, our community schools should be educating on gender, sexuality and family structures that extend beyond Orthodoxy. According to the JCSSA, sexual identity/orientation and gender make up around 14% of those who felt "Not very well accepted" or "Not accepted at all" by the Jewish community. This could incentivise many young people to stay in South Africa and affiliated to Judaism, knowing that there are spaces in the community for variance of identity and Jewish expression.

Representation of our community's women also matters. Women need to be further empowered in Jewish communal leadership. Currently, according to the JCSSA, men are twice as likely as women to be board members of Jewish communal organisations (10% of men versus 5% of women). Women need to be seen not only as supportive wives and mothers, but as valued members of the community.

Perhaps most importantly, we need to initiate more open conversations around reproduction. We must talk about infertility; pregnancy termination; reproductive healthcare; the fact that not all women want children; single fathers; single parent households; and queer parenting.

Expanding and opening these conversations will not only allow our community to better live in accord with the constitutional values of dignity, equality and freedom on which the South African democracy is built, but to fulfil the promise given to us as Jews to be "numerous as the stars of heaven and the sands on the seashore".

Gabriella Saven is the Executive Director of the Jewish Democratic Initiative and is passionate about youth development within the Jewish community. Having completed her undergraduate in Law and Politics & Governance, and Honours in Development Studies at UCT, this year she will study an MSc in Security Studies at University College London.



The maintenance of our community's highly organised structures and remarkable vibrancy depends on deeper engagement with issues that are leading to demographic and affiliative decline, including that of reproduction.

¹ A note on terminology: This article speaks of women, but the issues it addresses relate to women, femme presenting individuals, people assigned female at birth and queer womxn.

² Increasingly, our community is becoming more racially heterogenous. A Statistics South Africa Community Survey (2016), as referenced in the JCSSA, found that "81% of people selecting Judaism as their religion said they were White, implying that almost one in five Jews in the country is non-White."

SIMCHA SNAPS



Hayley Lipworth and David Cohen Photo: Hewitt Wright



Robyn Waters to Daniel Sher Photo: Edó Photography

Dried Fruit & Nuts & So MUCH More!

Hand Picked & Packed
KOMATI FOODS
Dried Fruit & Nuts

NUTS | BREAKFAST | CAROB | DRIED FRUIT | FLOUR | ORGANIC | SEEDS/GRAINS | SPICES | SWEETS | SNACK MIXES

OUR SECOND SHOP IS NOW OPEN IN MONTAGUE GARDENS
Shop no. 3, John Montague Centre, Montague Gardens
or order online www.komatifoods.co.za
free delivery within Cape Town for orders over R500.

Connect with us!

@capejewishchronicle

www.cjc.org.za



Jade Goodman to Anthony Silber Photo: Nikki van Dierman

SIMCHA SNAPS



Astrid Diliberto to Andre Van Embden Photo: Kretzmer Keys Photography



Daniella Hayman to David Levin Photo: A Story Born



Candice Schneider to Ashley Robinson Photo: John Henry

SEND US YOUR SIMCHA SNAPS!

Have you recently celebrated the birth of a baby, a birthday, barmitzvah, batmitzvah, anniversary, an engagement, wedding or any simcha or achievement? Send us a photo and share your simcha with the community! Wedding pictures can be submitted at no charge. For other simchas we charge R285 per picture.

Email chron@ctjc.co.za or call office: 021 464 6736 9am — 1pm

*Make her Blush
Everyday of the Week*

*When A Bunch Of Roses
Just Ain't Enough*

Mark Solomon
JEWELLER | GEMMOLOGIST
373A Main Road, Sea Point, Cape Town, 8005 | (021) 434 1254
Email: quotes@marksolomonjewellers.co.za | Website: www.marksolomonjewellers.co.za

CHRONIC ADS

Rates: R50 per line incl VAT Phone: 021 464 6736 (mornings)

RELIABLE PET/HOUSESITTER

Mature single guy. Excellent refs. Short/long term. Keith 084 604 1194 Email: keithmilne1961@gmail.com

HOUSE TO LET CAMPS BAY

Avail 1 May – 12 Dec or short term rentals. Modern spacious 5 bed 4 bath. Pool, garden, braai area with seating for 10. Views, Wi-Fi, DSTV, Netflix, alarm. junepool9@gmail.com /Ryan 082 422 0988

PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

Professional detailed inspections and inventories for long/short term rentals. 082 771 2363. propinspect00@gmail.com

SORT IT

Downsizing home? Retirement move? Kids leaving home? Deceased estate? Organising, sorting, disposing of books, household effects, etc. 083 265 7738

DDIY LIFESTYLE MANAGEMENT

Personal assistance and home organising. 061 662 1350

BLINDS

Contact Elaine's Blinds for all new blinds, servicing, repairs and cleaning. Stephen and Elaine Guinsberg 083 270 9352

JOFFE PLUMBING

For all sanitary plumbing repairs, maintenance and renovations. Phone Hilton 082 789 2897 or 021 439 5550

CARPET & UPHOLSTERY CLEANING SERVICES

MEGA-CLEAN

Cleaning of all carpets, upholstery, leather, office & dining chairs, mattresses, vehicle interiors
Pet Stain & Odour Removal
Low Moisture System - Quick Dry - Deep Clean

Pensioners' Discounts Window Cleaning Too!

PROFESSIONAL, RELIABLE, SERVICE DRIVEN & ACCOUNTABLE
Call Amanda Barnett: 082 751 9604

No longer able to drive?
No garage space?
Emigrating?

I WILL BUY YOUR VEHICLE!

since 1996
Phone Melville
Ph 072 132 5572

PLUMB PATROL

For all plumbing and irrigation, new installations, maintenance and plumbing blockages. 021 525 9061 a/h 082 785 0393

THE COMPUTER GUY

Repairs, upgrades, IPTV, fiber, general computer services. 082 549 0457

TRANSFER VHS TO DIGITAL

Barry: 082 885 7458
mediamemories@bax.co.za
MATHS/SCIENCE TUITION
By experienced teacher/lecturer.
021 434 1406 / 072 281 8019

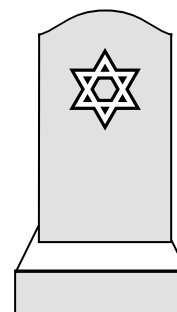
HEBREW MONUMENTS

GRANITE, MARBLE, SANDSTONE, BOULDERS

We are proud to enter our 10th year
of serving the community

We have received many compliments for the
standard that we set for our tombstones

CANTOR IAN CAMISSAR:
EMAIL : camissar@mweb.co.za
WHATSAPP : 082 551 3344

**COLLECTIONS SOUGHT**

Postcards,
stamps,
coins etc.



Simon
071 202 2264

To place a chronic ad
email: chron@ctjc.co.za

WE WANT TO BUY

SILVER JEWELLERY
CHINA GLASSWARE
ART SCULPTURE
HOUSEHOLD GOODS, etc

Burr & Muir
Antiques/Collectables

The Mirage, Shop 5,
Cnr Strand & Hudson Streets,
De Waterkant, Cape Town
021 4181269 Fax: 021 418 1273

email: info@burrmuir.com
website www.burrmuir.com



The Gardiner family's
relationship with the
stone industry
started in the
1930's



Showroom 134 Durban Road Bellville
Bellville 021 948 2152 Paarl 021 872 1508 Strand 021 854 5890
Ros Gardiner 072 2414 120
gardiner@gstone.co.za www.hebrew.gstone.co.za
FOR ALL MEMORIAL REQUIREMENTS

Waterproofing Cape Town

Specialist in Painting, Roofing, Damp Proofing
& Waterproofing Services

www.waterproofing-capetown.com

Tel: 021 300 1822/ 021 000 2326 Sea Point

PENSIONERS' DAY
EVERY MONDAY

10%
DISCOUNT

ON ALL DRIED FRUIT AND NUTS

Montagu
TRUSTED QUALITY SNACKS

SEA POINT

021 439 3939 071 439 3938
CORNER MAIN & ST JAMES RD, SEA POINT
(OPPOSITE ARTEM CENTRE)



UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

THE CAPE JEWISH CHRONICLE RECORDS ITS APPRECIATION OF THE CONTINUED SUPPORT GIVEN BY THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS

*The Susman
Charitable
Foundation*

RUBI AND ANNE
CHAITMAN
FOUNDATION

With compliments
from Aggie Hirsch
in memory of
Freddy

mazars

**THE
MAUERBERGER
FOUNDATION
FUND**

With compliments
from Ben Rabinowitz
in memory of Shirley

**THE HAROLD AND
BEATRICE KRAMER
FOUNDATION**

*Goldschmidt
Family
Foundation*

With the Compliments of
CAPE GATE
FENCE & WIRE WORKS (PTY) LTD

Pick n Pay
Inspired by you

THE SILVERMAN
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

Stanley and Zea Lewis
Foundation

**CAPE JEWISH
CHRONICLE**

With compliments
*The Henry Van Embden
Family Foundation*

With
Compliments
**Almond
Breeze**
ALMOND MILK
www.almondbreeze.co.za

With Compliments
Kalman, Esther and
Michael Maisel Trust

With compliments
The Jack & Ethel
Goldin Foundation

**CAPE JEWISH
CHRONICLE**