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A tribute to Miriam Lichterman z"l

By Richard Freedman

As a young girl growing up in prewar Warsaw, Miriam Teitelbaum (Lichterman) could never have imagined the life she would lead and that she would pass away nearly 100 years later in Cape Town, at the tip of Africa, which was her home for over 70 years.

The passing of Miriam (Marysha) Lichterman on 18 July has left a painful void for all who knew her. Miriam's contribution to her adopted home and community was remarkable. She embraced the community and in turn, as they grew to know and love her, the community regarded her as a treasured jewel. Her identity as a Holocaust survivor took centre stage in the last 40 years of her life but there were many facets to Miriam which went way beyond that.

When she first came to Cape Town in 1950 with her husband and fellow Holocaust survivor, Cantor Jacob Lichterman of blessed memory, she took her responsibilities as the wife of the Cantor of a large congregation in Vredehoek very seriously. She made it her business not only to enter into the life of the synagogue but also the community in all its aspects. She warmly welcomed to her home many Barmitzvah boys who came for lessons with Cantor Lichterman. As they entered the house, where music was ever present, few were aware of the horrific experiences of ghettos and death camps which the Lichtermans had endured.

Never bitter, always positive, with great determination and courage they rebuilt their lives going on to have two sons, Ivor and Joel, grandchildren and great grandchildren. It always gave Miriam a great sense of satisfaction that her sons followed in their father's footsteps, becoming well respected cantors in their own right.

Miriam's lifelong abiding Jewish beliefs and convictions were central to her life and outlook, and indeed she firmly believed that her survival was nothing short of a miracle. She remained a devoted shul-goer until recently, when her failing health prevented her from attending services. Always immaculate, Miriam could be seen sitting alongside fellow Warsaw survivor Ella Blumenthal in the women's gallery of the Marais Road synagogue. With Miriam's knowledge and experience, for many years she oversaw the



Miriam wearing her WIZO Rebecca Sieff Award for 60 Years of service

Kashrut at Jewish functions at the Mount Nelson hotel and elsewhere. Diminutive in size, she loomed large as an assured and commanding presence upon whom the community could rely.

Miriam was a strong supporter of Israel. For over 60 years she was an active and dedicated member of the Vredehoek branch of B'nai Zion where she served as the cultural convener. She was honoured with the Rebecca Sieff award on two occasions for her long service.

From the early days Miriam reached out to fellow Holocaust survivors and played a key role in *She'erith Hapletah* (the survivors' organisation) which held regular gatherings of the 40 or so Holocaust survivors who were members of the organisation in Cape Town. As we look at the flickering memorial lights in each synagogue, few

of us know that they were placed there at the instigation of Miriam and fellow survivors.

The public profile of the survivors was raised with the annual Yom Hashoah Ceremony where Miriam played a key role in the organisation before and on the day. She delivered several powerful addresses in her eloquent and elegant English, with an amazing recall for detail.

The opening of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre in 1999 was very significant in Miriam's life. Not only were her story and that of her brother, Israel, key elements of the exhibition, it began a process of involvement with thousands of young people and others outside the Jewish community, with whom she shared her testimony.

It was never easy, yet Miriam never said no to sharing her story, in the hope that it would inspire all who heard it to create a more just world. Typical of the impact that Miriam had on the young people who listened to her is the following from a Grade 11 learner, "...I find it truly inspiring, the amount of courage, kindness and strength that radiates from her even to this day. There is no room for malice and hate in her heart. Despite the cruelty and suffering she endured, she managed to teach love, peace, kindness and equality to us."

Miriam's own words at the 2019 Yom Hashoah commemoration remain a powerful reminder and testimony to this extraordinary human being:

"According to our rabbinical teachings, to remember is our most important response to tragedy. Those who were destroyed live with us and help us to carry on. My memories are not only of man's inhumanity to man, destruction and horror, but also of spiritual strength and unbelievable courage in inhuman circumstances. This helped us to rebuild our lives and gave us hope for a better future. And so my friends, once again in this holy place, I thank Hashem for the miracles of my survival, and you, this wonderful community at the tip of the African continent. Remember not to forget, because no matter what, Am Israel Chai."

Miriam will be sorely missed by us all. May our memories of her always be an inspiration and comfort to her dear family and all who knew her.

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Des Says...

By Desrae Saacks, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle



August is women's month

August is Women's month, and this issue of the Chronicle is packed with stories of women young and old, past and present, who impress and inspire with their talents, strength and wisdom.

Front and centre (literally and figuratively) is Miriam Lichterman, whom we recently lost just a few weeks short of her 100th birthday. (see pages 1 and 4). Miriam was a true gift to our community, and her story of survival and thrival is an inspiration to us all to live in the present, trust the future and to value and invest in our heritage and community.

Another Miriam features in Rabbi Matitiani's fascinating column (pages 16 and 25) honouring the role of women in our tradition; and sharing some of the most inspiring women's stories from our texts. Moshe's sister Miriam plays an important role in the exodus story and emerges as a true leader. Read about her, and other iconic female characters who populate our Jewish story.

On page 11 we join KOCOSA in bidding farewell to Esther Maizels who will be going on Aliyah soon, following decades of service to our community and, in the context of this particular article, as a founding member and the outgoing chair of KOCOSA.

On the same page we read of the women of WIZO making a difference; and on page 15, of Mensch Thought-leader of the month Barbara Nussbaum who uses music as a tool

of healing and connecting.

On page 18, United Jewish Campaign's Jodi Scher appeals to us to be brave, and to harness our female power to protect and nurture our community.

Two young women making their mark at Zeitz MOCAA are Herzlia matric students Michaela Perkel and Hannah Jantjies. Read about their exciting engagement in the field of visual art, and how they employ the medium to express, challenge and examine their reality.

We meet soon-to-be-100-year-old Lily Singer, beloved matriarch and long-time resident of Sea Point, and read about her century on this southern tip of Africa.

And between these stories of remarkable women are many more voices of humans of all genders who make up our community, both local and global, sharing their thoughts, experiences and knowledge.

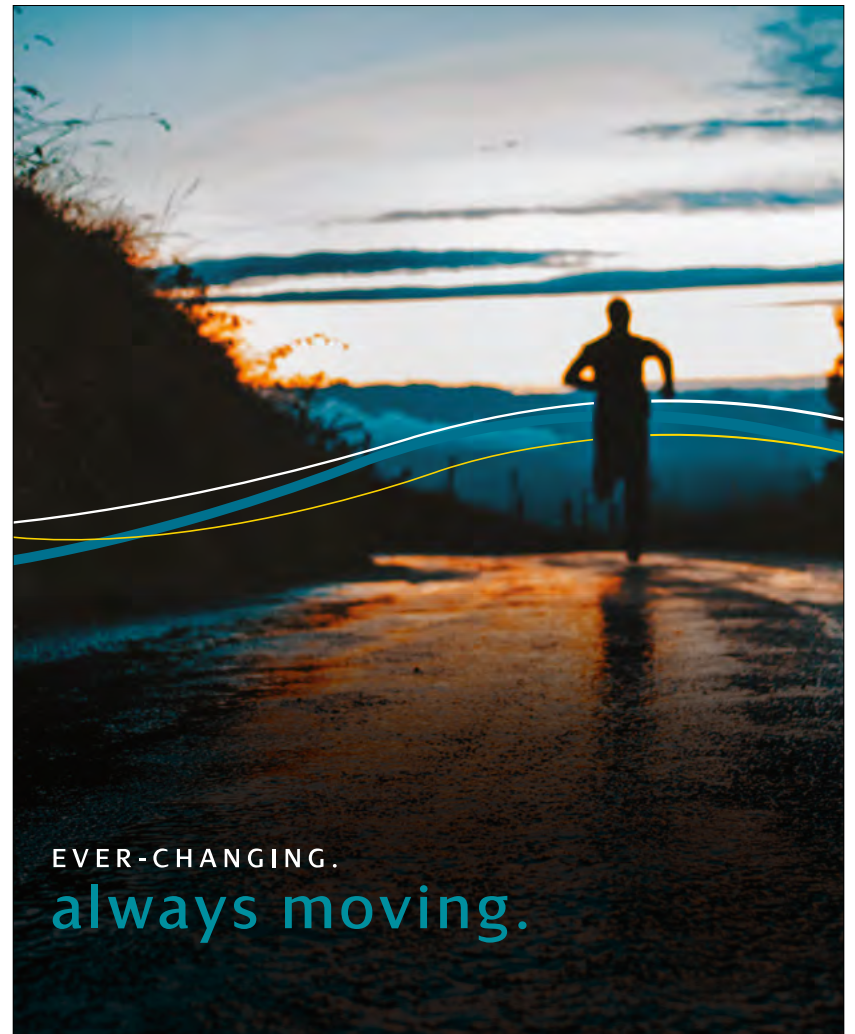
The process of putting this publication together is a very organic one, and as much as I am responsible for collating and curating it, there is always a point along the way at which it comes to life and starts to acquire, substance and assume a shape of its own. This issue is no exception, and I take pride in the collection of voices that fill these pages.

Next month we will once again be printing, posting (physically) and posting (online) for our annual Rosh Hashana issue. Watch this space...

Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		Earliest	Latest	
5 Aug/9 Av	Devarim Chazon	5.03pm	5.52pm	6.46pm
12 Aug/16 Av	Ve'etchanan Nachamu	5.07pm	5.57pm	6.50pm
19 Aug/23 Av	Eikev	5.10pm	6.02pm	6.55pm
26 Aug/30 Av	Re'eh	5.14pm	6.06pm	6.59pm

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



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Remembering Miriam Lichterman z"l



Miriam and her sons Joel and Ivor visit the Nozyk Synagogue in Warsaw in 1997. She was last there 51 years earlier.



Miriam, with Richard Freedman, lighting a candle during the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, 2017.



Don't Forget to Remember Primary School Project for the three Jewish Day Schools, 2016



Miriam Lichterman in Brussels before leaving for South Africa, 1947. CTHGC Collection



Miriam with educators at the Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre during an Educator Workshop



Addressing the Cape Town Jewish community at the 2019 Yom Hashoah commemoration service



Miriam lighting a candle at an event officially opening the Cape Town Holocaust Centre in 1999.



Holocaust survivors Ella Blumenthal and Miriam Lichterman with Grade 12 learners from Herzlia High School as they filmed a discussion for the Remember Not To Forget DVD in 2011



Miriam with teachers and learners from Rustenberg Girls' High School
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www.ortsacape.org.za




It's time to give this Yom Tov

In lieu of gifts, let WIZO send personalised Rosh Hashanah greetings to your loved ones, and bring sweetness to all the adults, teenagers and children in our care.

Send your greetings list to bnothz@ctjc.co.za or contact 021- 461 7000 ext 131

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For more information contact admin@holocaust.org.za

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Please send the list of names, e-mail address or postal addresses to admin@nechama.org.za



Transform your Rosh Hashana Greetings into a Mitzvah

The UJW Cape branch will send your Rosh Hashana Greetings for a donation towards our worthwhile projects.

Call Georgie on 021 434 9555 or email admin@ujwcape.co.za with your list of people and your personal message.

Shana Tova Umetuka from all of us at the Union of Jewish Women.



ROSH HASHANA GREETINGS

A donation to our Home in lieu of a gift is a great gift as well as a wonderful way of performing the mitzvah of Tzedakah.

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All you need to do is send us the list of names and addresses and we will do the rest for you.

Email: rh@oranjia.com

Please note new email address!

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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

For **R200** your name will be included on our Rosh Hashana community greetings page in next month's special Yomtov issue (print and digital). ([click here to see example from last year](#))

You will be supporting our organisation, as well as letting your friends and family know that you are thinking of them.

Fill in the [online form](#) or email the names of all those who are SENDING the greeting to chron@ctjc.co.za by Friday 12 August

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CONNECT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNITY

Should you stay or should you go?

By Daniel Bloch, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

What are the top five things you talk about around the Shabbos table or when you are out with friends?

I am willing to bet my bottom dollar (stole that line from a movie) that the list of topics includes load-shedding, petrol prices, the state of our government, where are our kids going to study and inevitably these all lead into that one big discussion — should we stay or should we go? One positive aspect to draw from this seemingly negative paragraph is that COVID no longer features — some good news.

People are leaving Cape Town for places like Israel, Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States for a variety of reasons which include study opportunities for their children, a better life for their family, job security, low crime rates and more. The grass is not always greener on the other side. In fact, the grass in Cape Town is quite lush and green and there are still opportunities for us all. I know that some of you may be reading this thinking — what does he know? Is he naïve? What about corruption, crime, load-shedding, etc?

While I don't discount these issues, it is clear that many members of our community are leaving, and there are people making the move to Cape Town from Johannesburg and abroad — the question is why? There are loads of reasons why Cape Town is an amazing place to work, live and play, and it is our duty to be active citizens and promote our amazing community.

Since the start of the year, my colleagues and I have been working on a semigration project which is now gaining traction and buy-in from our community, as well as our partners in the Western Cape Government. Semigration means movement



from one part of a country to another (as opposed to emigration, which is migration to another country). We intend to attract Jewish families and individuals to come and live in Cape Town.

Many of us live a good life in Cape Town and benefit from our incredible Jewish community. We have amazing schools, shuls, restaurants, a network of organisations that look after Jews, places of community education and much more. Cape Town also has one of the lowest rates of antisemitism anywhere in the world. In today's society with the spike in global antisemitism, this is fast becoming a determining factor for many Jewish families as to where the safest place is to live.

Yes, we have problems. However, the leaders within the Western Cape are trying to rectify these problems and are starting to make positive changes.

The city of Cape Town has received many accolades over the past few years, and was rated the third best city in the world to live in, after Barcelona and Sydney. Service-delivery, infrastructure, weather, business, tourism and the promise of becoming the technology capital of South Africa are all factors that contribute to this impressive rating. Yes, we have problems. However, the leaders within the Western Cape are trying to rectify these problems and are starting to make positive changes.

Unless Manchester United offer me the position of manager, my family and I will be staying in Cape Town for the foreseeable future. I will be doing my utmost to ensure that our community provides the resources, support systems and opportunities for as many Jewish families and individuals as possible to prosper and live a happy life in Cape Town. Let's focus on all the good things our community has to offer, and spend our time spreading positive messages rather than complaining. Being an active citizen means working together towards a brighter future for all. Let's all play our part!

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Leveraging our past to create a better future!

By Tzvi Brivik, Chairperson, Cape SAJBD

Last month I travelled to Spain with my family, and had the opportunity to visit the historical Jewish quarters in most of the major cities.



It was an eye-opening experience, and one which reminded me of the luxury of our current rights as Jews. These spaces were often densely built, and separated from the city and its 'local' inhabitants, with many limitations on how the communities could interact with each other.

One such limitation, for instance, was that no shul was allowed to be larger than a church. Most of these quarters had access restricted, with gates that were locked at night and only opened during the day. The Jews who lived here were restricted from performing certain trades which were deemed lucrative at the time, such as working with stone or metal; and were limited to those forms of commercial enterprise that the local Christian inhabitants were unwilling to involve themselves in.

Having been separated from their fellow inhabitants and other communities, the Jews were less likely to be afflicted by transmissible diseases such as the black plague. In addition, the religious requirement of washing hands before meals, and other hygienic practices served to protect the Jewish population as well. However, protection from diseases failed to protect the Jewish communities from the mistrust and suspicion of others that resulted from what appeared to be 'lower' infection rates, which although still high, were lower than gentile communities. Europeans reacted with unfounded allegations, such as that the Jews were poisoning the water and that the Jews were behind any disease or affliction that they had suffered. This

was borne out of a lack of knowledge of the Jewish community, and a resultant mistrust of the 'other'.

Based on our collective history and understanding of prejudice as a Jewish people, the Cape SAJBD work hard to dispel any such mistrust. Through the associate relations and interfaith and intercommunity subcommittees, we have highlighted our community and its values to our broader society through social programmes and communications. In this way, we hope to bridge gaps between our community and others, promoting collaboration to overcome challenges facing society. We are inextricably bound with our neighbours and sister communities, and we must work together to secure constitutional rights for all, with the freedom to practice one's religion and to live free from prejudice.

Based on our collective history and understanding of prejudice as a Jewish people, the Cape SAJBD work hard to dispel any such mistrust.

The core mandate of the Cape SAJBD is to confront anti-semitism, be it in-person or online. We are in the midst of our 2022 election (see page 10), where 15 new Board members will be elected — five

from the public ballot and ten from the affiliate ballot. This provides the successful members with a platform to be heard on social issues facing the community and the opportunity to guide the values, responses and strategies the Board develops.

These members will help us to ensure that Jewish life and the Jewish way of life are protected, respected and promoted by engaging with civil society and local government to advance the rights and interests of the community.

We look forward to welcoming this new Board in September 2022, and with that the opportunity to leverage a wealth of institutional and communal knowledge.



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Are we as Jews sensitive?

By Tyla Dallas

"Ask the Jew to see his number tattoo" — the phrase uttered by a 30-something-year-old at a busy bar on a Friday night. "Hitler should have f*cking roasted you bastards" — the statement spat at a tenant when a property dispute turned sour. "You're a stingy half-Jew" — the abuse hurled at a boy by a colleague during his work shift.

In the last two years working as the Board's Legal Researcher, and now Marketing and Legal officer, people's ability to hurl hateful words at one another has ceased to shock me. Offend? Of course! Disturb? Most definitely! Yet our highest courts have held that speech that may shock, offend and disturb you, may still be a protected form of expression. So when should we take action?

The Board favours a restorative justice approach to discrimination, with the aim to engage and educate the offender so that they understand the offensive nature of their comments. Even where a statement seems so egregious, the context in which it is said may not support successful litigious action being taken. We want to empower our community to live an authentic and proud Jewish life. Ideally, free from intimidation and harassment; but realistically, hate will always permeate. Antisemitism is the

oldest form of hate, mutating from racially- to religiously-based, and relying on common tropes such as 'global Jew dominance and manipulation'. It is racism. It is discrimination. Yet, when it happens, it is not uncommon for it to be brushed off as 'sensitivity'.

Are we as Jews sensitive? Well, speaking for myself, it is a resounding YES. Was I always? No. When I started at the Board, I was admittedly unfazed by the 'Jew-baiting' I had grown accustomed to it throughout my life. Growing up in Durban, attending public school and being raised in a mixed-religion household, my Jewish identity was only one part of me. It was only when I started immersing myself in courses on antisemitism that I began to slowly but surely 'get it'. I am sensitive to antisemitism because of the past endured by my people. I am sensitive to antisemitism because I am scared for my family's safety. Like racism, xenophobia, homophobia, Islamophobia and all other discriminations, antisemitism has no place in our society. It relies on 'othering' — subjugating a part of a person's identity to their whole world-offering.

My biggest learning has been that my sensitivity does not trickle down — not everyone perceives things the same way. Around the board table, this is true, as well as within our community. How could broader society be any different? For many,

antisemitism is so deeply ingrained and generally accepted that it is not even recognised as harmful. So, how do we correct this? Do we react any time someone voices a racial slur like 'Jews are stingy'?



The Cape SAJBD believes that education is the only real deterrent. Communicating despite one's differences, learning about others' challenges and past, and working together to help society are crucial. Breaking down these barriers allows us to see the beauty in those different to us.

With this being my last article for the Board as I move on to other challenges, I have created an educational booklet titled *Confronting Antisemitism* that will become part of the Board's educational tool-kit to address antisemitism. It defines antisemitism, its history and the ways to respond to it. Email sajbd2@ctjc.co.za to get your copy!

If you experience any form of antisemitism or anti-Jewish bias including hate speech, intimidation, assault, vandalism or graffiti, report it to the Board. Either call, text or WhatsApp our #ReportHate Hotline on 079 994 5573 or complete a #ReportHate tool available on our website.

ELECTION 2022

#GETINVOLVED #VOTESMATTER

On Tuesday, 5 July, nominations for the Cape SAJBD election closed with **5 public ballot nominees** and **11 affiliate ballot nominees** received. All members of the community had until Tuesday, 12 July to log an objection to any of these nominees with the Electoral Commission.

As the minimum number of nominees (5) were received for the public ballot and no objections were upheld by the EC, **we are pleased to present the 5 nominees automatically elected onto the Board:**

Public Ballot Nominees



Michael Barr



Vanessa Raphaely



Lynton Cassel



Rabbi Belinda Silbert



Elresia (Rivkah)
Myburgh

The election of nominees on the affiliate ballot will take place at the Board AGM on **18 September 2022**. Affiliate organisations have been allocated between 1 to 5 delegates and must submit their particulars to sajbd2@ctjc.co.za by **12 August 2022**. Each delegate may vote for a maximum of **six (6) nominees** in the affiliate ballot.

Affiliate Ballot Nominees



Vivienne Anstey



Justin Asher



Tzvi Brivik



Glen Heneck



Lester Hoffman



Adrienne Jacobson



Rael Kaimowitz



David King



Dawn Nathan-Jones



Jonathan Silke



Simone Sulcas

Find out more about the nominees at
www.capesajbd.org/elections-2022/

KOCOSA
Cape Kosher Consumers
Promoting Kashrut in Cape Town and Beyond

KOCOSA bids farewell to chairlady Esther Maizels



Front: Maxine Boyd (incoming Chairlady), Avi Popack, Esther Maizels (outgoing Chairlady) and Linda Saban. Back: Sarah Wosk (Vice Chair) Vonnny Bernstein, (Going Kosher), Eric Berger, Kelly Levinthal, Gillian Cress, Minette Minitzer (Social Media), Naomi Rose (Treasurer) Charlotte Thurgood, Vanessa Gawronsky and Pauline Sevit. (absent from picture: Sue Benatar and Jackie Garbman)

The KOCOSA Committee (Kosher Consumers of South Africa), together with Eric Berger and Kelly Levinthal of the UOS, met on Monday 18 July at Coffee Time to bid farewell to KOCOSA chairlady, Esther Maizels, who will be shortly going on Aliyah.

Esther has been involved with KOCOSA since its inception in 1989 (33 years ago!), first as a committee member, then vice-chair and finally chairlady for many years. We are happy to announce that she will remain on as ex-officio and will be available to assist where necessary.

Unfortunately, Rabbi Yochi Ziegler, Head of the Cape Town Kashrut Department could not attend but sent a special message to Esther, thanking her for her years of service to KOCOSA and the Cape Town Jewish Community.

Congratulations to Maxine Boyd and Sarah Wosk who have taken over the leadership of KOCOSA. We wish them continued success in the promotion of kashrut.

To become a member of KOCOSA and receive updates on kosher products, please contact Maxine Boyd at 082 7726251 or vmboyd@iafrica.com

WIZO South Africa
Women's International Zionist Organization

Full steam ahead for WIZO SA



President of WIZO South Africa, Shelley Trope-Friedman was invited to address the Ruth Branch on the 23rd of June and the Gilah Branch on the 6th of July. Both branches had enjoyable in-person meetings on these days.

At the Ruth Branch meeting Shelley spoke about antisemitism facing us today, and gave an overview of the projects that WIZO South Africa supports in Israel. Batya Shmueli, former Cape Town Shaliach, gave a talk on her journey from Ethiopia to Israel.

At the Gilah Branch meeting, Shelley gave an interesting and inspiring talk linking the insights of Mandela Day with the values and ideals of WIZO. Angela Rothbart, the guest speaker spoke on her book, *The Lightness of Air*, inspired by the story of Holocaust survivor Henia Bryer.

These were informative and moving talks and it was so special for everyone to get together. President Shelley welcomes invitations to address other branches and we look forward to many more WIZO meetings and fundraisers throughout South Africa in the future.

The Impact of Covid on eating disorders

By Francesca Rose Annenberg

After a challenging two years, things are getting back to normal despite Covid lingering in a less severe manner. However, many of us are struggling to come to terms with what has happened.

A 2022 study mentioned that the Covid-19 pandemic has created a global context that has led to increased eating disorder risks and symptoms, decreased factors that protect against eating disorders, and exacerbated barriers to care.

For many people, the disruption to daily routines and constraints to outdoor activities increased weight and shape concerns, whilst being homebound negatively impacted eating, exercise, and sleeping patterns, all of which contributed to eating disorder symptoms. Furthermore, the social restrictions deprived many individuals of the social support and adaptive and

protective coping strategies.

The increase in eating disorder-specific or anxiety-provoking social media, and the reliance on video conferencing has negatively impacted body image and other eating disorder symptoms.

Despite many parts of the world starting to open again, why are eating disorders still so prevalent?

This is because the aftermath of Covid is still living within our bodies. When the body is still locked in the stress of the experience, the eating disorder strategies that came in to protect an individual during that time continue playing out because the body has not fully registered that it is safe.

This is where support and help can come in — creating safe, intentional places with the care of a loving presence. Unlike during the pandemic's signature of social isolation, the antidote to an eating

disorder is social connection and developing trust in those connections.

Over time, trust with one's own body emerges once again, as well as greater emotional resilience, and

connection with the wider world.

By restoring safety and trust with our own bodies and with the world, we can collectively and individually recover, heal, and transform.

References: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7300468/>

Do You Need an Eating Disorder Recovery Coach for Your Loved One?



Navigating over 14 years of her own personal eating disorder recovery, Francesca Rose Annenberg weaves eating disorder recovery frameworks, trauma-informed integrative somatic coaching modalities, and her life experience into a compassionate approach to food and body recovery.

She is a certified coach, supporting individuals in creating a healthy relationship to food, their bodies, and towards life that is embedded in embodied self-acceptance and trust. She offers 1:1 coaching online and in-person, as well as monthly online eating disorder recovery support groups.

To get in touch email hello@francescaeatsroses.com or call +27833476042 www.francescaeatsroses.com

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SAZF Cape Council delegations return to Israel

By Chaya Singer, Executive Director – SAZF Cape Council

The South African Zionist Federation Cape Council is excited that we are finally able to go back to facilitating communal programmes with educational trips to Israel!

COVID-19 led to a feeling of isolation as South Africa was put on scarlet and red no-fly lists; and some of us missed important family occasions. Of primary concern was the potential erosion of Zionist culture within the community, and the connection that particularly young people feel to each other and to Israel, with the cancellation of our machanot and educational and leadership trips to Israel.

Last month we were thrilled to have sent a group of 40 teachers from Herzlia, Sinai Academy and Phyllis Jowell Schools as well as a teacher from Durban, on a trip to Israel through the Jewish National Fund (JNF). They departed on 4 July for a 10-day programme. At a pre-trip training session held at Herzlia School and hosted by the leader of the trip, mancom member Rabbi Thurgood, Executive Director Chaya Singer gave a presentation on the political narrative around Israel in South Africa.

Our 2022 Diller Cohort, led by co-ordinator Martine Katz, departed for Israel on Friday 1 July for a three-week

Diller International Programme — Israel Summer Seminar (ISS), with our partner community in Shoham, Israel. Chaya Singer joined the trip in Tel Chai to run a session during the global meetup on youth leadership in communal and national organisations. The Diller trip is the culmination of a year-long leadership development programme.

The SAZFCC hosted a proud send-off in partnership with Maccabi Western Province for the 100-strong delegation of athletes participating this year from the Western Cape. SAZF CC Treasurer Hagai Golan addressed the packed audience with a powerful speech about the



SAZF CC Treasurer Hagai Golan and Maccabi WP Sports Director Saul Jackson

important history of the Maccabi Games, with warm wishes of encouragement to the athletes. The Games took place from 14 — 27 July.

We look forward to many more exciting programme send-offs catering to various sectors of the community! Next year in Jerusalem!



Eco-Zionism tour for Cape Town Educators, sponsored by the Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael - Jewish National Fund



The Diller Teen Fellows Cape Town group



The Cape Town Maccabi group

Diller Cape Town Cohort 7 experiencing Israel summer seminar

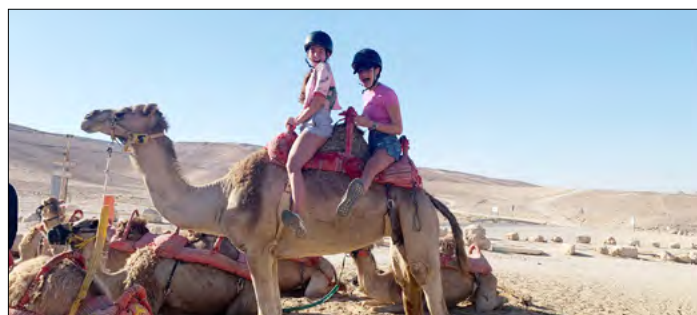
After two years of cancelled trips, Diller Cape Town has finally been able to experience an Israel Summer Seminar.

This three-week adventure, focusing on the narrative *The Many Faces of Israel*, was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our teens. They were part of 700 young leaders from 32 communities around the world, who came together to explore and connect on

topics relevant to their lives. We were very proud of our teens, who were outstanding representatives of our community!

Keep your eyes open for Cohort 8 (2022-23) applications opening later this year; or email us at diller@ctjc.co.za.

Please follow @capetown.diller for all updates regarding Israel Summer Seminar — applications and more!
— Martine Katz, Diller Teens Co-ordinator



The ubiquitous camel-ride in the desert



Julia Hasson and Kiara Kawalsky at the Kotel



The Diller Staff of 2021-2022: Silvie Richards, Martine Katz, Jonah Schwartz and Talia Scher



Masada at sunrise



Youth Movements roundup

Bnei Akiva's June/July holidays

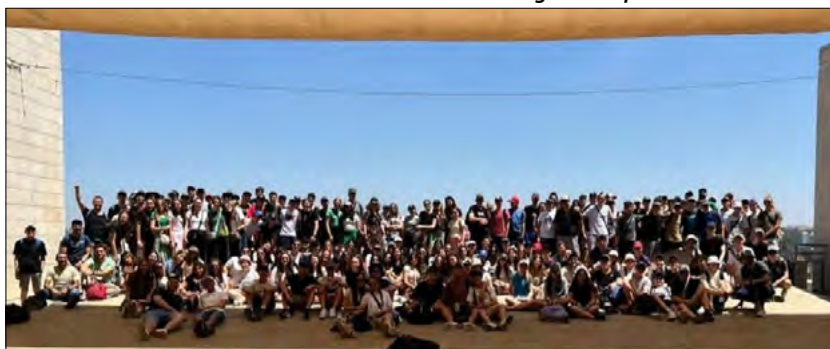
Hello everybody! I hope that you are well and had a beautiful June/July holiday.

Bnei Akiva has been very busy during this time with Winter Camp, events, Hadracha and so much more. We had record-breaking numbers for all these activities. We did both meaningful and fun *tochniot* within our camp — going to the beach, having a dunking machine, activities about individuality and community. Hadracha had the best time travelling around Israel with 320 channichim from Grades 10 and 11! We went to lots of meaningful places and had much fun being in the holy land with hikes, shopping and *tochniot*.

Back in Cape Town, we continue to host weekly activities with our incredible maddies, and would love you to join us.
— Eytan Labe



A movie night in Cape Town



Grade 10 Hadracha at Yad VaShem

How Netzer rolls

Netzer hosted our Winter Day Camp programming for our younger channies in Cape Town from 30 June to 3 July.

We were all excited to get back out there and form connections with the Jewish youth.

We showed them the wonders of our beautiful city and expressed how Judaism and its traditions can be applied to our daily lives. We took the channies on outings around Cape Town, giving them a taste of everything from creating artsy designs at Clay Cafe in Hout Bay, to learning about our country and its wildlife at the Iziko SA Museum in town, and much more. Combining learning and fun is just what a youth movement is all about.

— Ghaim Atash, Head of Netzer Cape Town.



Jaw-dropping adventure at the Iziko South African Museum



Netzer vs Kirstenbosch — the hike edition



Netzer in the wild

Habonim



The Shorashim group on tour in Israel

June/July was choc-a-bloc with activity for Habonim Dror.

We returned to Israel with our cohort of high-schoolers on our first Shorashim (Roots) programme since 2019! Our channichim enjoyed falafel, good times, and engaging *peulot* over the length and breadth of Eretz Yisrael.



The group in Budapest

In other overseas news, we had the privilege of sending a delegation of some of our most experienced madrichim to assist with a Jewish Machaneh in Hungary — Camp Hallelujah. It was an amazing opportunity that allowed us to reach Jewish communities, and experience places we may otherwise not have had the opportunity to visit.

Back in SA, our channichim enjoyed Winter Camps in both Johannesburg and on our campsite in Onrus. In Johannesburg, channies had fun-filled days with exciting tiyulim, enjoying the Sterkfontein Caves and the Sci-Bono Discovery Centre where they had a chance to engage their inquisitive sides. Joburg Winter Camp rounded off with an epic bowling game and an unforgettable sleepover at the bayit.

Back in Onrus, the last days of the holidays were spent in the best way possible — on the campsite, engaging in *peulot*, hanging out with friends and enjoying the Habo magic complete with an awesome concert under the stars.

Following immediately after Winter Camp was Bogrim Seminar (BogSem). Held on the campsite on the last weekend before the end of university holidays, BogSem helped re-energise the bogrim body, and acted as a vital space for important hadracha training between our younger and experienced bogrim.

June/July 2022 will not be forgotten. We hope this momentum only grows in the coming months!

— Aleh ve Hagshem, Jared May, Rosh Ken Cape Town



Aliyah versus Klita — and why both should win

By Chandra Serebro

You're making Aliyah. It's a scary and exciting time. Your papers are filed, you've finally received police clearance, you've organised the lift. But what happens when you land?

Too often, new Olim fail to plan past that beautiful moment when you kiss the ground as you land in Israel. But it's crucial to ensure not only that you arrive in one piece, but that when you find yourself waking up to your shiny new life, it's just as smooth.

"We are first and foremost a *Klita* organisation," says Dorron Kline, CEO of Telfed, "dedicated not only to easing the way into life in Israel but ensuring you arrive with realistic expectations for the most successful Aliyah possible." "Preparation is crucial," he says, "and Telfed offers free consultations with social workers, a Klita Advisor and employment advisors, before and after Aliyah, to help you with this."

"One needs to come to Israel with realistic expectations and have a solid Klita plan," says Daniela Shapira, Klita Advisor. "Research which community will be right for you and your family. Telfed volunteers in different communities can give invaluable information about their community, schools, Anglo presence, shuls and more; all to help ensure your choices are in line with your vision." Connecting with someone locally makes this easier, offering insights only a local can give



The Cohen family landed at Ben Gurion Airport in July 2022, the first of three group flights from South Africa scheduled for summer 2022

you. "Telfed volunteers welcome new Olim and organise social events within their communities, helping social integration."

There can be stressful moments — like finding new friends, finding your first job, and navigating your way — and Telfed's expertise covers it all.

"Aliyah is a complex process. We uproot ourselves from everything we know and face so many things at once — bureaucracy, finding a job, finding a place to live, leaving our friends," says Michal Merten, Career Counsellor. Her best advice is to gather as much information as possible... "preferably unbiased information to arm you with knowledge and tools for success," and Telfed is there to help you get through those stressful first

few months. "We'll educate you about the job market in your specific profession and help you prepare an Israeli CV and a strong LinkedIn profile," says Yael Strausz, Telfed's employment advisor, "and above all, to network — the most important factor in finding a job and a social support system in Israel."

"Telfed will help you make connections with professionals from your field," says Yael.

"And the more people you know, the more likely you are to find a job, receive support and get a better understanding of how things work in Israeli society," reiterates Daniela.

Telfed has an extensive list of 'professional buddies' willing to support new Olim in their first steps in Israel, and is a community of like-minded Olim who together will help you fortify your new roots and build on them too.

Telfed now offers free virtual Q&A meetings with Michal Merten to better prepare you for when you land, and to help your Klita process. Find us on Instagram or Facebook and get the best information from those in the know. All services are free of charge before, during and after your Aliyah and are not time-restricted — even second and third-generation Olim are eligible for free services.

For more information about Telfed's services, visit the Telfed website: www.telfed.org.il



4th ANNUAL Womens Day CELEBRATION

Please join us in celebrating a day of
Resilience, Courage
and Memory.

High Tea
Tuesday 9 August, 10:30am
Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre
Tickets: R180

All proceeds will go to feeding children from
under-resourced schools who visit the Centre.

Patron: Shelley Friedman
This Women's Day event has been made possible through the
generous donation of the **George Elkin Charity Trust**

For bookings contact call 021 462 5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE OPENING OF THE THROUGH THE EYES OF
YOUTH: LIFE AND DEATH IN BEDZIN GHETTO EXHIBITION AND A PUBLIC
LECTURE BY ITS CURATOR PROF. BJÖRN KRONDORFER

MEMORY & FAMILY HISTORY IN POST-WAR GERMANY

Prof. Krondorfer will give a talk on the effects of the Holocaust and war on German society, family, and German post-war generations, touching on his father's war experience as a 17-year old German soldier in the vicinity of a Jewish slave labour camp in Poland. The talk will also address more general themes in society, including the value of dialogue between the communities and individual affected by the traumatic memory of extreme (state-sponsored) violence.



Prof. Björn Krondorfer is Regents' Professor and the Director of the Martin-Springer Institute at Northern Arizona University. He held guest professorships and research fellowships at the Freie University Berlin, the University of the Free State, South Africa, the Vrije University in Amsterdam, and the Santa Fe Art Institute in New Mexico. Since 2020, he is chair of the "Consortium of Higher Education Centers for Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Studies." He has presented his research and facilitated intercultural seminars in dozens of countries, from Armenia to South Africa.

Sunday 14 August 5pm(SAST)

Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre,
88 Hatfield St, Gardens

RSVP ESSENTIAL: admin@holocaust.org.za



MENSCH THOUGHT-LEADER OF THE MONTH

We are all soul musicians

By Barbara Nussbaum



My life's message is best expressed by Dr Leland Kaiser (z"l), "We are all soul musicians, and all we need to do is to listen to our unique soul notes, have the courage to play them and then become part of the magnificent orchestra we are."

I am a poet, a non-fiction author, a social innovator, coach, and facilitator. I am the founder and director of *Finding Us in Music™* (FUIM), a methodology that draws on the importance of connection, both from Ubuntu and from Judaism.

Through my work and studies over many decades, I have learned that we can all be imaginative and empathic co-artists and co-creators of a kinder more harmonious world. With some guidance we can see and hear ourselves and others differently. Most people simply need an invitation. I learned that it is through listening to each other, with no judgement, with grace, generosity, respect and with reverence that people can build bridges of belonging.

Thousands of people on three continents have been beneficiaries of FUIM. Working both in-person and online, in universities, in companies and non-profit organisations, this small group engagement process empowers people to name and claim who they are, at core, through a music

track they choose. Through a careful process of presentation, listening and feedback, each member's music and story is given attention. A gentle, safe and generative design helps the group to uncover and affirm the previously 'unheard frequencies' of each other. Heartfelt contemplative listening and speaking with authentic kindness are the magic ingredients which create an unexpected social alchemy.

My journey began at the age of 16 while reading about a union leader in John Steinbeck's novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*. The book inspired me to want to make a difference. A paragraph in the study guide described a compelling idea — we are all connected to an oversoul. To my then-adolescent mind, we were all part of a large pancake in the sky — stronger together as a connected force.

Over the course of a life-time, other musicians and writers from multiple cultures and religious persuasions have refined and focused the way I have expressed my life's purpose. Like John Lennon, I am a dreamer. For Bono, music is the language of the spirit and can help awaken us to the magic within. As Ben Okri writes, "I believe that to be alive means that we are all artists and co-creators... and that humanity is the greatest work of art we can create together."

Inspired by the Lubavitcher Rebbe, I believe that the world is inherently good, and beautiful, and that "reality itself is a veritable work of sacred art." Influenced by positive psychology I believe that beyond the stupidity of war, selfishness, and greed, and despite collective trauma and the many ways in which we can be destructive, we can also transform who we are.

We can help each other to see and reveal the divine sparks of light that lie within us. Music can be distracting, alienating or simply a background noise. Or the complete opposite. If we listen to it with a clear intention and a sacred heart, music can be a transformative language. As Dr Nathi Nzama of Tygerberg Medical School, Stellenbosch University expressed, "During our FUIM group, I got to have a microscopic view into all of my team members' souls, and to understand their narrative."

We need to answer that age-old call to love our neighbour as we love ourselves. Just listen for the soul notes that are yours to play and then offer them to the magnificent orchestra that we are. Use music as a way to name and claim your unique gift for our world. Share your music track with someone important to you in a safe environment.

Barbara Nussbaum is a member of the Mensch Network, and in June 2022 a winner of the prestigious *Social Change Maker of the Year Award* at the *Women in Management TOP 50 Professional and Career Women Global Awards* in Dubai. To find out more visit <https://www.findingusinmusic.co.za/>

Mensch is a social Justice NGO, committed to capacitating and supporting our Jewish Community's response towards Social Justice in South Africa.

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



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

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



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

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

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

European citizenship will be that tool we are looking for.

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

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

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

Until 1918 residents of these territories were of Russian citizenship – as Polish and Lithuanian citizenships did not exist. Therefore applications

for reinstatement of these citizenships can only be based on if one's ancestor was a Polish or Lithuanian citizen.

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

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

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

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

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

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

My next trip will be around June-July 2022.

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



TEMPLE ISRAEL
CAPE TOWN PROGRESSIVE
JEWISH CONGREGATION 75 years

Consider This

Celebrating women

By Rabbi Malcolm Matitiani

Notwithstanding the many *halakhot* that govern Jewish ritual and ethical behaviour, there are aspects of Judaism that are universal in character.



This is borne out by the fact that the Torah does not begin with the stories of the Matriarchs and Patriarchs, but rather with accounts of the creation of the world and humanity. Indeed, Abraham and Sarah are only mentioned at the end of the eleventh chapter of Genesis.

It is noteworthy that there are two versions of the Creation narrative in the Torah and that in popular telling of the Creation story the two accounts are conflated into one. According to many, the Bible relates that God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh; and that God created Adam (Man) on the sixth day and later took a rib from him and created Chava (Woman).

The division of the act of creation into six days and the creation of Shabbat on the seventh is found in the first chapter of the Torah, but the idea that the first human was exclusively male and that God created the first female from his rib is expressed in the second version of creation (Genesis 2). According to the first account of creation, God fashioned men and women at the same time (Genesis 1:27). Human beings were the last life forms created by God — everything that was created before led up to this significant moment, the creation of all human genders *betzelem Elohim*, “in the image of God”

In the second chapter of Genesis God creates Adam before creating the animals. According to this account of Creation, the animals were created because the single (male) human was lonely, and God wanted to create companions for him. Only after discovering that the animals were not suitable companions for the human, does God put Adam to sleep, remove a *tzeila* from him and use it to build a female counterpart. For centuries this version of the creation of humanity was used as a reason to suppress women — after all women are only a small part of men because the Hebrew word *tzeila* is generally understood to mean a ‘rib’. A corollary of this statement is that a man is incomplete without a woman.

But the word *tzeila* can also mean ‘side’, thus one could understand that God used more than just a rib from Adam as the foundation for creating Chavah (Eve). This translation of *tzeila* reconciles the second account of the creation of humankind with the first, namely that all genders are equal and must be treated as such.

The strength and conviction of the Matriarchs and other women are evident in the early stories of our ancestors. Sarah’s practical solution to her inability to conceive ensured that Abraham fathered a son. Sarah was later to conceive and give birth to a son of her own in her old age. Rebekah’s resolve guaranteed that Abraham and Isaac’s legacy was continued by Jacob, and Leah and Rachel put aside their competitiveness and co-operated to safeguard the continuity of the family (Bilhah and Zilpah playing no small part).

Mazaltov to last month’s Bar Mitzvah!



Seth Berrill - 16 July

continues on page 25

Pride Shabbat



Rabbi Greg Alexander, Mathilde Tomson-Myburgh, Anastacia Tomson-Myburgh, Sixolile Mabombo-Benson, Jacqui Benson-Mabombo, Lauren van Diermen and Rosie Motene

On Friday 24 June, Temple Israel celebrated Pride Shabbat, an event which has been run since 2013.

Previously taking place on the Shabbat before Cape Town Pride and hosted by the Green Point Synagogue, Covid has prompted a move to align the calendar with internationally recognised Pride Month, and to keep looking at how the service and message speaks to the wider issues that are faced by the LGBTIQA+ community, which continues to be wracked by hate crimes, prejudice and discrimination.

This year was of particular significance, as it saw the launch of *Shemah Koleinu*, a queer and Jewish-led human rights organisation whose mission is to advocate for and provide representation for those voices not being heard in our midst, and to create and promote equity, representation, and dignity for LGBTIQA+ people.

Rosie Motene, co-chair of *The Other Foundation*, was the invited guest speaker. She gave a very moving testimony and offered insights into how privilege, whether it be racial or cisgendered, is still so prevalent in our community, and the very real and devastating impact that it has on people’s lives. The message was clear — not all of us need to be activists, but we can all take action, and even the smallest actions, like not assuming someone else’s pronouns, can make the biggest difference to the person in front of us — to be seen as themselves. Over 150 people attended the service offered in-person and online, and followed by



Hamotzi with Hedi Lampert, Fabio Diliberto and Rabbi Greg



Rev Berry Behr, Jeanne Livingstone and Temple Israel president Diana Sochen

a delicious meal catered by an extraordinary volunteer team, and made possible by generous donors. This set the space for a very meaningful evening on which we hope to continue to build a safe space for all.



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Cape Jewish Seniors Association

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

Taking advantage of a mild mid-winter

No one can complain about the weather during the last few weeks of June.

Winter has been absolutely glorious, with warm balmy days and magnificent sunsets, which have allowed us to plan very successful outings for our members. Our special driver, Emmanuel, has taken our members on some fabulous visits to various venues — walks in Green Point Urban Park and The Company's Garden, a special morning in Philadelphia, a guided tour of the Rupert Museum and a wonderful tea and viewing of exquisite merchandise at Boere Sjek.

Those who join the outings share a special time with good company, and the feedback indicates that these trips are always worthwhile.

At our centres we have enjoyed a couple of guest speakers followed by light lunches which are always enjoyed. Angela Rothbart launched her first novel at each of our

branches. Henia Bryer joined her at each of the launches engaging with members after hearing how Angela's book came about. Thanks to CJSA, a beautiful friendship has grown between Henia and Angela since Angela volunteered to become a friend to Henia, visiting her weekly to read and engage with, when Henia's eyesight diminished. Both of them value this special friendship that has grown, and they love engaging regularly with each other.

Prior to the pandemic, one of the most popular activities was the monthly men's schmooze morning where our men got together with a guest speaker to chat, listen and enjoy each other's company. In June we reintroduced this, and our Milnerton men were able to spend a pleasant morning together with their guest speaker, often continuing to engage and enjoy each other's company after the event had ended. This will be a monthly occurrence and we will offer the same to our Sea

Point members in the near future.

We received an unexpected call from Cantor Joel Lichterman who was visiting his mom, Miriam, from the USA. He generously offered his time and beautiful voice to join with our own Cantor Ivor Joffe to host a special concert in Sea Point. We should have hired a big venue, because in no time at all, we were fully booked and had a long waiting list of very disappointed people who were aching to be part of this special morning. We served a light lunch after the beautiful concert. Soprano Cynthia Lipshitz joined them, and we were also entertained by Sam Chiat on the keyboard. The good news is that we made a video of the show which is available to view on the CJSA Facebook page — so there is still an opportunity to view the concert.

Our centres are open daily, and a weekly programme of events is sent out via email, together with the regular weeks Zoom activities, encouraging all seniors to remain active and part

of this great community. Whether you are housebound and inactive or regularly venture out, there is no reason at all for anyone to feel lonely or alone. The programme is varied and members are able to engage, socialise and participate in a variety of special activities. Not only does it give you a chance to socialise, we also encourage physical and mental activity to assist with physical and mental wellbeing. It is so easy to give up and do nothing, but how beneficial it is to stimulate both mind and body to promote active ageing. None of us want to be a burden to our family, so it is up to each one of us to make the best of our own lives — we only have ONE.

Here's hoping that August will be kind to each one of us.

Diana Sochen
Executive Director

Social and Personal

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

Birth

Leonard and Dorothy Sank — Granddaughter

Batmitzvah

Tzvi and Nicky Brivik — Daughter
Dan Korn — Granddaughter

Barmitzvah

Victor and Maxine Boyd — Grandson

Marriage

Wilfred Mirkin — Daughter

Special birthday wishes

Marcia Orlin

Welcome to new members

Colette Brownell, Livia Grodentzik

Wishes of strength and Refua Shlemah to those who are not well

Den Bernstein, Marcia Orlin, Esme Rosenberg

Out deepest sympathy to family of members who have recently passed away

Fazia Shaskolsky on the passing of her husband Ivor

Bess Lonstein on the passing of her brother Sam Goronovsky

Marlene Lyons on the passing of her son, Gary

Recent outings and activities



Milnerton Members enjoying the launch of Angela Rothbart's book



Milnerton Members enjoying a morning at the Zeitz MOCAA Museum



Shirley Kellner and Emmanuel Siboma



West Coast Members enjoying a day in Stellenbosch



Pop In with Daniel Bloch

Let's be brave

by Jodi Sher, Vice Chair of the United Jewish Campaign

In 2012 I was fortunate to attend the President's Conference in Israel.

The conference was hosted by Shimon Peres z"l who handed out the Award of Distinction to former US secretary of state, Henry Kissinger.

When Kissinger went up to receive this special award he said words that have stayed with me since that moment, "My parents would be more proud of this honour than any other distinctions that have come my way. I know this is strange at 89, but Mom and Dad I wish you were here to see this."

It was a moment of clarity of what I have always known deep in my core. We all have so many different facets to our lives both personally and professionally, but as a Jewish People we are all part of a greater community. It's a sense of belonging, a sense of pride and there is no greater reward or accolade, than looking after each other. It's the biggest honour and one, all our parents would be proud of.

But this isn't something you are born with, it is something that gets passed down from generation to generation. A legacy of responsibility for the well-being of our collective family.

August is Women's Month and I thought a lot about the dynamic women role models I have in my life and that we have as a Cape Town Jewish Community. Fierce leaders, compassionate caregivers and inspirational heroes, who selflessly devote so much to the good of our community and deserve every ounce of praise. They will lead the way, but it is up to each one of us to play our role in forging the next generation and instilling that sense of pride and belonging.

We are blessed here in Cape Town with a thriving community, but this didn't just happen. It took dedication from each and every one of us, past and present. And it will need that same commitment into the future. This isn't only about big gestures but also small moments and little acts of kindness that demonstrate our commitment to each other.

From a young age my mom taught my sister and me the importance of doing things for others. We grew up visiting Glendale at least once a month; and whether it was doing hair for Rosh Hashana, painting murals or just visiting, I knew I had a role to play in our greater community. I am forever grateful for this incredible gift of giving back to others.

As the Vice-Chair of the UJC, I am immensely

proud of the funds that are raised to support our community every year and the community members who passionately volunteer their time and skills to uplifting our incredible community, many of whom are women.

As women we have a special power to inspire others.

As I sit here writing my thoughts from the Kruger National Park, I just witnessed true female power watching a hyena defend her cubs from a pack of wild dogs.

Let's all be inspired by her bravery.

Let's protect the future of our community together.

My wish is that as we celebrate Women's Month, every woman in our community takes on the responsibility to inspire one more person, to do one more act of kindness and ensure that together we can continue the legacy of a thriving Cape Town Jewish Community. May it go from strength to strength.



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Aged Residential Care for Our Community

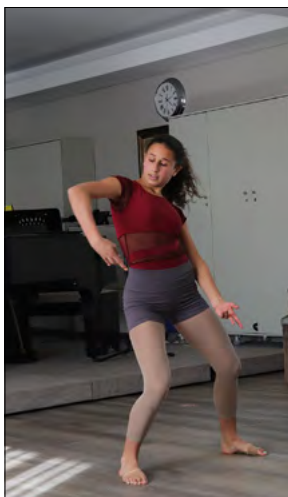
Connecting for a reason, a season, or for life

Highlands House shares B'nith Zion WIZO's Gilah branch's love of making good connections, and recently, our residents thoroughly enjoyed an afternoon with the lovely ladies of WIZO.

We were graced with the presence and talents of two grandchildren in the community — Idana Saven and Mika Berman — both from Herzlia High School. Idana performed modern dance and Mika sang songs with piano accompaniment for our residents.

President of WIZO South Africa Shelley Trope-Friedman delivered an inspiring message from the organisation, saying that WIZO enables human connections, and encouraged residents to embrace those connections they make for a reason (to serve a certain purpose in their lives), for a season (during a time of great challenge or growth), or for life (lifetime connections, such as their friendships at Highlands House). She spoke about WIZO's work in Israel on children's homes and daycare centres, and in South Africa on their Wheelchairs of Hope project. They raise funds through various community engagements, events and product sales to purchase and donate plastic wheelchairs to disabled children, offering greater mobility during early childhood development. These wheelchairs suit children between five and nine years old.

Adele Saven led the meeting, and residents and WIZO women alike enjoyed a piece of cake and a cup of tea during the programme.



Idana Saven performing modern dance routines for the residents of the Lifestyle Centre. Photo by Resident Joss Shaff.

Residents entertained by 'The King of Rock'

"It's an honour to play for you at Highlands House."

Gordon Rocker, real name Gordon Epstein, is a singer and songwriter from Cape Town. His repertoire includes hundreds of popular songs and Hebrew songs, spanning genres including rock 'n roll, pop, country, and jazz. Gordon Rocker is also an Elvis Presley tribute artist who recently had our residents rocking in the Lifestyle Centre. His performance included popular hits like "All Shook Up" and "Blue Suede Shoes". His crowd sang and clapped along as they enjoyed tunes from their younger days. Many said the concert brought back wonderful memories.

A week before the highly-anticipated release of the new movie *Elvis* inspired by Elvis Presley's life and directed by Baz Luhrmann, Gordon Rocker performed at the red carpet premiere at the brand-new Ster Kinekor Cinema at the V&A Waterfront. A few days later, he performed for a national audience on the television programme, *Expresso Morning Show*, where he was also interviewed. He performs daily on the Sessions Live music streaming app, and we enjoyed his concert at the Home.

We welcome talented volunteers to Highlands House — previous volunteers include performers, nail technicians, and folks who offer pet therapy. We only ask that you are fully vaccinated. Contact our Lifestyle Centre Coordinator, Lesley-Ann Knoll, to learn how you can get involved: lifestyle@highlandshouse.co.za

#Elvis #TheKing #LiveAtHighlands #HighlandsLife #VolunteerAtHighlands



Gillian Ressel, Gordon Rocker and Diane Kanter. Photo: Lesley-Ann Knoll.

August birthdays

We wish all our residents who celebrate another year around the sun this July, a Happy Birthday. May your day be spent celebrating the warmth, joy and love you bring to those around you.

2nd Nadia Razis; 10th Freda Kahanovitz; 11th Gertrude Synrodin; 20th Jenniffer Miller; 22nd Elinor Holdsberg; 23rd Myra Barr


Highlands House

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PROVIDING THE RIGHT TOOLS - Giving a Hand Up, not only a Handout.

Lynne Hendricks
Project Coordinator

Jewish Community Services pride ourselves at working on the continual upliftment of our vulnerable community members. We are always looking for creative ways to support our clients, and like many other communities, unemployment has become a major challenge. Elevating unemployment is not an easy task.

JCS is determined to see our clients succeed and have developed the WRAP programme, Wellness Recovery Action Plan, which is a plan designed and managed for the unemployed who can become employable, which in turn assists them to get their lives back on track. This programme is monitored by their Social Worker.

JCS have formed relationships and partnerships with Quantum Growth, who assists in analysing the client's personality and skillset, and Staffwise have assisted JCS in developing the employment project and are approaching various local businesses for internships.

One such business is Woodhead's, who have assisted in developing our employment programme. They are committed to being a part of the process, providing our clients with internships and work shadow opportunities. These opportunities help to get them back into the workplace by upskilling and helping them to rebuild their self-esteem and dignity.

We can now proudly say that this new JCS programme has officially broken ground, as our clients begin to follow the process to financial independence.

Staffwise work closely with us, managing, sourcing, and monitoring the process with the employers, helping to ease the client into each new placement, continuing to establish employment partnerships with other businesses. ORT Jet has also assisted us in reaching out to the SMEs market, that is part of their business network, to assist in the internship programme as well.

Our JCS clients are ecstatic and can't stop expressing gratitude for the opportunities

presented to them through this innovative programme. They now have a purpose for each day, and through the stipend they are earning, they can provide for themselves and their families.

The internship gives us an opportunity to see firsthand what challenges the candidates face at work, be it technical or interpersonal skills. We then work with the individual intern to improve their performance, ensuring constant communication between the candidate and the employer, allowing for transparent and constructive feedback. This is where the growth really happens.

Providing people with this opportunity is the greatest form of Tzedakah. "Give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime."

Some feedback from a delighted employer: "We benefited by having someone assist and

catch up with admin tasks that were falling behind, and having the extra support was of great benefit to us."

Our clients have shown tremendous growth and upliftment from the programme: "At first, I was very nervous, then I used the Quantum Growth programme and I adapted, learnt to communicate and be part of a company. I am loving the experience. Earning is very important but learning new skills and being able to work has more value than you know."

A further testament from a client: "I learnt a lot, I enjoyed waking up each day with a purpose. It was fantastic. Go for it. Submit, adapt, and shine."

To learn more about the JCS Employment Programme or how you can help JCS help our clients, please contact the Project Coordinator, Lynne Hendricks, at the JCS office on **021 462 5520** or **lynne@jcs.org.za**

"We can now proudly say that this new JCS programme has officially broken ground, as our clients begin to follow the process to financial independence."



Woodhead's have assisted in developing our employment project. They are committed to being a part of the process, providing our clients with internships and work shadow opportunities.

#JewishCommunity #WorkProgrammes #SocialUpliftment



Mensch Mandela Day — building food resilience in Langa



Mensch Mandela Day was a massive success this year, held for the first time in three years, live in-person as well as online!

Over 160 people attending the event either in person or online, or watched the event recording. Together with their partner beneficiary organisations Mensch has raised almost R60,000 so far! On the day together, over 120 people made their way to Langa, and made 500 litres of soup for 1500 people

to enjoy on Mandela Day, providing R12 000 in income to local Langa farmers for the produce for the soup!

A huge thank you to our beneficiary partners SA Urban Food and Farming Trust and Ikhaya Le Langa, and our community partners the JDC Joint (supported by the Horwitz Family Trust), the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies and the United Jewish Campaign Cape Town. Not forgetting the farmers themselves for producing the delicious and nutritious veggies!



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21st Maccabiah Games returns with a bang!

On 27 June, SAZF Cape Council and Maccabi Western Province held a send-off ceremony for local participants in this year's Maccabiah Games, which took place from 14 to 26 July.

Saul Jackson, sports director for Maccabi Western Province addressed the attendees:

"I stepped into this role towards the end of 2019, prepared for an exciting and challenging task of building the strongest and largest delegation from Maccabi Western Province. In March 2020, everything changed.

For months we were unable to prepare for the Games, with great uncertainty surrounding whether the event would even take place. From around August 2020 we decided to forge ahead and prepare for the best case scenario. It's been nearly two years of chaos, but I have enjoyed the challenge. Creating sporting opportunities in the community has given people the chance to

forget about the stress and fear of the pandemic, and focus on creating a positive and competitive environment where everyone involved was able to feel part of something bigger.

We would not be where we are today if it were not for the work of Maccabi Western Province's co-chairpersons Gina Isserow and Vanessa Arelisky. These two women may not be in the limelight, however the amount of hours, hard work, commitment and dedication behind the scenes does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. It may only be the three of us, but I believe we have formed a strong and formidable team. Maccabi is an extremely complex organisation to run and I need to thank each and every parent who has stepped up and offered their support. It has made my job that much more manageable and it is this kind of support that has contributed to us being in the position we find ourselves today. To all our coaches, managers and convenors, without you guys, none of these teams would be possible. Your commitment to the cause has been unbelievable

and it has been fantastic working alongside you all. Lastly, a huge thank you to all our sponsors. We greatly appreciate your support and investment in our teams.

We have approximately 100 athletes, coaches and managers representing Maccabi Western Province. This is a remarkable achievement and something all involved can be truly proud of. I have full confidence in each member of Team SA to represent our country and Jewish community in the best way possible."

The guests were also addressed by Chairman of Maccabi South Africa, Cliff Garun, and Hagai Golan, treasurer of the Zionist Federation. The three guest speakers for the evening, Hacjivah Dayimani, Robbie Fleck and Anton Chait — all part of the Open Rugby team — shared stories and inspirational messages.

Click [here](#) for a complete list of participants representing South Africa at this year's Games.



A visit to the Dead Sea



Opening ceremony — tennis player Jacqui Boyd leading with the flag



Chaya Singer and Saul Jackson with the U18 waterpolo team

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Maccabi moments...



U16 netball



At the send-off event, members of the rugby team with Executive Director SAZF CC Chaya Singer (back left), Maccabi WP Sports Director Saul Jackson (back right) and Maccabi Western Province's co-chairperson Gina Isserow (front 2nd from left). The team went on to win gold in the main event, and silver in the 7s.



U18 futsal



U16 futsal coaches Dylan Greenberg and Zach Israel



Futsal coach Reon Siyaya



U18 waterpolo



Rob Sulcas and Elian Weiner representing SA for padel for first time



Team Maccabi swim team



U18 waterpolo team



Both U16 and U18 netball teams won bronze



U18 futsal



U16 futsal



U18 waterpolo



A visit to the Kotel



Team SA at the opening ceremony



Two Herzlia matrices exhibit at Zeitz MOCAA

By Jaime Uranovsky

Hannah Jantjies and Michaela Perkel, visual arts students at Herzlia, were two of 19 matric learners from 11 schools who exhibited their work in the *Walking the Peripheries* exhibition at Zeitz MOCAA.

The project, presented by Zeitz MOCAA Centre for Art Education, began in March when students participated in an intensive four-day workshop at the museum. There, they immersed themselves in contemporary artist Tracey Rose's *Shooting Down Babylon* exhibition and learnt about offensive art, participated in practical activities and delved into the different elements of curatorship and constructing a group exhibition. Rose's work was a key part of the process and inspired both learners in their pieces.

For the six weeks following the workshop, students were given a space in the Centre for Art Education to work on their pieces which were due in mid-May, and which were exhibited until the end of July.

Michaela Perkel's piece is titled *The Committee* and is a reimagining of Leonardo Da Vinci's *The Last Supper*, inspired by Tracey Rose's *Ciao Bella*, (itself a 'remake' of *The Last Supper*). Michaela hopes that her mixed-media, three-dimensional construction will lead viewers to ask who would sit at their own 'tables'. She experimented with hundreds of character combinations before casting herself in the roles of six pairs of contrasting and complementary characters, as well as that of the host. They include Einstein and Jimmy Hendrix, Mary Shelley and Tracey Rose, Greta Thunberg and Christopher Robin, Eve and Medusa, Hitler and Mandela, and Jesus and Buddha. As visually varied as the artwork is imaginative, Michaela has incorporated an assortment of materials from acrylic paint on unstretched canvas to wool, foam, cloth and thread. For example, she has crafted apples and Medusa's snakes from plasticine, Greta's raincoat from latex gloves and even placed real matza in front of Jesus.



Originally, Michaela wanted to stimulate viewers to imagine the conversations and debates that would emerge if these figures could really sit around a table together. During the process however, this shifted and became, for Michaela, about investigating the different forces within herself and indeed within all of us, and how we navigate them. *The Committee* is a depiction of how Michaela interacts with these different parts of

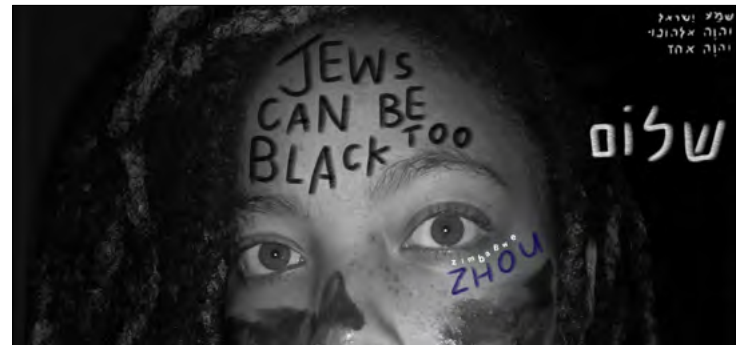
self. She explains that art is about more than aesthetics, saying, "I want to make art that means something." She says of her immersion in different artforms, "I am a product of all those hours reading poems and looking at work".



A detail from The Committee by Michaela Perkel

Indeed, visual art is just one form of art for which Michaela has a talent. She recently placed second in the poetry category of an international competition hosted by *Leaders Igniting Generational Healing and Transformation (LIGHT)* for her poem titled *Twenty twenty-two at eighteen*. This success won her a prize, and the inclusion of her winning poem in *LIGHT*'s first literary journal to be published next year. While she has only penned poetry for a year, Michaela has written prose for far longer and even completed a novel during lockdown. She has also had short stories published in *English Alive* in both 2020 and 2021.

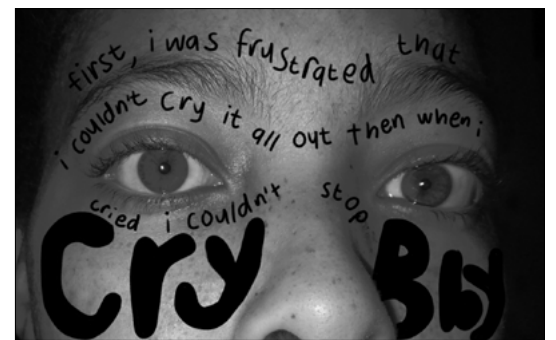
Hannah Jantjies' contribution to *Walking the Peripheries* is titled *Through the Looking Windows*, and is a mixed-media piece that incorporates close-up black and white photographs with Hannah's eyes as the focal point. By offering this deeper glimpse through 'the windows to the soul' Hannah hopes to show a side of her that one would not normally see. Inspired by Tracey Rose who interrogates issues that have personal meaning, Hannah crafted her piece around her struggles with identity. Hannah's overall theme for her project is her journey through depression, with each frame touching on a different issue that she tackles.



A frame from Through the Looking Windows by Hannah Jantjies

This brave and honest piece addresses mental health and the racism that Hannah has faced as a Jewish woman of colour. One of Hannah's favourite frames states "Black people can be Jewish too". For Hannah, being questioned about her ethnicity and religion is a common occurrence. She notes that engaging with Tracey Rose's work "inspired me to speak up about my own struggles and issues that you don't really hear people of colour speaking about, especially if they are Jewish, so that was important for me to display".

Another of Hannah's preferred frames is about touching base with her emotions — the words 'cry bby' are emblazoned on her cheeks with more



A frame from Through the Looking Windows by Hannah Jantjies

wording across her forehead detailing how Hannah has experienced her emotions.

For Hannah, this piece is the beginning and she hopes to create more art around mental health. She stresses that her journey has helped her to understand the importance of normalising depression, and raising awareness by talking about it. Regarding her piece's message, Hannah says, "Hopefully it makes viewers think about themselves and a different perception they have of the world... Not everything is good and that's okay."

Hannah, "like most artists," she notes, is "inspired by everything". She credits her art-loving family and their passion for history and heritage as well as their encouragement to verbalise difficult experiences to normalise them. She adores photography and videography and is considering pursuing these disciplines after school.

For Hannah, one of the most meaningful parts of this project were the bonds formed with other participants. She says, "You could just be yourself... we formed our own little family".



The importance of school outings

Going on outings are an integral part of learning for children.

It affords them real-life learning experiences that they will remember for years to come, and going as a school group ensures that there will be a lot of learning along with the fun! At the end of the second term we went on two outings. We visited the Museum of Childhood, where we explored toys from yesteryear, as well as learning about Children's Rights. We then wrote letters to the children who are convalescing at Red Cross Children's Hospital.

In the last week of school we ended our term's theme of Evolution by visiting the Planetarium where we watched a show explaining DNA, and then explored the Human Evolution section of the Natural History Museum.



Elijah Hoffenberg and Tayah Weir writing postcards to the children at Red Cross Hospital



Levi Braun, Elijah Hoffenberg and Wanda da Silva in the jaws of a shark at the Iziko South African Museum



Endi Mhini looking at figurines from the 1970s and 1980s

SPORT

Ryan Maron re-joins Afghanistan national cricket side as fielding coach



Capetonian Ryan Maron will re-join the Afghanistan national cricket team as fielding coach for six months, with the possibility of extending the contract subject to performance.

This follows previous work that he did with the national team in 2015 and 2017. The 47-year-old former left-handed opener played 18 first class matches for Western Province A and several seasons for the B team, VRA and Amsterdam CC in the Netherlands, winning two league titles as a player coach with VRA Amsterdam. Ryan also attended the SA national academy headed by Clive Rice and Hylton Ackerman

before pursuing a coaching career.

Mentored by Proteas great Jonty Rhodes, he has previously filled roles as fielding coach at both the West Indies and the Dolphins, among several other teams.

Maron founded the Cricket School of Excellence in 1999, and partnered with Rhodes to establish The Jonty Rhodes Way (TJR) which has conducted high performance programmes in Nepal, India, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

Maron will work alongside former Pakistan seamer Umar Gul who was recently appointed as Afghanistan's bowling coach.

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Celebrating women

The opening chapter of the Book of Exodus describes the moral strength and courage of Shifra and Puah, two Hebrew midwives who defied Pharaoh's command to kill all baby boys in his attempt to rid his kingdom of the Hebrews.

If not for the bravery and ingenuity of Yocheved and Miriam and the compassion of Pharaoh's daughter (whom the rabbis named Batya), Moses would not have survived to become the liberator, lawgiver, teacher and ultimate prophet of the Israelites.

Miriam was a member of the triumvirate of leaders of the Israelites during their forty-year journey in the wilderness. She is explicitly called a prophetess in the Torah (*Exodus 15:20*) and the description of her leading the women in song and dance conjures

up the image of her leadership. She was much loved by the people, and lead from amongst the community, unlike Moses who led from the front, speaking to God, legislating laws and giving commands. When Miriam was struck with *tzara't* (Numbers 12:10) and had to be quarantined, the people refused to continue on their march until she had completed her period of isolation.

The Talmud teaches (*Ta'anit 9a*) that due to the merit of Miriam the Israelites had a constant supply of water. Liberal Jews acknowledge the importance of Miriam and all women for their contribution to Jewish life and values by adding a *kos shel Miriam* to our Pesach seder ritual. After filling Elijah's cup, we drink water from the Cup of Miriam. The Talmud lists six other prophetesses — Sarah, Deborah, Hannah, Abigail,

Huldah and Esther (*Megillah 14a*) and mentions other strong, pious and learned women from the rabbinic era including Rabbi Akiva's wife Rachel who encouraged him to study Torah, Beruriah, wife of Rabbi Meir, who taught her husband, his colleagues and students many moral truths, and Rabbi Abaye's mother who was knowledgeable in the use of healing amulets and herbs.

August in South Africa is women's month when we pay tribute to the women who marched to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956 to protest the extension of the Pass Laws to women. It is therefore fitting that we acknowledge the actions, insights and teachings of Jewish women both past and present that contribute to the growth and evolution of Torah and *tikkun olam*.



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ISRAEL: A JOURNEY MAKING MEANING

Auntie Ettie

Julian Resnick writes from Israel

I thought of Auntie Ettie today. She was not my aunt.

My aunts were Auntie Sevvie (my father's sister), who lived in Bulawayo for most of my childhood, Auntie Bea (my father's brother, Uncle Bennie's, wife) who died while I was in Israel after my matric year on the Machon for Habonim, and my one surviving aunt, Auntie Nayomi (my mother's sister) who lived in Caledon during my childhood and who is the last remaining relative among my uncles and aunts, and who lives in Green Point today (will someone please read this to her as her eyesight is failing).

But in the world I grew up in, Somerset West in the 1950s and 1960s, all of my parents' friends were called Uncle and Auntie.

My world had two circles of people in it. There were the Hofmeyers, the Malans, the Swanepoels, the Brederodes, the Weavers, the Faures, the Barnards, the Hares, the Hopwoods, the Pringles, the Thorntons, the Lombards, the Munniks and the van Schoors.

And then there was another, more intimate circle that took me a little while as a child to understand the meaning of. This circle needs no further facts about, for Auntie Ettie to work out who I am referring to. Perhaps I need to add that this was not 'Auntie Ettie Cuckoo Clock', but that is it. With that the Ginsbergs, the Levines, the Tepersons, the Friedmans, the Cohens, the Millers, the Allens, the Posels, the Bernbergs, the Silkes, the Goodmans, the Sibuls, the Babuses, The Katzeffs, the Grolls, the Kaplans, the Barrs, the Brodovskys and the Finders all know exactly who I am talking about.

I thought of the last time I saw her in South Africa about ten years ago. I don't remember exactly how old she was (for that information you can ask Beverly or Lynette), but she was very old. I had a soft spot for her as she was one of the strong links to my late father who died far too young and to whom she was such a dear friend (over the almost forty years after he died, we met occasionally, every couple of years, and there was always at least one, "Shame, your Dad died so young, and he was such a lovely man". Guaranteed. Each time we met).

The last time we met was after I had given the special speech on Yom Ha'atzmaut to the Jewish Community in Sea Point. I am not sure what I said, but her words to me (after the usual, "Shame, your Dad died so young, and he was such a lovely man"), I remember as if she said them yesterday.

"Julian," she said, "What has happened to our Israel?"

I was moved to tears by what she said. Here she was, Auntie Ettie, in her nineties (Beverly and Lynette?), a woman who had worked tirelessly over the years for WIZO and the Union of Jewish Women, saying to me — a younger man who is connected to her distant past and who had made the move to live in Israel many years previously (1976) — these powerful words. Note that she did not say "What has happened to Israel?". Crucially she said, "What has happened to OUR Israel?"

I have no idea even today of how often Auntie Ettie had visited Israel over the years. I would hazard a guess that it was not more than once or twice as, even though they made a nice living (not from me, as I was never a big shopper especially of clothes), very few of my parents' friends, as committed as they were to Israel — and they were committed to Israel — visited more than once or twice during their lives. It was a different world.

"Julian," she said, "What has happened to our Israel?"

I must have talked about some of the things that worried me about where we were heading about 10 years ago in Israel. I might have mentioned my big dreams for the State of Israel and how these dreams were endangered by the existential risks we were facing, and I might have given my opinion about the wrong road we were being taken down by a leadership whose expertise seemed, to me, to be in engendering fear in the electorate and then exploiting it.

Auntie Ettie, I am a little uncomfortable with the following sentences (and my apologies here to Beverly and Lynette). If you were unhappy with what I might have said back then, I am thankful that you are not around to hear what I am going to say now (I am not one of those who believes you are happily ensconced with Uncle Bennie playing bridge in the sky, but who knows, perhaps I am wrong; I have been wrong before). There I have said it.

In just a few months, on November 1st, we are holding elections again in Israel. We are divided in ways we have been before, but the divisions are so dangerous for us now, that I can only hope that we find a way to continue as a society with some solidarity after these elections.

We have among us political leaders who have managed to persuade many of us (not me, but many of us), that whoever disagrees with their vision of who and what we should be, is a traitor to

Israel and the Jewish People.

We have among us candidates running for election to the Knesset whose messages remind me of candidates who ran for elections far away from here before my lifetime in Europe and during my lifetime in South Africa. Some of your readers might feel that the voice they want in the Knesset has to be a fiercely, proud Jewish voice and around the Shabbat table in the coming months might even quote words of politicians who sound like their zeydes at times, without thinking through what it would mean to Israel to have a Minister of Police and a Minister of Justice who are — sorry, I have been trying to avoid these words, but I can no longer avoid them...

I won't use them just in case this publication is widely read in Israel, as I do not want to compromise you. As the Rambam once said *המבין יבין* (S/he who understands, will understand).

I too want a fiercely proud Jewish voice in the Knesset. The voice I am looking for is proudly Jewish and inclusive. Is proudly Jewish, and is passionate about the words of our Declaration of Independence. Is proudly Jewish and has moved beyond the cheap tricks of victimhood. Is proudly Jewish and feels so empowered that it can live next to alternative narratives. Is proudly Jewish and believes that peace, compromise, inclusion are wonderful Jewish values.

Auntie Ettie, I know just how painful you would have found this conversation, and I apologise, not only to you, but to all the wonderful people I remember with such fondness from my formative days in South Africa. You need to know, Auntie Ettie, that I am still totally in love with and committed to Israel and that is why I feel such pain when I see how people are being tricked by the latest in a round of false messiahs that we — the Jewish People — seem to need every now and then.

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



"I lived a good life! Enough!" — so said A.B. Yehoshua z"l, the larger-than-life grand Israeli writer

By Aviva Laskov

A.B. Yehoshua, the most prominent Israeli author and a unique voice of his generation, winner of the Israel Prize 1995, died at the age of 85 on 14 June this year.

Just a quick glance at the Israeli morning papers of Tuesday 14 June reveal the centrality to Israelis of A.B. Yehoshua z"l. That morning tributes poured in from every literary and political corner. This larger-than-life personality was not a politician, nor a philosopher, high-ranking military officer or media celebrity, yet he was all of those together. Yehoshua has emerged as the 'elder' whose words matter. Like his contemporaries in the literary arena, David Grossman, and the late Amos Oz, he wrote fiction while also dipping his pen into commentary and political activism; almost assuming the role of 'the watchman unto Israel' in the biblical sense. This, in a unique Israeli culture which holds the dichotomy of the ancient and the modern at its core.

Avraham Gabriel Yehoshua (or *Booli*, as he was called) was born in 1936 in Jerusalem to a Sephardi family. His scholar father, Yaakov Yehoshua, was fifth generation in Israel; his mother, Malka Rozilio, immigrated from Morocco. He grew up in Jerusalem, then served in the army as a paratrooper before studying and teaching literature at The Hebrew University. Later, he moved to Haifa, where he married his beloved wife Ika and spent most of his life. Ika passed away in 2016.

Reading his novels, one cannot but notice how this biography manifested in his fiction. Many of Yehoshua's characters are given Sephardi names such as Mr Mani, Molcho, Luria, Ben-Attar, and others. The landscapes of his writing also reflect his favourite places: Jerusalem (in *Molcho*) and Haifa (in *The Liberated Bride*) among others.

Yehoshua, wrote his first short story *Death of An Old Man* in 1957. His symbolic-surreal short stories, published in 1962, were greatly influenced by Agnon, Camus, Kafka, Faulkner, Dostoevsky, and Virginia Wolf. Stories like *Facing the Forests* and *Three Days and a Child* made Yehoshua an iconic, avant-garde writer both literarily and politically. His stories were very different from his predecessors — detached from autobiographical elements and removed from time and place.

Over time, Yehoshua allowed more of his own background and Israeli historical events to filter into his fiction. In *The Liberated Bride* (2001), for example, the main character is a professor of Eastern Studies at Haifa University thus portraying



a man very like Yehoshua, who taught literature at Haifa University.

Yehoshua's first novel, *The Lover* was published in 1977. Other novels followed. *A Journey to the End of the Millennium*, *Open Heart*, *Molcho* and *The Tunnel* are but a few. Yehoshua wrote 15 books including his last, *The Third Temple*, published just a few months before he died, thus defying age and illness.

Yehoshua has emerged as the 'elder' whose words matter. Like his contemporaries in the literary arena, David Grossman, and the late Amos Oz, he wrote fiction while also dipping his pen into commentary and political activism

His books were translated into 30 languages, and some were adapted to screen and stage. Over the years Yehoshua won awards such as the Bialik Prize, the Brenner Prize, and the prestigious French Medici Prize (2012). Looking at his oeuvre, Yehoshua's most celebrated work is *Mr Mani* (1990), by his own admission and agreed to by literary critics and public vote.

While fiction was his main genre, Yehoshua also wrote non-fiction books and articles dealing with questions of Jewish and Israeli identity. One such book (*Can Two Walk Together?*) described the actual meeting between Ben Gurion and Zeev Jabotinsky in London in 1934.

Gender is a major focus in Yehoshua's work. Irrespective of profession or religion, and whether

a lover, a bride or a middle-aged woman travelling on her own to Africa, the women in Yehoshua's fiction are mostly strong and opinionated.

Reading Yehoshua's work, one quickly discovers his love for Israel and his deep public concerns mostly about the relationship between Israel and the *Golah* (or Israelis and world Jewry) and the relationship between Jew and Arab in Israel.

Regarding the issue of Israel vs. *Golah*, the very *dugri* (direct) Yehoshua managed to upset Jews, especially in America whenever he repeated his deeply rooted belief that one can be a fully-fledged Jew *only* within the Jewish state, living by its laws, rights, and obligations. One is Israeli first and Jewish only later.

This theme is apparent in some of Yehoshua's novels (*Friendly Fire*, *A Journey to the End of the Millennium*).

The other issue is the complicated co-existence of Jew and Arab in Israel, which necessitates some heroic solutions and manipulations, as is manifested in *The Liberated Bride* and *The Tunnel*. In the latter, an elderly engineer who is a Ben Gurion follower, is trying to find a very creative solution to enable the survival of a Palestinian family in the Israeli Negev.

In this regard Yehoshua recently wrote, "For 50 years I have worked tirelessly for the solution of the two states. But today, precisely when the concept of 'Palestinian state' becomes a permanent concept in the wider world, it seems that this vision can no longer be realised, and that the time has come to think honestly about other solutions."

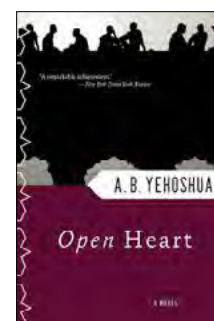
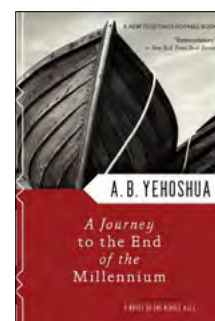
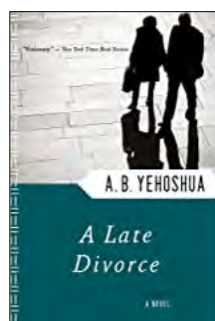
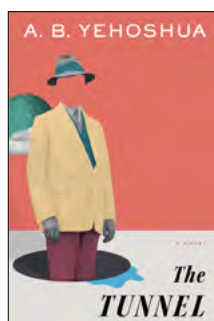
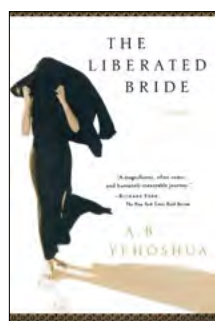
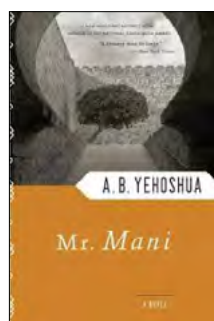
Yehoshua argued with many, including his friend Amos Oz, about this change in his political perspective which could eventually lead to one state for Jews and Arabs in Israel.

In September 2021 in a documentary movie by Yair Kedar celebrating Yehoshua's life, Yehoshua half-jokingly said, "We must forget more ... dealing too much with the past is paralyzing... We all need a little dementia, the Israelis... need a little bit of dementia, the Palestinians... also need a little dementia, we all need it to let go of some things to make space for new things".

President Herzog described Yehoshua as, "One of Israel's greatest authors in all generations, who gifted us his unforgettable works, which will continue to be part of us for generations to come".

May his memory be blessed יהי זכרו ברוך

* Books by A.B.Yehoshua are available for borrowing at The Gitlin Library.



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A VIEW FROM THE BAR

Why have *The Law*?

By Anton Katz SC

Anyone who has anything to do with the law — and courts in particular — knows they can be dark gloomy places.

Judges can be grumpy, irascible and unreasonable. And they are sometimes (some would say often) wrong on both the facts and the law. The attorneys and advocates representing the other side can be perceived as nasty horrid bullies. And even worse, one's own lawyers are arrogant and perhaps perceived to be incompetent and greedy. Indeed, they may be unresponsive to requests about the case, and when they do respond they charge a fortune.

in a successful mediation there are no winners or losers. The parties usually leave their conflict behind, and try get on with their affairs in a peaceful manner.

Of course, these are broad generalisations. Many legal practitioners are committed to fairness and earning a reasonable fee, and doing their absolute best for their clients within the bounds of the law. Similarly, many judges are hard-working and try in every case to dispense justice. But even in cases where one's own lawyers are good people and most of the others involved are reasonable, it just takes one sad individual to cause chaos and gloom and doom for many in the litigation process. Often so unnecessary.

So you may ask, how to avoid such a nightmare? Obviously the first bit of advice is to avoid getting into disputes with others, if at all possible. I know that this may be easier said than done. But it is well worth living, loving, working and interacting with others, knowing that things can go wrong. Try to make sure that even if things don't go as planned (say at work or in a relationship) there is as little unpleasantness as possible.

Also, try at all times to be rational. This can be really tough at times. Remember that it takes two to tango. Any conflict you may be facing needs both the other (unreasonable in your view) person and you to fight. While I don't suggest just rolling over and letting the nasty other party simply get what they are not entitled to, I do suggest you carefully consider what is in your best interests; and seriously consider the trauma and costs of getting involved in a court case. If it turns out to be absolutely impossible to avoid the conflict, then consider mediation. Mediation must not be confused with arbitration.

Arbitration is a simplified or an informal court process. It is cheaper than court. And in arbitration proceedings

the arbitrator (judge) is effectively chosen by the parties and not imposed upon them. The rules used in arbitration are simpler than court process. And it goes faster.

Mediation is a totally different method of resolving conflict. A mediator shuttles between the parties to the conflict, and helps them appreciate the concerns of the other side. A mediator does not represent any of the parties and importantly is not a judge or arbitrator. A mediator does not make any rulings and does not decide the case in any way at all. All the mediator does is try to get the conflicting parties to resolve the dispute themselves. In arbitration or court, the judge/arbitrator listens to and reads the evidence, listens to the advocate's legal arguments and makes a decision as to who wins and who loses. It is black or white. The winner walks away victorious and often smug. The loser leaves the process devastated. The parties continue to hate/dislike each other. Whereas in a successful mediation there are no winners or losers. The parties usually leave their conflict behind, and try to get on with their affairs in a peaceful manner. No one feels beaten or that they have lost their war.

Not all mediations are successful. The mediator needs to be experienced, understand human psychology and have some (more is better than less) familiarity with the parameters of the law governing the issues in dispute. So a mediator in a divorce matter may need to know about trusts and children's rights; whereas a mediation involving a decades old boundary dispute between two States best have knowledge about international law. A successful mediation can prevent wars and protect vulnerable kids from warring parents.

A welcome recent addition to court process includes the requirement that if the parties decline the option of mediation, that they declare this decision. Of course, a mediation can only be successful if both

parties want to resolve their dispute peacefully.

But ultimately the question is asked: why have *The Law* at all? And I suppose the answer lies in the human condition. Human beings need other humans, and contact and communication with them to survive. And that interaction means competition on a range of levels. And competition can mean conflict. And conflict needs resolution. Should Shakespeare's line, "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers" (*Henry VI, Part 2, Act IV, Scene 2*) be taken seriously?

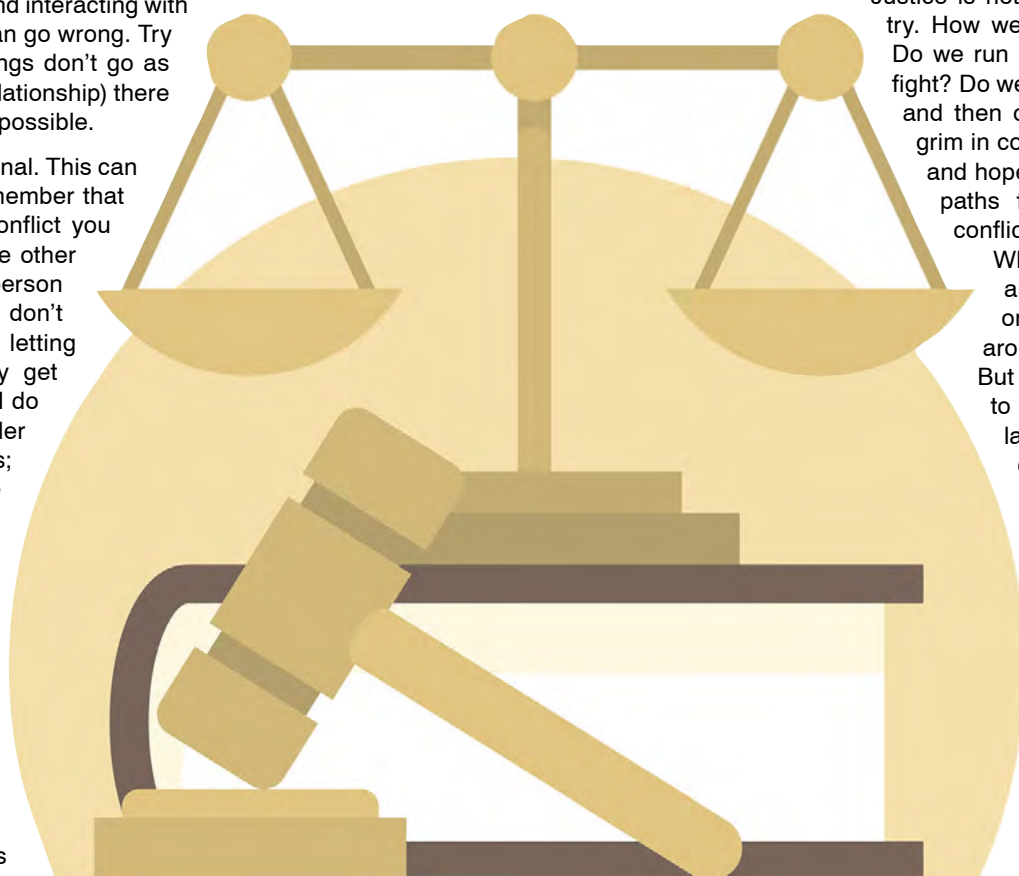


But ultimately the question is asked: why have *The Law* at all? And I suppose the answer lies in the human condition.

If there were no lawyers around, who would protect the weak and vulnerable from the greed and avarice of others. Politicians? I doubt it. Politicians throughout the world and over time have proved that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. I think the answer lies somewhere on the spectrum. The existence and use of lawyers is useful and necessary for a better and more peaceful society. But make sure that lawyers are not put on pedestals. They should always remember they are there to provide professional service and help those who require assistance. All lawyers should be reminded daily that their motto in all things they do should be: "Justice, Justice You Shall Pursue." (*Shoftim, Deuteronomy 16:18-21:9*)

Justice is not easy to achieve. But we must try. How we do so is a serious challenge. Do we run off to court and fight, fight and fight? Do we try to get the best deal we can, and then only settle if things are looking grim in court? Or do we turn to mediation and hope for reasonable and successful paths forward? Do we try to avoid conflict by turning the other cheek? Whatever method we choose can and does have a profound impact on our lives, the lives of those around us and the greater society. But always remember justice is hard to attain. You, rather than your lawyer should be the first port of call to achieve justice.

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.



Creating a conscious community

By Craig Nudelman

It was a similar feeling boarding the plane to Frankfurt that I had when I travelled to Mexico in 2016.

Once again, I was going to the International Nahum Goldmann Fellowship (NGF), but this time it was in the small provincial town of Klingenthal in the Alsace region of France, a land of wine and cheese, instead of the Mexican town of Cuernavaca, one of mezcal, tequila, and tacos. I was met by 32 other fellows from 16 different countries, from Tallin to Tel Aviv, Majorca to Mexico City. These incredible individuals brought with them their own leadership styles, skills, and desires to learn.

To recap the purpose of the NGF, for those who have not had the time to re-read ALL of my columns since 2015, its description is as follows:

The Nahum Goldmann Fellowship is a special institute aimed at nurturing a new generation of Jewish communal leadership across the world. The programme provides an intensive experience of Jewish learning, living and leadership for young men and women from around the world between the ages of 25-40, who show serious interest in Jewish culture and demonstrate a potential for individual growth and communal leadership.

I am in a very different headspace from where I was in 2016. First, this time I am lucky enough to be part of the NGF's Network Leadership Seminar, where myself and 11 others from around the world meet once a

month for a year to discuss different issues around leadership and its values in a Jewish context. This enabled me to really dive in to the intense nature of the programme, its theme being 'Community, Continuity, and Consciousness' (more about that later). This time, I also came with a new understanding of the Jewish community, having re-joined the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies in a professional capacity last September. And so, at the rather quirky Hotel des Vosges, I embarked on a new challenge to engage with my Jewish identity (and all the incredible kosher food and more wine than we could drink).

Community, continuity, and consciousness

This year's theme was difficult to grapple with, especially coming from a South African perspective. Currently, our community faces many challenges. We are dealing with an ageing community. In particular, many young Jews are either leaving the country or distancing themselves from a community in which they do not feel acknowledged.

Jewish continuity has been debated for centuries. During the period of the Jewish Enlightenment (Haskalah) between the 1770s and 1880s, the Maskilim, including Moses Mendelssohn, the composer Felix Mendelssohn's grandfather, sought to pursue moral and cultural renewal in the modern world in which they lived. This saw reforms in education, culture, and community. The Haskalah succeeded in

creating political engagement and a reconnection with individuals' Jewish identity in a time of increasing nationalism in Europe.

In Jewish South Africa, we find ourselves in a similar predicament. Our traditional communal systems, in place for decades, need to include the youth, or as we have been named, the 'missing middle'. Those who travelled to France for NGF are young and have mostly been included in their communities; their professional development embraced to ensure there will be a place for future leadership. How can we do this in South Africa? How can we achieve this? One way is to become a conscious community: communally, locally, and globally.

We, as South African Jews, must embrace the times in which we live. We must all be aware of the threat of climate change, one of the main themes of NGF this year. We must be mindful of 'othering' individuals with whom we do not agree. Issues such as sexual identity, Zionism, and religious denominations, among others, are heated topics, whose debates are often dominated by the left and right, the conservative and the liberal. How can we continue as a community if we do not look at the issues at hand and actively engage with those in the centre, not just the extremists?

When Chief Rabbi Mirvis spoke to the fellows at NGF, he said there were three 'A's which threaten Jewish peoplehood: Antisemitism, Assimilation, and Apathy. With regards to a South African context,

apathy is the biggest issue we face. We need to address it by accepting there is limited voice for the youth; limited acceptance of their varied Jewish identities and acknowledgment of their place in Jewish society.

In *Pirkei Avot* (1:6) it says, 'Make for yourself a teacher; acquire for yourself a friend; and judge every person on the positive side'. Let us learn from those who feel they are not heard and judge all in a positive light. I believe that we can change our society and ensure it continues and grows, but only if we acknowledge that there is a 'missing middle'. We can engage with them and learn from them. We can acquire their friendship by investing in them.

I left Klingenthal inspired by so many individuals, including my fellow participants, the faculty, and Rabbi Dr Jeni Friedman and David Jacobson, to change the community and create positive change. Let us all be participants in this project to revitalize and revive our beautiful, diverse, and unique community.

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.



The 32nd Nahum Goldmann Fellowship Cohort

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Shifting my perspective of what it means to be Jewish

By Brad Gottschalk

Sometimes in life we are confronted with things which completely shift our perspective of what it means to be Jewish.

Falling into the comfort in our ideas of what a Jew acts like or how a Jew looks can feel quite easy at times. But I recently had one of those 'shifting' moments while visiting small Jewish communities along the coast with Habonim!

Why go on such a trip? After dealing with Covid for the last 27 months, with all the cancellations and heartbreak, we are confidently in a year of rebuilding. The energy we are experiencing now is similar to that of the stories we have always heard about from Habo in the early 2000s. Those years saw the movement on the brink of closure, but its resuscitation came in the form of a group



Brynn Goldblatt, Lior Agiv, Sasha Rodencker, and Brad Gottschalk about to embark on the trip from Cape Town to Mossel Bay

of maddies who combatted the problems of their time with creative solutions and much heart. Their exploits were even written into a book (*Like a Phoenix from the Ashes* by Doron Isaacs and Wayne Sussman).

Fast forward to today, and their creativity and drive has become the stuff of legends. One such adventure was a trip along the coast connecting with small Jewish Communities. Today being in a similar period of rebuilding, we decided to take a page out of their book! Having lived in both Cape Town and Joburg, and having access to our plethora of Jewish institutions, seeing what these small communities looked like absolutely fascinated me. The reason I am part of Habo is because I really do believe in the importance of having an informal space for South African Jewish youth to engage with each other and the world around them. I am used to connecting with the 'big city' kids on (at least) a weekly basis. But what about the Jewish kids who don't have the same access to these spaces (where they can just be around other Jewish youth)?

The perks of Glenhazel or Sea Point are evident; one such advantage is that we need only look down the road for community. But on this trip I learned a disadvantage: we take our de-facto Jewish lives for granted. It is easy to become a

...what started as a 20-minute meeting, turned into an hour and a half of emotions, connecting, and what I can only describe as magic

'passive' Jew when you are in such environments. This realisation seeped in quickly on our first stop in Mossel Bay, where the much of the Jewish community of their city is situated in one house. There were diverse reasons for wanting to move away from our bigger cities (the calm and nature are compelling reason enough). But as a Jew, it does seem to come with a sacrifice. That isn't to say that the Garden Route community don't live 'as Jewish' lives as the broader population — tradition and Jewish education just happen at the home. I am definitely biased in my views of community, but growing up in a large community is not the norm. Jews from every era and corner of the world have managed to exist within small outposts (there is a joke that Neil Armstrong was taken aback after finding a Chabad when he made his first steps on the moon). But what we found was that we were so welcomed by families who were ready to connect with other Jews. Another lesson: being Jewish is about connecting. It was hard to find Jews in these places...many do not want to be bothered. However, there are those who make effort to connect to community. Whether it was meeting with Lauren Pelser, who somehow gathers scattered people from every corner of the garden route for chaggim (her face lit up when speaking about an annual seder held in her restaurant attended by dozens); or the group of three families in Oudtshoorn who still manage to create a minyan; not for a specifically religious purpose, but rather to keep together. Lesson 3: no matter the size of the community, there will always be those who give of themselves.

It wasn't hard to break the ice with those who we met. It did throw me off at first when a Jewish kid had an Afrikaans accent rather than a Sea Point one, but those barriers quickly fell, because: lesson 4 — a Jew is a Jew is a Jew...

We will always share a bond with each other. No matter how foreign the culture, no matter how deep the *faribel* — like it or not — we are, always have been, and always will be connected.

I want to end off on a particularly touching moment which, for me, captured the Habo magic of the trip. We were meeting community leaders in George, who decided to contact a 16-year-old boy and his mother to join us for coffee last minute. Somehow the meeting fell into place, and we managed to all meet (right before leaving for Knysna). We were all talking about the standard things, machaneh, what it's like to live in George, etc... when his mother mentioned that he has yet to have his Barmitzvah. It was a lightbulbs moment! Soon we were messaging Rabbis and caterers... and on the spot had planned a machaneh barmitzvah at Onrus Shul. His mother started to tear up, and what started as a 20-minute meeting, turned into an hour and a half of emotions, connecting, and what I can only describe as magic.

A grueling but supremely worthwhile 20 hours of driving later, I feel like the torch has been passed down. Paradigm shifts have always been what Habo is about — from Cape Town, Mossel Bay, George, Knysna, Plett, Gqeberha, Oudtshoorn, and beyond, we will continue to spread the magic further for many years to come. *עלה והגשם* — Rise up and fulfill!



Brad Gottschalk and Lior Agiv, taking in the view outside Oudtshoorn, on the way back to Cape Town

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The Jewish tart you've never heard of...

By Leila Stein

For a member of a small community, it is not often that you come across something of your own history that you had absolutely never heard of.

In 2021, I was walking through a fantastic exhibition at Maker's Landing at the Waterfront called *100 Flavours SA*, showcasing foods that define South Africa. The exhibit that made me stop and pause was a multi-layered cake-like dessert which had a title card reading *Jodetert* (Jewish Tart).

The description explained that the baked good is thought to have been brought to South Africa by Lithuanian/Russian Jews and has become a feature at Afrikaans church bake sales and bazaars.

A bake-sale staple

Given the Afrikaans name I wanted to get some confirmation. Upon asking a few Afrikaans acquaintances it quickly became apparent that the Jodetert is indeed a baked staple in many Afrikaans homes. A Northern Cape friend had never heard of it, while a relative from Paarl knew immediately what it was.

While the recipe may have simple ingredients, the techniques required have been perfected through generations passing down tips and tricks from one to another.

The centuries-old nature of the tart is also apparent with a quick Google search. You'll find almost exclusively Afrikaans recipes. Some even post the original recipe written or typed onto paper which is faded and yellowed.

There are also a host of Afrikaans homemaker magazines that provide recipes — though often with little explanation for the name. A 2014 recipe from *Sarie Magazine* calls the recipe "*Jodetert uit Oos-Europa*" (Jewish Tart from Eastern Europe) but does not provide an explanation for the title. Similarly, a 2020 recipe in *Sarie Kos* says:

"There isn't much history on the tart's name. What we can assume is that there is a Jewish connection because of the seven layers. Though no one is sure."

Almost, but not quite

In her exploration of the Jodetert for *The Daily*

Maverick, Dr. Anna Trapido touches on these seven layers. Trapido, a historian and food writer, who was also the curator and copywriter for the *100 Flavours SA* exhibition, explains how the seven layers can further hint at a Jewish origin. One of her sources considers that the seven layers of the Jodetert may represent the *Shivat Haminim* (the seven species listed in the Torah as being special products of the Land of Israel). With seven being such an important number in Judaism this feels like a relatively grounded theory. Though, again, there is no concrete proof.

In the English *Huisgenoot Winning Recipes* Cookbook, the writer explains the Jodetert as being "rather like milk tart" but this is really not the case. The custard filling is where the connection begins and ends.

Dr. Trapido takes a more granular look at the various cakes. These range from the Napoleon, which has similar custard but not biscuit layers, to the Russian Honey Cake (Also called *Medovik*). The latter feels like it should be the Jodetert because of its regional origin. However when looking at the ingredients, specifically the honey, cinnamon and sour cream, it becomes apparent that the structure is all that makes them similar.

Still searching for the origin

Dr. Trapido's research through various Jewish Guild cookbooks and discussions with both Afrikaans and Jewish sources is among the most detailed and accessible information out there on this curious case.

However, definitive answers still remain a mystery. Despite being a link between the Jewish and Afrikaans community, the point at which the recipe moved firmly from one to the other appears to be so far back it has been lost to most living memory.

The Jodetert

In an attempt to connect to this lost past, I took on making the Jodetert myself.

For Jewish people, connection is made and cemented through food. While I am not a good baker, working through the admittedly time-consuming process felt gratifying.

This recipe is a combination of both Dr. Trapido's modification from *Uitgesoekte Resepte* and the *Huisgenoot Wenresepte* version.

Base layers

450g cake flour
10ml baking powder
200g white sugar
225g butter
2 eggs
Pinch salt
5ml water

- In a bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, salt and sugar.
- In a food processor add the butter to the flour mixture and mix until combined. If you do not have a food processor you can also rub the butter in using your hands.
- Add the eggs and water and mix until a dough begins to form.
- Divide the dough into six pieces roughly 155g each. Cover and set aside for at least 30 mins.
- Roll out the dough and cut out using 20cm cake tins to form the perfect circles. Bake the offcuts for the crumble 'seventh layer'.
- * *Tip: Put a layer of baking paper between your rolling pin and the dough — this stops the dough sticking.*
- Preheat the oven to 180°C.
- Put each circle in the baking tin and bake until starting to lightly brown. The time can vary across ovens (from 8-15 minutes). Keep an eye on the bases.
- Let the circles cool well before lifting them out of the tins otherwise you risk them cracking. Once cool, set them on a cooling rack.
- Don't forget to bake the offcuts and crumble once semi-cooled.

Filling

1,375ml milk
250g castor sugar
100g cake flour
4 egg yolks
10ml vanilla essence

- Heat up the milk until boiling and then set aside to cool a bit.
- Mix together the egg yolk, sugar and flour. Mix until thick and it is turning lighter in colour.
- When cooled enough, slowly add the milk to the yolk mixture. This must be done off the heat. Pour in a little at a time and beat.
- Place back on the stove on low heat. Stir continuously as it heats up until it becomes a thick, custard-like consistency. If you do this part too fast you will cook the eggs ruining the custard.
- Take off the heat and stir in the vanilla essence. Cover and let it cool.

Building the Jodetert

- When ready, place the first base layer onto the cake stand, plate or board you wish to use.
- Put the custard filling in a piping bag and pipe in a spiral onto each layer stopping short of the edges.
- * If you don't have a piping bag you can simply spread the custard onto each layer.
- Repeat this process. Finally layer the custard on the last piece before sprinkling over the crumbled biscuit.
- Put it in the fridge overnight to set. Enjoy!



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Long-time Sea Point resident celebrates her 100th birthday



Lily Singer will be 100 years old on 16 August

Sea Point resident, Lily Singer celebrates her 100th birthday in August. Bobba Lily is deeply loved and cherished by her family, including four children, six grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Daughter of Charles and Sara-Leah Berger (who were immigrants from Lithuania and Russia) Lily was born on 16 August 1922 in the former Transvaal. Her early years were spent in rural Coligny where she was the only Jewish girl in the primary school. She tells of the selflessness of her parents, who ran a general store in the town during the height of the Great Depression, and often gave away stock to those in need. The family eventually moved to the East Rand, but Lily tragically lost her mother when she was 19, and her father returned to Coligny. She spoke Afrikaans growing up and showed great promise as a pianist, but her career was redirected to raising and supporting her family.

After matriculating at Jeppe Girls High in Johannesburg in 1939, and serving in the Jewish chapter of the Red Cross, and the Magen David Adom, Lily married Harry Singer in 1946, and moved to Sea Point where she has lived for nearly eighty years within a few blocks of the Marais Road Shul. Harry and Lily raised four children and ran Harry Singer's General Store on Caledon Street, situated on the site of the Cape Town Community Court on the corner of Buitenkant Street, until retiring in the early 1980s. They lived in a brown brick-walled house on Bellevue Road

lined with Frangipani trees, some of which still remain on what is now the parking lot of the Sea Point car wash.

Harry passed away in December 1997 at the age of 91, and not long after, Lily moved to a flat in nearby Marais Road, where she still lives. Lily is a voracious reader, retains a strong Jewish faith and keeps her indoor plants blooming. Until recently, she was a member of the Union of Jewish Women and the Cape Jewish Seniors. She was also a founding member of Kosher Consumers of South Africa (KOCOSA).



Lily and Harry's wedding in 1946

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

A message from a new Olah

I left on Aliya from Cape Town two months ago and now live in Modi'in.

It is a privilege beyond words. I keep thinking, 'this must be a dream'.

I want to say *Shehecheyanu* multiple times every day. There is so much to say. To observe, internalise, attempt to interpret...

Everything is a living miracle in this corner of the planet's most dynamic 21st century site, of Holy and Unholy real estate.

At the same time, coming home to a home you are only beginning to become acquainted with is not a walk in the park. All the paradoxes are true simultaneously...

*To be a Jew
Is shared destiny
On velvet carpets
Or piercing shards
To choose to link arms
In sweet song or deep lament
Is a catchment area for a soul
Immersed in ancient awareness
Of an inspirational goal.
Aliyot to the bimah are seldom
awarded
To Rachel's descendants here
But Aliya can be chosen,
In other sacred space so dear.*

Zmira (aka Zelma Merle) Cohen.



Race Day



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SIMCHA SNAPS



Demi Sher and Zack Rosenberg recently announced their engagement in Tel Aviv



Danielle Friedman and Dr Dean Sevel married in Johannesburg



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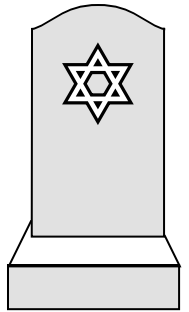
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