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Cape SAJBD's AGM and Conference — *Community for Change: Creating a Sustainable Environment*



Keynote speaker Nigel Savage addresses the crowd at the 2022 SAJBD Cape Council AGM and Conference.

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Des Says...

By Desrae Saacks, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle



Breakfast thoughts

I don't know about you, but I tend to think metaphorically.

For example, when making my breakfast smoothie the other day, I was surprised to find that despite the vigorously spinning and murderous blades at the bottom of my blender, a couple of frozen berries somehow manage to survive this extremely hostile environment and emerge annoyingly unscathed. How did they do it? I guess they were lucky enough to find a small corner of safety in which to shelter, and emerge as unwanted lumps in my otherwise delicious breakfast drink.

But we know this is not an intentional move on their part — after all, berries don't have the consciousness or agency to think, plan and take action. Therefore, this apparent anomaly can only be understood as a matter of luck. But then, is it lucky to emerge untouched by the communal experience? Is it not the berry's fate and purpose to integrate through shared experience into one unboundaried and delicious smoothie? My solution is to pause the action and give the blender a shake or two. Now the berry has been dislodged from its place of safety and relative comfort, and is repositioned into a situation in which it

can fulfil its purpose, and contribute to the optimum outcome of a smooth smoothie!

So with our time in this incarnation on this planet. We may rejoice in the good fortune of finding ourselves in a privileged place of comfort and safety, from which we can watch from the sidelines as those less fortunate are tossed about and marked by the vicissitudes of life as a human being on planet earth. But where does this ultimately leave us? The same as that berry — untouched and unchanged from when we entered the fray.

Is that what we're here for? While we don't have to go charging at the blades, I do believe that we are here to engage, to risk, to feel, to experience and to be transformed by the challenges that life throws at us. Sometimes we need a good shake to dislodge us from our place of comfort and to be forced to deal with the injury, uncertainty, challenge and danger of what it means to be human; so that we can fulfil our purpose and generously share our unique qualities and attributes with the wider community, contributing to and taking our place in the ongoing human story.

That's what I was thinking about this morning whilst making breakfast.

Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
4 Oct/10 Tishrei	Yom Kippur	5.33pm	6.33pm	7.26pm
7 Oct/13 Tishrei	Haazinu	5.34pm	6.36pm	7.28pm
9 Oct/15 Tishrei	Sukkot 1st day	5.37pm	6.37pm	
10 Oct/16 Tishei	Sukkot 2nd day	7.30pm	7.31pm	
14 Oct/20 Tishrei	Chol Hamoed Sukkot	5.38pm	6.41pm	7.34pm
16 Oct/22 Tishei	Shemini Atzeret	5.39pm	6.43pm	
17 Oct/23 Tishrei	Simchat Torah	7.36pm	7.37pm	
21 Oct/27 Tishrei	Bereshit	5.42pm	6.47pm	7.41pm
28 Oct/4 Cheshvan	Noach	5.47pm	6.53pm	7.47pm

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

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Finding your place and your people in Israel

In parallel to Israel's natural, geographic and demographic diversity, communities across the country each have their own unique character, from bustling cosmopolitan cities to rural farming communities.

A dedicated cadre of Olim volunteers across the country have stepped up to guide South African Olim before, during and after their Aliyah. Telfed's regional committees provide advice and information about their respective communities, they welcome new arrivals and are instrumental in helping all Olim (including those who are already established in Israel) to maintain a connection to the South African community through regional gatherings.

With so many factors to consider when emigrating to Israel, deciding where to live can be somewhat overwhelming. Daniela Shapira, Telfed's Aliyah and Klita Advisor, encourages future Olim to "consider employment opportunities, schools, transport, the cost of living, the level of religiosity and whether one would like to settle in a region with a strong English-speaking community."

"We have 24 regional committees who can answer questions specific to



South African women toasted the new year and new beginnings at a welcome event, hosted by Telfed's Raanana Regional Committee.

their communities. They are a source of support and information," says Telfed's Volunteerism and Events Coordinator (and South African Olah) Michelle Nathan. "Telfed's regional committees welcome Olim when they land, and the connections created are long-term with local events catering to the specific needs of each community."

Maya Shapira made Aliyah in her early 20s. "When I was a young Olah, Telfed assisted me and I am forever grateful! I remember anyone and everyone who was kind and



helpful and it was so significant for me as my Aliyah was so hard. Today, I have the chance to be on the other side, helping new Olim where I can, just to make things a little easier. This inspires me to be part of this incredible organisation."

Maya heads Telfed's Haifa regional committee, which has seen a growing demand for social activities as Olim are looking to reconnect and expand their networks post-Corona. Ahead of Rosh Hashanah, the Haifa Olim community arranged a picnic with over 50 Olim from the northern



port city. New Olot to Raanana met for a catch up over cocktails, with veteran Olot welcoming new women to their city. Regular regional coffee mornings are held around the country, and Jerusalem will be holding their inaugural coffee club in October.

"People are looking for connections, whether they are new to the country or whether they've been here for decades," adds Michelle. "It is thanks to our volunteers that we have a strong South African presence throughout Israel."

CITIZEN REINSTATEMENT POSSIBLE EVEN WITH NO HISTORIC DOCUMENTS

Applying for reinstatement of Lithuanian citizenship based on ancestry might seem like a straightforward procedure for some – especially if they have the Lithuanian passport of their ancestor/s. For others, it might seem a little more complicated. The truth is somewhere in between as each situation is different. Having one's ancestor's Lithuanian passport doesn't guarantee a successful result, and having extremely little information about one's ancestor doesn't mean a dead end. My advice is to consult a professional before you get the ball rolling.

I meet clients individually and free of charge. The goal of the consultation is to assess the client's eligibility for Lithuanian citizenship reinstatement. I review all the information and documentation that the client presents, and most often, I conduct a primary online archival search to check for possible Lithuanian citizenship loss and other information. Often, I'm able to indicate future challenges, and I guide clients in the most effective way to navigate these challenges. Last but not least, I answer all the questions a client might have on the topic of ancestral citizenship reinstatement.

How do you get the most out of your consultation?

- Bring notes about your ancestor or ancestors if you have several alternative ancestral lines. Types of information that could be helpful include the full name/s of your Lithuanian ancestor/s; place and year of birth in Lithuania; ancestor's parents' names; names of ancestor's siblings; year/period of ancestor's emigration from Lithuania. Of course, it's not obligatory to collect all this information, but the more information we get initially, the more definitive the consultation will be.
- If available, bring photocopies or make photos with your cell phone of all the Lithuanian or old South African documents pertaining your Lithuanian ancestors. I emphasise that even if none of the ancestral documentation is available to you, you're still welcome to the individual consultation as nine of 10 procedures that we have handled successfully started with no ancestral documentation available during initial consultations.

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CONNECT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNITY

Change is good but not always easy!

By Daniel Bloch, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

Change can teach us to adapt and help us develop resilience, but only if we understand our own capacity for growth and learning.

Change can bring about many positive aspects in one's life. It can improve our quality of life and break the everyday routine. It can heal emotional wounds, bring a sense of security, and it can make you a better person. Conversely, change can be scary. It takes you into the unknown, causing anxiety, panic and general uneasiness.



I have always embraced change in my life. In the past 15 years my wife and I have had three different homes (all positive changes in our life), our children left Herzlia Constantia when the school closed and that was certainly a life-changing experience; and I have changed jobs, finding the right role for me, and ultimately finding my niche with the Cape SAJBD.

Change is not good, it's fantastic and I for one am looking forward to seeing what the winds of change will bring, over the coming year.

After 17 months in my role as Executive Director, having worked with an incredible executive committee and chairperson, the Board's AGM and Conference on 18 September saw a new council coming in, which also means the possibility of a new chairperson and a brand-new executive committee.

Now some people may worry. Will things change? How will I be affected? Different chairpersons have very different leadership styles. Will we continue seeing eye to eye on everything or will we argue more often than not? These are all extremely important concerns to have, however I am optimistic. I believe that regardless of who the new team will be, I will be able to connect with each person as we all have the same objectives — working for and working with our incredible community. I also have the confidence not only to lead but to guide whomever the new chairperson will be, and to work with that person and the new executive committee, to accomplish our goals.

Whilst working at the Board, I have noticed a change in myself in everything I do, from the way I engage with people, my style of writing statements and articles, the way I present during meetings and my general outlook on the community. At first things may have been new and possibly daunting, but as the months have rolled on, I have become more confident in everything I do and have embraced the change with open arms. The change in my life has been excellent, and despite several uneasy moments, I have managed to stay calm and centered.

My role within my shul (Marais Road) has also changed, as I have recently been appointed Vice President. There is far more responsibility on my shoulders and a far greater expectation to get more involved in shul affairs. I have taken the bull by the horns and accepted this challenge. Just as I have worked with an inspiring chairperson and executive committee at the Board of Deputies, the same can be said for our shul president and the management committee with whom I currently serve. Although I'm the youngest member of the committee, I am surrounded by people with vast experience and wisdom.

Change can be scary and it can be daunting — there is no doubt about it. However, if you believe in your own abilities and if you are fortunate enough, like I am, to be surrounded by incredibly passionate and knowledgeable people, then you can achieve anything you set your mind to. Change is not good, it's fantastic, and I for one am looking forward to seeing what the winds of change will bring over the coming year.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Reflections on my chairmanship

By Tzvi Brivik, Chairperson, Cape SAJBD

As I write these words, I cannot believe that I am reflecting on the past two years already.

This has been such a busy time. It started with the election in September of 2020, when a huge effort was made to engage approximately 12 000 potential voters registered on the communal register. Together with 14 other members of our community, I put up my hand, indicating that I'd be willing to serve the community and, in so doing, act in its best interest.



Before I share with you what this has meant for me, it is significant to note that the community and the work of the Board is not cyclical or repetitive. Our community is fortunately not static, it's more like a raging river. There's a history which cannot be ignored, and for us to work effectively, we need to understand what has happened in the past. We need to know what decisions have been made, and the reasons that they were made. That's not to say that rivers cannot change their course and be diverted. This community was established over 180 years ago, and the Board itself was established almost 120 years ago. In that time our community grew and so did its needs — both inward-facing and outward-facing.

The inward-facing needs were for Jewish day schools and for us to take care of each other. From birth and preschools all the way through to old age; as well as taking care of the disabled and the less advantaged in the community. There was also a requirement for protection against antisemitism and attacks on our Jewish way of life. The law is becoming a core mandate for the Cape SAJBD.

The outward-looking projects included advocacy, promoting our community, and ensuring a harmonious relationship with the current government. There have been encouraging interactions both formal, less formal, and social with other communities.

Our community is fortunately not static, it's more like a raging river.

When I took the Chair I considered the sentiments of our community — what did they want from a functional Board of Deputies, and how could we aspire to meet these communal needs. I set out these guidelines at the commencement of my term. We were to be transparent, and have the integrity to realise that we do not function in our silos but as part of the whole. There would be no such thing as shareholder primacy as there is in business. We are accountable to all of our affiliates, stakeholders and community.

We also need to be cognisant of the responsibility we have to create an inclusive community. Many people in our community are involved not only with our various affiliates and communal organisations, but also in decision-making and in the development of youth and future leadership.

I would like to thank our current Council and the Executive as well as the professional team. Without them the Board would not have been able to incorporate the sentiments above as values which guided us around the table and ensured that we acted effectively as an organisation and in our decision-making.

I believe that we did set an example in leadership. We were not stifled by fear, and we acted as trusted mediators and intermediaries as well as interlocutors to our Jewish community.

In my time as Chair I met with many incredible human beings working in our community for its greater benefit, who gave selflessly of their time and wisdom. I believe this to be the strength and uniqueness of our community, and urge everyone to become involved and share in it.



CAPE SAJBD

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Country Communities Jewish cemeteries update

by Daniel Bloch

Every year just before Yom Tov, Jewish individuals and families visit various cemeteries around the Western Cape to pay their respects to their loved ones.

Whilst most of our family members may be buried at Pinelands cemetery, many of us also have family buried in places like Oudtshoorn, Paarl, Wellington, Robertson and other cemeteries situated within our country communities.

The Cape SAJBD works with our partners who include the active Jewish communities, municipalities and private contractors, to ensure that our Jewish cemeteries are cleaned and maintained throughout the year to ensure that when you visit your loved ones, you see that they are given the respect they deserve. And when cemeteries are vandalised and tombstones desecrated, we again work with our partners to ensure these are repaired.

Over the past year, the Board has visited almost all of our Jewish cemeteries around the Western Cape. What we have found is that

in every case, they have been well maintained and looked after. Whilst some cemeteries are cleaned once a month, others may be cleaned every second or third month, depending on budget and resource limitations.

The Wellington cemetery which was vandalised in 2019, finally had its last tombstone laid flat earlier this year, bringing an end to a year-long project. In May this year, two gates were stolen from the Robertson cemetery. We are working on a project to ensure that the cemetery can be secured. Last month, the Oudtshoorn cemetery was vandalised with more than 30 tombstones desecrated. However, the Oudtshoorn community rallied and all the tombstones have now been repaired. The Board played a role in generating awareness for what had happened and with more than 10 000 views within a week, it ensured that people far and wide became aware of what had happened and provided their input and subsequent donations towards the restoration of the tombstones.

However, there is much work still to be done in Oudtshoorn in terms of upgrading the security. There are many cemeteries around the Western Cape which require the financial support from Jewish members all over the world. Beaufort West needs a wall repair, Worcester needs repair work done to tombstones, Piketberg needs further cleaning and Ladismith needs the Jewish grave sites segregated from the rest of the cemetery.

We all want to honour our loved ones, and the way we can do this is by ensuring that the Jewish cemeteries are well maintained. If you would like to assist with this, please email sajbd2@ctjc.co.za.



Oudtshoorn cemetery



Robertson cemetery



Oudtshoorn cemetery



Oudtshoorn cemetery

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Creating a conscious community

By Craig Nudelman

"You are not required to finish your work, yet neither are you permitted to desist from it" (Pirkei Avot – 2:21).

These were the words that encapsulated the 2022 Cape SAJBD's AGM and Conference entitled *Community for Change: Creating a Sustainable Environment*. Throughout the event, which took place on Sunday 18 September, over 100 attendees saw the continuous hard work ethic that we, as a Board and a Jewish community, continue to perform.

Tzvi Brivik's Chairperson's report addressed the immense work that the Board has done since September 2021 through to now. Areas of advocacy, social justice, and community engagement stood out, as he told of our engagement with stakeholders in provincial and local government, foreign consulates, academic institutions, faith- and community-based organisations, and various NGOs. Our collaboration demonstrated how we, as the umbrella body for Jewish communal organisations, are committed to creating an inclusive and just South African society for all within it. From planting trees on Tu B'Shvat with Herzlia students, to addressing claims of antisemitism, the Board members of the Cape Council from 2020 to 2022 were praised for their achievements. Hopefully, we can sustain the outcomes from our successful projects moving into the new year.

Environmental sustainability was the main theme of the Conference, and keynote speaker Nigel Savage, Global Ambassador from *Hazon*, the largest faith-based environmental organisation in the United States, presented a powerful address to galvanise our community



Rabbi Oshy Feldman



Rabbi Emma Gottlieb

to becoming change-makers in the fight against climate change. He spoke about how we often see the climate crisis as something which is too large an issue to respond to; and how we as individuals and as a community should focus on the goal, and face these challenges head-on. We may become despondent and disillusioned and as a result, end up avoiding the issue and burying our heads in the sand. However, Nigel identified a way to respond to and manage these challenges on three different levels. We must *educate* those around us, *action* what we can do, and *advocate* on what the crisis is and how to respond, in our roles as individuals, members of our immediate family and of the institutions to which we belong, and our broader communities.

Our excellent panel reiterated and added on to these points. Journalist extraordinaire Chris Gibbons, former host of the Midday Report on *Cape Talk*, moderated the panel which included Nigel, Dalit Anstey, an associate at ENS dealing with ESG and sustainability matters, and Francesca de Gasparis, Executive Director of the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute (SAFCEI). They commented on the important role that we, as Jews in South Africa, can play in directing our communal organisations towards being more sustainable within our organisations and the country itself. They presented ideas to transform the community and to ensure that our vision shifts, from the internal to the external, to opportunities rather than threats.

This year, we honoured two incredible women with the Eliot and Myra Osrin Awards, one for Jewish Vision, the other for Transformation. The Jewish Vision Award went to Li Boiskin, whose contribution to Cape Jewry has created the vibrant and inclusive community we see today. From her youth, she had the vision to ensure Jewish communal organisations continue to thrive. Her involvement in Wizo, the Mensch Network, and notably the Cape SAJBD, where she served two terms as Chair, made her a most worthy candidate for the award.

The Transformation award went to Sylvia Schrire, a stalwart of social justice for South Africans. From her days running a night school as a UCT student in the docks until the apartheid government shut it down, to assisting and upskilling underprivileged people in townships for the organisation Grassroots, she has impacted the lives of so many individuals over the past six decades. She also, in 2000, introduced the University of the Third Age (U3A) to South Africa and is still an active member in Cape Town. The organisation now has 29 branches through the country with over 10 000 members and eight branches in Cape Town. At 88 years old, she is still active and involved in changing lives for the betterment of South Africans.



Keynote speaker Nigel Savage



Tzvi Brivik welcomes delegates to the conference



Isaiah Mombilo — Congolese Civil Society



Tanja Werheit — German Consul General

Continues on page 9



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Creating a conscious community (continued)

By Craig Nudelman

Continues from page 8

Our community has the potential to grow and become sustainable for our future generations, be it the environment, our organisations, or our community in general. Rabbi Oshy Feldman began the conference speaking about how we must change our thought process from the 'I' to the 'we' and ensure that our conversations and discussions with each other are respectful; debates *I'shem Shamayim* (for the sake of heaven). Rabbi Emma Gottlieb followed on this theme, ending the conference by saying that we must not just think about ourselves, but of the Cape Jewry as a whole, to create debates *I'shem Kehilah* (for the sake of the community). We must strive to create one which is inclusive, filled with love for all people within it, be they Orthodox or Progressive, straight or gay, young or old.

The incoming members of the Cape Council for 2022 to 2024 will use the knowledge learned from the conference and apply it to ensure that the Cape SAJBD creates a sustainable and conscious Jewish community in our broader South African family.



Sylvia Schrire accepting the Eliot and Myra Osrin Transformation Award. L-R: Simone Sulcas, Tzvi Brivik, Jacqui Benson-Mabombo, Sylvia Schrire and Myra Osrin



Li Boiskin accepting the Eliot and Myra Osrin Award for Jewish Vision. L-R: Dawn Nathan Jones, Tzvi Brivik, Li Boiskin and Myra Osrin



Members of the panel — Francesca de Gasparis (SAFCEI), Nigel Savage (Hazon), Dalit Anstey (ENS) and moderator Chris Gibbons



Gina Levi (Habonim), Rachel Bootkov (Netzer), Jesse Lees (Habonim)



Members of the incoming Cape Council - Daniel Bloch, Dawn Nathan-Jones, Adrienne Jacobson, Rael Kaimowitz, Viv Anstey, Craig Nudelman, Lester Hoffman, Tzvi Brivik, Karen Milner, Glen Heneck, Rivkah Myburgh, David King and Mika Visagie



The crowd engages on the topic under discussion — Tzvi Brivik and Lester Hoffman in front



Chris Gibbons, Tzvi Brivik, and Nigel Savage



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Embracing a diverse community — all together again

Reflecting on Limmud Cape Town 2022, an inclusive Jewish-focused conference

By Sue Chalom

A highlight of the Jewish cultural calendar, Limmud Cape Town, was held in person for the first time in three years.

“We took a risk going ahead with an in-person conference, not knowing whether people would feel comfortable to gather together again. But the risk paid off as people revelled in one another’s company, in learning, in engaging and in celebrating Jewish life,” Sarit Swisa, the national chair of Limmud SA states. As Brian Kantor, who speaks to packed audiences at Limmud every year, so eloquently articulated to me, whilst waiting in line for our Shabbat dinner, “Limmud is a place where all Jews are welcomed and accepted, regardless of their religious affiliation.”

Held at the UCT Graduate School of Business, and organised by co-chairs Gill Saks and Gabriella Saven, this annual event is made possible through generous sponsorship and the tireless efforts of those who volunteer behind the scenes. According to self-proclaimed ‘Limmud addict’ Toby Shenker, who headed up the volunteering team again this year, “[I am] astounded by the innumerable gifts which this

epic ‘roadshow’ brings to our Jewish community.”

And what an array of intellectual gifts to open — with 18 international speakers, over 44 local speakers, and 100 sessions in three days. “The diversity and choice of presentations was very broad, and the only challenge, as always, was trying to decide which presentation to attend,” exclaims well-known writer Gus

Silber. “The sessions I attended, particularly Jonathan Ancer’s erudite, moving, and entertaining look at *Mensches in the Trenches*, were mind-opening and illuminating in the true spirit of Limmud.” Silber presented on South African Jewish photographers and their influence on our society, and he reflects, “It is such a pleasure to be part of the experience from the other side of the podium. Limmud audiences are

highly engaged and interested, and of course they are discerning too.”

But it is so much more than your average conference, with drumming, yoga, cartoon workshops, wine tasting, a quiz, live music and programmes for young Limmudniks on offer. As Anita Shapiro, head of International Presenter Care, explains, “Sometimes a session can surprise you. You go with a certain expectation and then popular-held facts are debunked. This is the Limmud way — to be exposed to people who don’t have the same opinions that you do.”

“I really enjoyed meeting like-minded people in the community, with points of view I didn’t expect and may have underestimated,” Nathan Eisen confesses after his first conference attendance. Kelsey Buchalter, another first-time Limmudnik, who participated and presented, emphatically says, “I encourage others to come to such an event to experience what ‘community’ feels like, to meet and chat with new people, and to learn!”

Sue Chalom is a long-time writer and Limmudnik, who headed up the programming committee this year.

“This is the Limmud way: to be exposed to people who don’t have the same opinions that you do.”



Some of the dedicated volunteers who made Limmud 2022 a success

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.

I will be in South Africa from 6-20 November 2022.

6-13 November – JHB

13-20 November – CT

YOU CAN REACH ME ON:

☎ +48 783 953 223,

✉ adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com



Round and about with the SAZF Cape Council



Vibey atmosphere at the Cape Town Aliyah Expo 2022



Momentum moms meet Mikey Fogel, new visiting P2G Director from Israel



Aliyah Expo 2022 — Israel Centre and SAZFCC team



Sold-out bulka stand at BZA Yom Tov Market



Welcome dinner for Aliyah Expo delegation



Youth Movements roundup

Habo's homecoming

As the days until Machaneh becomes shorter, the anticipation for it just grows and grows. The fact that we are literally two months away from it feels absolutely surreal, considering that we've been deprived of Machaneh for so long. Many people may have never experienced one before, or may have forgotten about it and simply do not remember the feeling of stepping out from the bus onto the Onrus campsite. There is no better place to be in December, which is why we urge you to send your kids for just the best time they will ever have. If you'd like to sign up, please [click here](#).

We did get to experience a taste of what December has to offer with an amazing Mini Mach that took place from 30 September to 2 October, led by the two Brads — Brad Gottschalk and Brad Lubner. There could be no better way to get everyone pumped and excited for the real thing with our last event on the campsite. Not only did it serve to build up to December, it stood for itself as a weekend of incredible fun and an insane atmosphere. Well done to everyone who helped run it — we can't wait to see all the children back in December.

One of the other highlights from last month was our matric-dance-themed visit to Herzlia High School. A large number of madrichim came dressed in their best formal fits and handed out roses to the school to support the matric class of 2022 for their matric dance. It was an incredible visit, and we even had time to take some cute pictures!

Lastly, we hosted our annual Bogrimot Amazing Race! The bogrim body raced through Cape Town, deciphering clues and anecdotes, and naturally, I won in the end, so it was definitely a night well spent. It was great to see such an incredible turnout from our ever-growing bogrim body, and it's even more inspiring to see our young madrichim take a hold of our movement — their movement.

We hope you had a Shana Tova! Aleh V'Hagshem!
— Jeffrey Gutman, Rosh Publications



Habonim Dror madrichim at Herzlia High School for matric-dance-themed visit

Aloh Na'aleh — We Rise Up

Hello! I hope that you are all doing well and had beautiful and meaningful chagim.

Bnei Akiva has been hosting our weekly events: soccer, appreciation tochniot, and fun outings around Cape Town — all leading up to our phenomenal camp which is bound to be our best ever.

After two years of anticipation, we are finally returning to our beloved campsite! Through the ideas of Torah V'Avodah and religious Zionism, Machaneh aims to create a space where madrichim and channichim are enriched, inspired and motivated to become active contributors to society. We are bringing together hundreds of people in an environment that is safe and fun. The beach, *tiyulim*, *chuggim*, Zionism, inspiring *tochniot*, powerful *ruach* sessions, Torah-learning and non-stop action are all happening this year at Machaneh Aloh Na'aleh. The whole year our madrichim take care and look out for our channichim, forming bonds that will last forever. Now we reach the climax — make sure you're there! You can also sign up to participate in amazing activities all year round! — Eytan Labe



Mazal Tov to our Junior Counsellors!

It is with great excitement that we welcome Shay-Lee Geva and Taya Allardice to the Diller Teen Fellows staff team for 2022-2023.

Throughout their fellowship year, both Shay-Lee and Taya displayed exceptional leadership abilities, and we are very privileged to have them joining the staff team for this extended leadership experience. The Junior Counsellors, along with programme coordinator Martine Katz, are responsible for running all educational and logistical elements of the programme. We wish Shay-Lee and Taya *behatzlacha* as they take on this new challenge, and we look forward to a fantastic year ahead, filled with meaning, impact and engagement for our community's youth! — Martine Kawalsky Katz, Diller Teen Fellows Cape Town Programme Coordinator



Junior Counsellors Shay-Lee Geva (left) and Taya Allardice (right) with programme coordinator Martine Katz (centre)


Highlands House

Aged Residential Care for Our Community

Abe, our friendliest face

Mathilde Myburgh interviewed Abe Sank, long-time supporter of Highlands House, and Honorary Life Member as of 2022

"I got involved with Highlands House through the late Sylvia Gottlieb.

"Sylvia was involved for many years with the Home. She first got me involved in the late 60s with the Jewish orphanage, Oranjia. We stayed near Oranjia, on Montrose Avenue in Oranjezicht, and I used to walk to school with some of the Oranjia children and spend a lot of time with them. Sylvia was very involved in Oranjia, having herself benefitted from the orphanage. It's very much part of her story. She wanted to give back to Oranjia, for what Oranjia did for her. After Oranjia, she got me involved in the Jewish Board of Guardians, which you now might know as Jewish Community Services. In those days — the 70s — they were still in Cape Town on Dorp Street. Sylvia, all that time, was involved at Highlands House, and one day, she schlepped me along.

Abe's wife, Leina, chips in, "When our children were very little, we were both very involved with Oranjia. There was a little boy in Oranjia, who today must be in his 60s, who used to come home with us. The children outgrew each other, they were teenagers, and they weren't that interested in each other any more. And that's when Abe became involved with Highlands

House — when the kids were a bit older. We also knew people in Highlands. We had family who stayed there, and that's how it went on, from year to year."

"I got onto the committee first. I wanted to help. If I was needed, I was there. And I knew the chairman and the late Max Florence and Mr Dan Rabie, Mr Zeh — there were so many of them who I knew through business. I found it rewarding. Maybe in the early days I didn't do as much as I did later, but I grew into it.

"I come from Paternoster. You've probably heard about the place because 20 years ago it suddenly became a popular destination. My late parents had the hotel there in the early 1930s. The last time we were there, it was, unfortunately, a bit grubby. Leina is from Bulawayo in Zimbabwe and came to Cape Town to study. We met at a party on a Saturday evening. I was in the motor business and I worked with my brother. He was my partner, and we built up a company called Market Cars, which became Market Toyota. We sold out in 1998. My claim to fame was Mr Toyota. I used to walk in the streets and people would say, there goes Mr Toyota.

"I've been involved with Highlands House for around 50 years. Sylvia



With the residents committee, From left: Esmé Jacobson, Michael Kelly, Abe Sank (standing), Arnold Wallach, Diane Kanter and Jenni Burnett.

was an Honorary Life Member back then. She started the hairdressing business and the manicuring services at the Home, and spent many days of the week at Highlands House. She was like an interfering aunty, but she was one of those people who got things done. The committee was old back then I thought — I was a pikkie then. I went with Max Florence to the interview with Harris Burman, when he arrived from Durban.

"Today, Highlands House is different. Back then, in the heyday, there were over 200 residents. Now it's a smaller community of 153. When they started talking about only admitting people who need care and assistance, I was against it. It's a completely new idea. There's a lot going on that is modern, and not how the older committee would have thought about it. The current committee is doing a fantastic job — we're very lucky to have the quality of people that we have. It's modern and it's the right way to go, and please G-d they can go on for many, many years to serve our community, which is pretty old, with an ageing population. There is a big question mark over how to keep institutions relevant and sustainable.

The changes are progressing amazingly, with Dr Leon Geffen setting a good pace. The healthcare is unbelievable — I don't know of any other organisation that offers what we do. The activities programme provides stimulation to residents. We've been to old-age homes where people are just sitting along the passage, with nothing to do to occupy themselves. A lot is going on for Highlands House residents. And every day there is an improvement.

Leina (my wife) taught yoga there for many, many years. The upgrade of the terrace outside the Coffee Shop is very exciting. There is a culture of giving back and getting involved.

I worry that the young people are leaving, and we need to sustain our organisations. The younger people aren't committing as the older generations have. I was in my 30s when I got involved. I remember, in the old days, they paid people to go and collect for Highlands House, and they earned a commission. They used to get stop orders signed, for pounds and shillings. Even if you gave five shillings a month, it was something — it meant something. In those days my parents signed stop orders. It wasn't for very much, but that's where the culture started for me. There was an idea that if everyone contributed — even just a little bit, only what they could afford — then we could reach our goal. The older generation gave money, whatever they could afford to give, and those who became wealthy gave more. In Highlands' history, there were a couple of bigger donors who are no more. I worry that it dries up. I worry that it isn't carried forward generationally. I want to see that community sense of paying back and looking after each other again.

I would like to see Highlands House modernise and run like clockwork, like it's starting to run now. I'd like to see the gardens improved. I want it to be a place of comfort for people.

Abe Sank has been involved in Highlands House since 1972, and still serves on the Advisory Board. This year he was made an Honorary Life Member.

Monty Teperson z"l

We are sad to say goodbye to our resident Monty Teperson, whom we just wished mazeltov on his 100th birthday in August.

A hundred years of memories! Monty was an active part of our Highlands community for many years, participating in the art class and producing wonderful varied paintings. His work was recently included in the Highlands House Art Exhibition at Marais Road Shul in September. Very involved in Ohel Samson shul at Highlands House, Monty has always contributed his good sense of humour, insight and wisdom to every activity. We all enjoyed his monthly bulletin, a newsletter to his fellow residents. On his birthday, we presented Monty with a certificate for his outstanding contribution to the Home. Errol Anstey shared some stories from Monty's younger days in the Merchant Navy during World War II, when he enjoyed boxing and cultivating a six-pack. Monty's *joie de vivre* inspired us all. One hundred years will not soon be forgotten. *Baruch Dayan Ha-emet*.



In celebration of his 100th birthday, fellow resident, retired photographer Joss Shaff captured Monty Teperson's spirit in this portrait.


www.highlandshouse.co.za

[highlandshousecpt](https://www.instagram.com/highlandshousecpt)

[HighlandsHouseCPT](https://www.facebook.com/HighlandsHouseCPT)

Highlands House

Aged Residential Care for Our Community

[back to contents](#)



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

Enjoying special outings and activities

It is so good to observe that as the weather improves, more and more members are venturing out and participating in the in-house activities.

Each branch is endeavouring to woo existing members as well as new members to the centres, and the variety of special events certainly supports this.

Our recent special activities have included a wonderful Twilight Supper in Sea Point with Daniel Silke as our guest speaker. The atmosphere was great and members and friends enjoyed socialising both prior to the supper and they lingered afterwards creating such a warm and welcoming evening.

Milnerton hosted a cooking demonstration with Sonia Norrie baking and showing her skills in the kitchen. This branch are also going to be enjoying a strawberry high tea thanks to the great support of Brenda Zetler who will be supplying the most delicious strawberries.

Our Southern Suburbs Branch kicked off the High Holy Days season with a pre-Rosh Hashanah lunch and concert by the wonderful *Shades of Shadows* band, which is always enjoyed and very popular with our members.

Outings are always a hit with our members and we strive to find new and exciting venues to enjoy. The groups have visited *Boeresjiek*, which is always a treat, *Dunes* in Hout Bay on the most glorious spring day with Hout Bay being at its best, and West Coast Nature reserve to see the flowers and enjoy the beauty of the West Coast. We have also visited the Bo Kaap Market, and the South African Jewish Museum to view the incredible photographic exhibition of Arnold Castle z"l. Our Wynberg knitting group enjoyed a special morning with the Sunflower group who are crafters in Athlone.

Sea Point hosted a special 98th birthday afternoon for Rosemary Magid. Rosemary mentioned that her way of enjoying this great milestone birthday would be to sing and entertain, and that's exactly what she did. Her guests shared a very memorable afternoon with her. They also enjoyed a morning in Khayalitsha where they visited *Abalami Bezekaya* to view the vegetable garden built by the incredible community.

Three bus-loads of excited members went to Hermanus for a special day. We took our own packed lunch which was prepared by Avron's, and members enjoyed being hosted by Hermanus Shul Community at their beautiful hall. We were spoilt with a magnificent show of whales, glorious weather and renewing friendships as this was the first time we hosted an interbranch outing since reopening.

We are so proud of our own Hajiera Safidien-Maloon who has been part of the Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute cohort for the past year. We attended the report-back session and were so impressed by her group's presentation; and hearing from each group as to how our community can look forward to many exciting ways of increasing the care and support offered, as we move forward with the input from the 2040 planning process.

Hot off the press and very exciting news is the fact that CJSA and the UJW will soon be sharing premises. For the past couple of years we have realised that it is no longer a viable option for CJSA Sea Point to have the expense of two homes, whilst the UJW also has a home within a block of ours. Many conversations have taken place to ensure that both entities, while maintaining their independence, form a cohesive working arrangement that suits everyone's needs. We have been so lucky to have the superb input from Sharon Sagor who has been patient, kind and supportive as we dotted the i's and crossed all the t's to ensure that everyone is happy and comfortable with this merge. Alterations begin this week and we are confident that we will be able to move over by the end of 2022.

Diana Sochen, Executive Director

Recent outings and activities



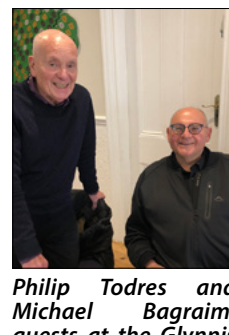
West Coast members enjoying the sunshine on Blouberg beachfront



Sea Point members visited Abalami Bezekaya in Khayalitsha



Rosemary Magid on her 98th Birthday



Philip Todres and Michael Bagraim, guests at the Glynnis Breytenbach Twilight Supper



Milnerton members visiting Montebello Centre in Newlands



Marge Lee and Doreen Fiansky enjoying an outing to Hermanus



A magnificent day in Hermanus



Cathy instructing Ageless Grace classes with West Coast members



Cecile Buirski and Joan Sarembok enjoying an outing to Hermanus

Social and Personal

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

Marriage: Shirley Elvey — Grandson
Barmitzvah: Raoul and Eleanor Miller — son

Special birthday wishes: Rosemary Magid (98), Cecile Buirski (85), Lily Singer (100), Cynthia Garb (90), June Benjamin (90)

Welcome to new members: Michelle Cooper, Maureen and Anthony Green, Theodore Gruss, Margaret Hoffman, Charlene Kuresevic, Sybil Levin, Janet Serebro and Bernard Teren

Well wishes to those who have been under the weather: Sarah Daitch, Jennifer Gordon and Bernie Goldschmidt

Our wishes of strength to the family of members who have recently passed away.

Julie Katzenberg on the passing of her husband Simon

Benny Katzenberg on the passing of his brother Simon

Jacqui Garbman on the passing of her husband Owen

Wolsley Jacobson on the passing of his wife Elsie

The family of Tessa Epstein



Connecting Communities through food! With the JDC, SAUFFT and a serving of Mensch

By Jodi Ramsay

Are you aware that hunger or lack of a nutrient rich diet in South Africa is not because of a shortage of food supply?

We are a food rich country. We have plenty of food. Rather, this dearth stems from an institutionalised food system that fails to provide food security. A system that creates hunger and is governed in ways that all but ignore the reality of informality in South Africa — a shortcoming exposed with devastating consequences during the Covid-19 lockdowns.

A mere 14 km from the Cape Town CBD in the under-resourced community of Langa, one finds The Langa Agrihub — brainchild of the non-profit SA Urban Food and Farming Trust (SAUFFT) — the parent organisation of the popular Oranjezicht City Farm and creator of the OZCF Market.

Partnered to this project is the JDC — a leading global Jewish humanitarian organisation headquartered in Israel and the USA — who feel a responsibility to serve non-Jewish populations in line with the Jewish values of *tikkun olam*. They bring donor funding, Israel agtech, curiosity and learning right here to our local Langa community.

Together with the Masakhe Foundation, a local Langa non-profit — the aim is to increase the resilience of existing food producers, create more local agency within the food system, and contribute to a more circular local food economy.

The project establishes local supporting infrastructure to provide needed farming inputs (such as seedlings and compost), and offer services (such as tool hire, pack house, agriprocessing,

market access, etc.) to help urban farmers working on farms scattered throughout Langa sustain their trade, eat and earn more income by working as part of a network facilitated through the Agrihub.

As part of the collab, the JDC works with local South African Jewish Social Justice Organisation, Network and NGO, Mensch. Mensch's role here is to create impactful engagement across our two communities: To create market access via Jewish community procurement opportunities; to learn and share knowledge; to encourage the Agrihub as

sustainability and inter-community opportunity. We planted 140kg of beautiful, organic and nutritious ingredients, paid the local farmers at market rate, and together with over 120 Jewish volunteers, cut and chopped all in two hours to make over 500 litres of soup — a meal for over 1500 Langa residents.

This engagement has now been extended into the monthly Langa Agritour. Here we meet the farmers, visit the Agrihub facilities, share in the vision and growth, learn about the local economy and workshop ways to become more involved.

For the first tour in late August, there was representation from Jewish youth group — Netzer, The Cape Jewish Chronicle, Jewish Community Services (JCS), The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute (EOLI), The Cape SA Jewish BOD, and Mensch Network Members and volunteers.

This is what people are saying

"A most inspiring and enriching morning! From the Jewish Community and the Langa Community. The visit re-ignited and deepened my enthusiasm for food gardening and its value in the field (or garden) of community development".

"One visit — so many opportunities to create sustainability where it works best — the ability for people to earn income."

Outcomes are already palpable with opportunities to procure food monthly, and further ideas for on-going collaboration.

If you are interested in finding out more about Mensch (www.mensch.org.za), or join a tour, please contact jodi@mensch.org.za



a space for experiential curricula-based learning for Jewish youth; to invite corporate team builds; to organise Jewish driven volunteering days; and to showcase the outcome benefits of Israeli agtech and innovation.

To start the engagement, for Mandela Day Mensch together with SAUFFT and local social Enterprise Ikhaya Le Langa organised a Soup-A-Thon. A 'farm to table' Langa experience celebrating food

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MENSCH
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JCS@WORK

BARGAINS GALORE REDISCOVERED

EOLI and Cape Union Mart combine to give back to the community

Lynn Hotz
Jewish Community Services

The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute (EOLI) serves to honour the visionary leadership and strategic foresight of the late Eliot Osrin. The institute aims to facilitate the next generation of Jewish leaders in the community, shaped by Jewish values and ethics with a Leadership Development Programme. The cohort groups identify a recurring challenge in the community that pertains to a communal organisation and work as consultants with the organisation, towards a sustainable solution. This then culminates in a summative presentation to communal leaders which took place in September of this year.

Desrae Saacks, Josh Friedman and David Cohen, participants on the 2022 cohort, aimed to rediscover, improve and optimise the Bargains Galore store so that it may better achieve its aims.

The Bargains Galore store is a second-hand charity shop based in Sea Point that serves to provide sheltered employment and raise funds for Jewish Community Services (JCS). JCS is in dire need of funding to ensure the continuity of its range of operations and welfare that it provides to its constituents and beneficiaries. This especially considering the far-reaching economic consequences that COVID-19 has had on the individuals in the community and by extension, JCS. Desrae, Josh and David embarked on a journey to re-invigorate the Bargains Galore store floor space and generate a digital social media strategy to drive customers to the store and reshape its brand and personality as a vintage destination store.

Josh, who works professionally as an HR Business Partner at Cape Union Mart Group, enlisted the input of the Cape Union Mart Regional Operations team. This led to a series of site visits at the store and two separate 'clean up' sessions early in the morning before trade. Together with the rest of the team, JCS and Bargains Galore staff and the Cape Union Mart Operations

Team collaboratively spearheaded the re-merchandising of the store floor.

As a result of the new look, extra space was created and merchandise was categorised into product sections, making a better shopping environment for our customers. This resulted in not only an increase of sales, but the staff having been injected with greater enthusiasm by learning some new merchandising skills and store layout principles from the operations team's input and guidance. The staff are proud of their new environment and are energised into devising new systems and methods for the store with their newly acquired knowledge and skill set.

This is an excellent example of an incredible collaboration between JCS, EOLI and the

Jewish community! We urge you to discover the hidden gems that can be found at Bargains Galore – a destination for vintage and valued items for you or your home.

Please remember to donate any unwanted clothes, houseware, general bric a brac and furniture to Bargains Galore, and help us to give back to the vulnerable members of our Cape Town community.

To donate, please drop off goods at the store, 65 Regent Road, Sea Point, or call Bargains Galore on **021 462 7004**, where our dedicated staff members, Beauty, Maurice, Martin and Tanya will assist you. We also offer a free collection service – please contact the JCS Office on **021 462 5520** or email **shuli@jcs.org.za** to arrange for collection.

“As a result of the new look, extra space was created and merchandise was categorised into product sections, making a better shopping environment for our customers.”



Merchandising Dream Team - Members of the Cape Union Mart Operations Team, EOLI 2022 Cohort participants (Desrae Saacks, Josh Friedman and David Cohen) outside Bargains Galore with store staff and Lynn Hotz from JCS.

#JewishCommunityServices #EOLI #SocialUpliftment



Consider This

At eighty, the age of strength

By Rabbi Greg Alexander

My mom made her crossing to *Olam haBa* (the next world) in the month of Av. At the shiva prayers, Rabbi Sa'ar from Bet Emanuel in Joburg taught the following Mishnah:

“At five years of age, the study of Scripture; at ten, the study of Mishnah; at thirteen, subject to the commandments; at fifteen, the study of Talmud; at eighteen, the bridal canopy; at twenty, for pursuit [of livelihood]; at thirty, the peak of strength; at forty, wisdom; at fifty, able to give counsel; at sixty, old age; at seventy, fullness of years; at eighty, the age of strength; at ninety, a bent body; at one hundred, as good as dead and gone completely out of the world.” (Pirkei Avot 5:21)

We can spend many hours looking at each age, and let's be clear that while you might resonate or disagree with some or all of the ages/stages, they are really guidelines, not fixed

in stone. For today, let's start with 60, the age that the Mishnah says 'old age' begins. It's interesting that still today 2000 years after this was written, 65 is considered the suitable age for retirement. But, as we live longer, more and more people are working way beyond that age, into their eighties and even nineties, and why not?

70 and 80 refer to the verse in Psalm 90, "The span of our life is seventy years, or — given strength — eighty years." This is the origin of the custom of a second b-mitzvah. Since a full life is 70, the clock goes back to zero and at the age of 83 you are ready to be called up to the Torah again. I have been privileged to officiate at several of these meaningful milestones and each one stands out as a magnificent celebration of strength, family and Torah.

"At ninety, a bent body" — in the time of the Mishnah it would have been very

unusual for someone to live into their nineties, and if they did, they were unlikely to be in perfect health. That is not the case today, when it's hardly breaking news for a nonagenarian to be driving themselves to work. And there are many great models in our Torah — take Sarah, who was 90 when she gave birth to Isaac, and Abraham who was 100. Moses was 80 when G-d sent him to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt and launched him on a 40-year career of Jewish leadership, and Noah was 600 when he built the ark.

And 100? Well besides your letter from the King, you are in another world, as most of your peers have predeceased you. At that stage you are forging new frontiers, going where not many have gone before. My grandfather's mother, Annie Baker z"l, lived to 101 and so there are good genes in my family for longevity.

But let's go back to "at eighty, the

age of strength". My mom lived to 82, and the week before she went into hospital she was on her phone, managing family affairs, committees she served on, charities she organised and people she helped. Anyone who knew her would not suggest that this octogenarian was anything but "strong".

People say that ageing is not for sissies — and it is true — but every decade brings with it new learning and opening of gates. It is not complaining about what one can no longer do, but seeing the opportunities of what one can. If there is anything clear that Judaism is wanting us to remember, it's that ageing isn't about the condition of our body. It's the state of your mind-body-soul that will dictate the health of your elder years.

Yes, there will be loss, and life is nothing if not challenging — hard even. But there is so much good around, so many opportunities for blessings. What we have to do is see them, count them, speak them. Like our own *Tanakh* that says, "Gray hair is a crown of glory" (Proverbs 16:31). Or the 92-year-old who was asked, "did you have a happy childhood?" to which she replied, "so far, yes."



Simchat Torah 5783

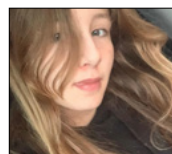
Join us, back in person,
as we celebrate and dance with
the Torah once again.

Sunday 16 October @ 6pm
Temple Israel Green Point

Service, hakafot, dinner, drinks & dancing



Mazaltov to last month's Bnei Mitzvah!



Anna Verboom
3 September



Daniel Cole
17 September



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16 - 23 DECEMBER

More details coming soon!

Please email director@netzer.org.za if you are interested in receiving more information



SAJM

South African Jewish Museum

On the evening of 6 September, an audience filled the SAJM's Old Shul for the first time since renovations began in May.

The occasion was the preview of well-known South African composer Philip Miller's new choral composition, Kaunas Kantata. Miller himself explained the process of creating the multi-layered work, illustrating his talk with excerpts and concluding with a short performance of one of the pieces by the tenor, Tshegofatso Moeng. Video projections by UK-born artist Jen Kagan created a visual dimension for the cantata, which weaves together song, instrumental and the spoken word to explore unaddressed traumatic histories from Lithuania's past and suggest the possibility of new paths to co-existence.

The world premiere of Kaunas Kantata will take place on 30 September and 1 October 2022 in Kaunas (formerly Kovno) Lithuania, which is this year's European Capital of Culture. The event will be the highlight of the biggest-ever Litvak Culture Forum in Kaunas as part of the *CityTelling Festival*.

Along with Tshegofatso Moeng as featured soloist, the performance will include over 200 musicians, the Kaunas Symphony Orchestra, choirs and various ensembles.

The preview inspired and enchanted its audience, including Diana Kopilevič, Lithuania's Consul and Deputy Head of Mission to the Republic of South Africa, who gave some insight into the effect her country's painful past has had on her own family.



Composer Philip Miller with tenor Tshegofatso Moeng



Diana Kopilevič, Lithuania's Consul and Deputy Head of Mission to the Republic of South Africa



SAJM Director Gavin Morris addresses the audience

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EOLI's graduating Cohort III addresses communal challenges

The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute is the first-ever organisation in the SA Jewish community to address leadership and succession.

"Graduating our third cohort and experiencing the impact of our programmes on the Cape Town Jewish community is evident by the election and professional appointments of lay and professional communal leaders across all the sectors," boasts Viv Anstey, Director and curriculum developer for EOLI.

The 2021/22 Cohort showcased their leadership gains from EOLI's flagship year-long Leadership Development Programme (LDP) which began in November 2021. Each cohort member's talents and strengths reflected their growth and engagement as leaders for the benefit of the community.

The Action Learning groups' presentations focused on key challenges in the community, and provided the platform for dialogue, consultation and critical thinking. This problem-solving model casts fresh eyes and a game-changing perspective on what is often experienced as an entrenched challenge. The five Action Learning presentations were exciting and inspiring with a focus on sustainability:

Care Services received the attention of two groups

LeadGrow: The concept of staff development and training were prioritised, addressing how staff appraisals in the community organisations can be used as a tool and mechanism for staff growth and succession planning.

Bargains Galore Rediscovered: Partnering with the BG team, they managed to sort the stock, give it a new and fresh look, and create an online platform to further sales and community reach.

Three groups focused on community and education

The Lost Tribe: involved engagement with Jewish parents who have chosen not to send their children to Jewish day schools and to find out why. Their findings ignited a spark to help connect and support the community specially to build community and address needs of families.

Nurturing Networks: Herzlia Alumni professionals were invited to present to the Grade 11s to inspire them to discover career paths and be activated to grow and sustain the Jewish community.

Future Thinking: A much-needed space for shared learning and collaboration between the four Jewish Day schools was opened up, for teachers to train teachers on their unique and innovative teaching styles and individualised teaching methodology.

We are grateful to our expert team of faculty who have brought the Cohort's learning to this milestone juncture in the LDP and empowered each participant to show up as an emerging consultant within the communal space. As we embark on our final module on Ethical Leadership, with both an internal and external community focus, the transformation and investment of our participants is glowingly evident. EOLI's commitment to people-proofing and leadership succession can be deeply felt within and across the community.

We bid Melissa Zolty farewell as she moves on to UJC as Brand Manager, after almost five years in her role as Project Manager. We appreciate her contribution to the start-up phase of EOLI, of building the infrastructure and systems. We welcome to the team Jade Wasserman, who will bring her background in education from the field.



The 2021/22 Cohort

Family Announcements

BEREAVEMENT

ABRAHAM SHER

Abraham Simon (Abe) Sher passed away peacefully in Sydney, Australia on Monday 29 August 2022 aged 104 years. He will always be remembered by his sons and daughters-in-law, Julian and Noreen, David and Galia, his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Contact: jeta@iinet.net.au and sherdavid@aol.com

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

TESSA EPSTEIN

To our special family, friends, colleagues and the entire community. Thank you for the incredible support, love, and heartfelt messages we have received during this difficult time of the passing of our wife, mother and grandmother, Tessa Epstein.

Selwyn, Alan and Gavin Epstein and Michelle Michelow and families



To place a family announcement in the Cape Jewish Chronicle, phone 021 464 6736 (mornings only) or email chron@ctjc.co.za

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USING MY NUDEL

Risky behaviour

By Craig Nudelman

This year I'm taking a large risk, and it's one that I've been preparing for over 12 months.

I decided last year that I'm going to have surgery to remove the part of my brain that causes my epilepsy.

For those of you who don't remember my February 2020 column ([read here](#)), my epilepsy is part of my identity; it's something that I'm proud of. However, after 25 years of having seizures which are not fully controlled, I'm hoping that after the surgery, I'll be seizure-free.

When I tell people I'm having brain surgery, they are quite shocked. "This is a massive risk," they say. And it is. There's no denying it.

In fact, for people with frontal lobe epilepsy (which I have), it's 50/50 whether the surgery will be successful, according to numerous academic articles. However, I've set the date, and I'll be going under in the first week of October.

Seeing people's reactions to my risky move has made me question why people are so risk averse and how this affects us on a daily basis. The most common issue that we, as humans, have with risk is that we'll face some kind of loss. Let's use a risky money decision as an example. The fear of losing R1000 for example, is of greater concern than hoping to gain R5000. This is something that Nobel Prize-winning psychologist Daniel Kahneman has written about. He deduced that 'most' people do not want to lose items and assets, and that we often focus more on how much we may lose rather than what we may gain. Research shows that this behaviour doesn't necessarily mean that we lack self-confidence, are neurotic (as most members of the 'tribe' might say we are), or are paranoid. It's just that we would rather see the retention of the status quo and keep things running smoothly.

This is similar to the point made by another academic, Tory Higgins from Columbia University, who spent 20 years researching risk and people's attitude towards it. Instead of terming this behaviour as 'risk-averse', he prefers to understand it as 'preventative' and being a bit more 'conservative'. In an article in the *Harvard Business Review*,

Heidi Grant builds on his theory to differentiate between those who are completely averse to chance-taking and 'the rest of us'. She states, "The rest of us are promotion-focused, see our goals as opportunities to make progress and end up better off, and are not particularly averse to risky choices when they hold the potential for rich gains."

Seeing people's reactions to my risky move has made me question why people are so risk averse and how this affects us on a daily basis

Another fascinating blog written for the Stanford AI Lab by Minae Kwon and Dylan Losey speaks to humans and our 'risk-aware' tendencies. The authors surmise that a human's actions will ultimately lead to an ideal outcome, but it is often completely random, something they call 'noisily rational'. They state that, "humans tend to make sub-optimal choices and select the risk-averse option — even though it leads to worse expected outcomes!" From this we can understand that humans are not completely rational, but are noisily rational; we usually make the best choice, although it could come to a less than amazing outcome.

What is an 'amazing outcome'? Is it one where everything is perfect and nothing goes wrong? Of course not! Look at some of the great things that we have achieved as a human race — and especially as the Jewish people. As a nation, we take risks. This is seen in the story of Avraham. G-d tells Avram, in parshat *Lech Lecha*, to "Go forth from your land and from your birthplace and from your father's house, to the land that I will show you (Genesis 12:1). And he just goes. G-d doesn't tell him where the land is, or what it will look like, or how much food he needs to take with him. He just risks it. This is a theme that runs throughout Jewish history, from Moses and Miriam to Ben Gurion and Bader Ginsburg.

During the course of my journey on the Nahum Goldmann Fellowship

leadership programme, I have been honoured to have attended sessions with incredible thought leaders throughout the Jewish world. One is Rabbi Dr Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi, who wrote about great Jewish leaders taking risks during times of great uncertainty. She lists five key characteristics that leaders should possess to be effective leaders: being experts in their field; an understanding of the challenges that people face from multiple perspectives; having a community built on trust; a willingness to take risks; and being motivated by "ethical imperatives to save the Jewish people". When looking at these different characteristics that our great Jewish leaders had, and *BH* continue to have, I try to emulate these in my own life, as both a leader and as an individual.

Many decisions we make are pretty drastic and take a fair amount of risk. I moved to Cape Town for a girl with whom I had a long-distance relationship for a year. Nearly ten years and two children later, that, in retrospect, was a pretty good, albeit risky decision. I have changed

careers and risked being rejected (which hurt every single time), but managed to survive that. And flying to Joburg at the end of 2020

(when Covid was definitely not over) was a pretty big risk in itself!

The smallest risk, like going through the yellow light at a traffic light can't be equated to a really big and serious risk, like brain surgery. But it all comes down to understanding what it is we're risking and why we are doing it. And, I trust that my operation will not be a sub-optimal decision!

I wish you and your family *G'mar Chatimah Tova* and may you have a meaningful Yom Kippur.

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



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Squares of Love and Ahava Knits

By Lydia Abel

Ahava Knits is a community-focused group inspired by Rabbi and Sara Wineberg, to celebrate and remember the short but beautiful life of 12-year-old Jamie Rose Whitesman.

Ahava Knits brought together a group of grannies who knit and crochet for babies and children as a way of paying it forward. The group has grown, and avid knitters and crocheters are working together to make a difference, one ball of yarn at a time!

It started with making masks for the children at Red Cross Children's Hospital during the Coronavirus pandemic — but it soon grew to include blankets, beanies and babywear. Working with *Bobbas for Babies* (Israeli Embassy Initiative),

they now supply finished baby and preemie beanies, blankets, tops and toys to *Bless a Baby* in Durbanville, who in turn pack these into beautiful bags of goodies for new moms in need, at eleven Western Cape maternity homes.

Recently they teamed up with *Squares of Love* and have been sending blankets, beanies and gorgeous sweaters for the elderly and the young to a range of welfare organisations supporting people in impoverished areas.

Squares of Love (SOL) started during the lockdown phase of 2020 as a natural offshoot of the now well-known *Ladles of Love (LOL)*, a movement of volunteers making sandwiches on a large scale for those in need during the height of the Coronavirus pandemic. *SOL* is a

group of ladies in the Sea Point and Durbanville areas.

Two contributors to *LOL*, Jan Chasen and Shelley Garb, realised that the 2020 winter season was going to present problems with the cold Cape weather. *Squares of Love* was born as a separate group, recruiting knitters and crocheters from near and far to knit or crochet squares, blankets and beanies. Many contributors were thrilled to connect with them, as they had been knitting squares for years and did not know what to do with them! Some took charge of the sewing, joining 30 squares together to make blankets, while others crocheted beautiful borders around them. The process shifted into making strips which made the sewing up stage quicker. And recently, lots of colourful fleece blankets for newborns have been added.

The number of blankets and beanies lovingly produced by these groups is not known, but it is definitely in the high hundreds! These projects have also been a god-send to the many women, stuck living alone or in homes, who love their crafts and being able to share the love and keep others warm and cosy.

Recipients are spread across the Western Cape, from Maitland to Manenberg and as far as Robertson; and distribution facilitated in partnership with various other NGOs and organisations such as Ikamva Labantu, UJW, Bless a Baby and One-to-One.

Donations of yarn, knitted goods and or squares, are gratefully received! If you would like to contribute, email: lydia.abel@gmail.com



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Advocate extraordinaire Sir Sydney Kentridge KC SC turns 100

By Anton Katz SC

Sydney Kentridge KC* SC turns 100 years old in November.

Kentridge is regarded as the best advocate (barrister) in the English-speaking world in the past 50 years. He was born in Johannesburg to Jewish parents whose ancestors had come from Eastern Europe.

After an interesting and daunting service in the airforce during World War II and then legal studies at Oxford, he commenced practice as an advocate at the Johannesburg Bar. His practice started with smaller briefs which demonstrated his aptitude and dedication to each case he took on.

He practised at the Johannesburg Bar for some twenty years before gradually and ultimately moving to practise full time in all manner of cases at the London Bar. In London, Kentridge argued many of the most significant cases from the House of Lords to the European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights.

He continued practising as a barrister into his nineties. On his ninetieth birthday he argued as one of fifteen barristers a grueling three-day tax case in the Supreme Court in London's Parliament Square. Kentridge's powerful argument succeeded.

He is the oldest person ever to have argued in the United Kingdom's highest court. However what will always dominate his legacy are his cases challenging the apartheid laws, policy and conduct by the apartheid government. Thomas Grant KC recently produced a 289-page book deliciously describing in some detail just a few of those South African cases. The book is entitled *The Mandela Brief — Sydney Kentridge and the Trials of Apartheid*.



The Mandela Brief: Sydney Kentridge and the Trials of Apartheid by Thomas Grant (21 Jul 2022) is available at the Book Lounge and for loan from the Jacob Gitlin Library.

Apart from cursory chapters concerning Kentridge's heritage and history and a brief, somewhat anecdotally amusing epilogue concerning his London years (in a major case involving music royalties, Sydney in all seriousness referred to "singer Mike Jackson"), the book examines the details of the famous South African cases: the Treason Trial, the Sharpeville Inquiry, the trials of Bram Fischer, Winnie Mandela, Dean ffrrench-Beytagh, and the Steve Biko Inquest in 1977. The hideous inhumane apartheid laws, and the nasty murderous conduct by the security police against those who they deemed 'terrorists' were highlighted again and again by Kentridge before the apartheid courts.

On occasion an apartheid judge would rule in favour of one of Kentridge's clients, but generally his clients received scant justice from apartheid judges blind to justice and fairness. Kentridge fought on. He analysed the minutiae of his cases, working long hours night after long night, producing arguments with unanswerable logic. His cross-examination of security policemen exposed the lies they were telling at every turn, yet some (but not all) judges believed these lies and stark improbabilities.

There can be no doubt that Kentridge's brilliance and hard work made a dramatic difference to many of his clients and indeed to the wider community.

But the vexed question is always raised... should men and women of solid morality take part as lawyers in an immoral legal system? Should lawyers take part in the legal systems of, for example, Nazi Germany and apartheid South Africa? To take part in these immoral and illegitimate legal systems, some argue, is to legitimise the system itself.

The apartheid government prided itself on the importance of the law. The National Party told the world that its system was law-based, and that those opposing apartheid were operating outside the law and had to be dealt with as such. In many ways lawyers like Kentridge who robustly represented Nelson Mandela and his banned ANC colleagues were both hated and welcomed by the apartheid government. They were hated because they were competent and showed up the stupidity and evil of the apartheid laws. On the

other hand, so the Nationalists believed, Kentridge's work showed the world that there was a decent legal system in place and those who obeyed the law would be protected by the courts.

Ultimately, Sir Sydney Kentridge KC SC can certainly be said to have done far more good by being part of and challenging the system. His work, in my view, gave legitimacy to Nelson Mandela and those whose dignity was trampled daily. Without the courage and diligence of Kentridge and lawyers like him, apartheid may have lasted a lot longer than it did.

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



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It all began with a camcorder — Chad Nathan, content creator

By Leila Stein

Chad Nathan, better known as *Gingerwithagopro*, rose to Instagram and national acclaim through his breathtaking photography and videos.

With a truly 21st century career as a content creator able to travel the world, Nathan takes us through his journey to Instagram fame and what it feels like to do something you love, every day.

Childhood games to full-time career

Twenty-nine-year-old Nathan grew up in Johannesburg, making his way to the Cape after completing his

schooling. As a kid, he picked up his dad's camera one day and has not looked back since.

"We didn't have smart phones growing up, we used to just play in the garden. I would jump over to my neighbours and play soccer and mess around. One day I picked up my dad's Sony camcorder with these little cassette tapes. I was so curious, and thought I could make movies too," he says.

"I used to make my friends act and we would do these crazy stunts. We would make ramps and do things like jumping off the roof with our umbrellas. I would just capture it all on camera, in my head imagining that I was directing a movie or creating content. Not that anyone knew what creating content was 20 years ago. It's crazy to think that 20 years down the line, that's what I actually do for a living, but on a much bigger and cooler scale."

Being inspired by your experiences

For Nathan, the prospect of combining his interest in travelling the world and capturing it all was the main driver, after he matriculated from King David Victory Park.

"I was so passionate about seeing and exploring the world, going on adventures and experiencing life and different things. I knew it's what I wanted to do, and I was going to

do anything that I could to make it happen," he says.

While still building his portfolio, he got his first big paid break with a Jewish gap year programme.

"I was in Israel at the time, and they invited me to film their tour for two weeks with a bunch of 20-something-year-olds. I thought, 'well, this is epic, this is my chance to prove myself'. It was after I made that video which everyone really loved that I started going on even more tours."

From there, Nathan made his way across Europe and parts of Central and South America with his follower count ticking up and travel brands recognising the benefits of having him showcase them on his platforms.

"I was having so much fun, it didn't really even feel like work," he says.

It's about building yourself up

Nathan, however, is also realistic about the amount of time and effort he has put into making his dream a success. Building on insight and expertise from others, he doesn't shy away from how much work goes into becoming known and appreciated in this field.

"My advice to someone starting out is that it's all about growing your audience. Being really authentic, being real and learning to put yourself in front of the camera. It's



also just going out and filming and shooting every day. It's about starting a portfolio so you can actually show brands and people what you do and why you do it. So hopefully one day you'll be booked on those jobs around the world," he says.

You can find Chad Nathan's work on almost all social media, specifically Instagram, Facebook and TikTok at [Gingerwithagopro](#).

In June 2019, an up-and-coming Nathan captured an eerily empty Cape Town in the early days of hard lockdown for the CJC.

[Click here to read more about Chad's lockdown activities.](#)

[Click to view Chad's lockdown photos previously published in the CJC.](#)



ISRAEL: A JOURNEY MAKING MEANING

I am worried

Julian Resnick writes from Israel

I am very worried indeed. "Don't worry", you say, "there is a phrase in Hebrew; We got through Pharaoh; we can get through this one too."

It does make me feel a little better... We have been through some tough stuff.

There was that close shave with Abraham and Isaac. If it was not for the intervention of that angel/voice, whatever, from the heavens above and the incredibly lucky appearance of one wandering ram, who knows what would have happened to us. No Isaac, no Jacob (or Esau) no twelve sons and tribes... end of the story. No Land of Israel for us, no Covenant... *finita la comedia*. By the way, there is that extraordinary line in the parasha which I love, which goes "Lay not thy hand on the lad."

And then of course we lose a Temple or two thanks to that Nebech(cadnezzar) and then to the pesky Romans (not you guys, Venetians, or Florentines, just the Romans). And we are in exile for most of the time, and exile is, to put it mildly, quite *sh-one-t* a lot of the time. Think Spain where all is great for a while — we even call it a Golden Age — but little did we know that when Ferdinand and Isabella were alone it was not all making out time — rather what turned them on was planning to get rid of us. So, after asking a few questions, in not the nicest way, we get thrown out of Spain on our *nalga* (I could not find a Ladino translation for buttocks in Google Translate, so will go with the Spanish. If you are not happy with my word, just ask a friend who got to SA via the Island of Rhodes/Congo).

Moving on... the word *pogroms* comes into the English language thanks to some of our grandparents or great-grandparents who were on the receiving end of a blow or two or three; and that was what brought them to South Africa (plus the fact

that many of them were dirt poor, or at least that was what we heard when we thought of leaving awful food like *gribbenes* or *gehakte* stuff on our plates).

We cannot joke about what comes next, and with such force that it forever dominates the landscape of Jewish pain, and casts a shadow over not only Europe, but the Jewish psyche forever.

And we will go to the polls on November 1st and once again vote for either a more delicate form of status quo or a slightly more aggressive form of status quo.

So, we've been there. We have hurt — a lot. But, I am still worried.

I am worried about the clouds I see on the horizon. The conflict which we felt for a while that we had totally under control, might just erupt in our faces again, and possibly (hopefully not) with an intensity we have not seen for the past almost twenty years.

Tonight, the talk was of a third Intifada (uprising) on the news in Israel.

If you did not live through numbers one and two, you cannot imagine what this means. I do not want to even go there. I don't want to talk of buses, of cafes, of pizza parlours, of street crossings. I don't want to think of the waiting for names, of trying to get through on a phone system blocked by thousands checking in to be sure that...

We have persuaded ourselves for a long time that the status quo is not so bad.

That the tactics of containment are working. That "they have more to lose than we do."

That "they understand just how good they have it here."

That the "IDF, the *Shabak* and the *Mossad* are on top of it."

And we have not worked for Peace (and they too have not worked for Peace), and "it will be OK," we told ourselves.

And we will go to the polls on November 1st and once again vote for either a more delicate form of status quo or a slightly more aggressive form of status quo.

And then our grandchildren will grow up and inherit ...???

was the only way forward.

I can only end with words written a long time ago, not so far from where I spent my youth, before I made this journey to the land I live in and love. "Cry the Beloved Country for the unborn child that is the inheritor of our fear".

Next month? I promise to be upbeat and brimming with optimism if the election results are as follows...

"What? I have run out of space? OK, so be it.



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.






Race Day

Wednesday 16 November

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For further details contact mandy@jsec.org.za or 021 465 4200

Renowned academic and teacher turns 80

By Jack Hoffmann

Renowned academic and teacher, Dr Leonard Suransky turns 80 on 2 December this year.

I first met Leonard in 1955 on our first day at King David High School in Johannesburg. We were two pimply youths plagued by the hormones of Mars and the vagaries of Venus. It was a time of self-doubt, introspection, physical challenge, and intellectual searching. We became close friends. Using pompous phrases, we had interminable discussions on the meaning of life, the fate of the universe, the dilemmas of religion, the intrigues of politics, and the mysteries of love and of lust. It was a time of yearning for identity, of clambering for a foothold on a sheer rock face that led we knew not where.

We have spent most of the following 63 years on different continents but we had exchanged electrons and left fingerprints on each other's souls.

Leonard left South Africa immediately after matriculation in 1960. He studied languages in Lausanne and graduated BA in political science and English literature at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He furthered his studies in England at Bradford University and the London School of Economics where he earned an MSc in international relations and subsequently a PhD.

Leonard returned to Johannesburg in 1969 to take up a teaching post at the University of the Witwatersrand. His first assignment in apartheid



South Africa was to teach a course on Marxism! During his tenure as lecturer in political studies at Wits, Leonard encouraged the intermingling of black and white students at places like the Anglican Ecumenical Centre at Wilgespruit. This oasis of brotherhood and enlightenment was branded by the then prime minister B.J. Vorster, as a "den of iniquity". These iconoclastic actions put Leonard under the scrutiny of the Special Branch. They were hot on his trail when he managed to sneak out of the country in the nick of time.

The following years were spent at the University of Ann Arbor, Michigan where his research and teaching focused on the Middle East and Southern Africa. He designed and executed simulation games around the conflicts in both of these areas. He won the Outstanding Lecturer award for the simulation game he had developed for his course on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Simulation Gaming was to become the keystone of his career.

In 1986, Leonard spent the summer contributing his ideas and expertise at Neve Shalom, a village in the foothills of Jerusalem where Israeli Jews and Arabs lived together in a unique experiment to promote peace, reconciliation and co-existence.

In January 1988, Leonard was offered a job at the University of Durban-Westville (UDW). His initial task was to separate the political science section from the department of philosophy. In his years at UDW he helped expand the department from 400 to 1300 students.

In 1994, Leonard spent a six-month sabbatical at the Institute of Social Studies in the Hague. Because of political unrest at UDW, Leonard decided to leave Durban and return to the Netherlands in 1999. He landed a job at Webster University in Leiden as head of the department of international relations.

Continues on page 27

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



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.

I will be in South Africa from 6-20 November 2022.
6-13 November – JHB
13-20 November – CT

YOU CAN REACH ME ON:

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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.

SPORT

Brooke's living his childhood dreams as Cricket SA launch new T20 showpiece

By Justin Asher

Once a bowler and batsman for the Herzlia first team, and known for his Provincial table tennis achievements, David Brooke is now the Brand and Sponsorship Manager of Western Province Cricket.

Many kids grow up wanting to be accountants, architects, astronauts, and lawyers but few have ambitions of working behind the scenes in sports administration. This is where David Brooke, a graduate of the matric class of 1999 differs from your average schoolboy.

After scoring his share of runs as Herzlia's favourite all-rounder, he found himself leaving school with his eye on sport as a career. Having finally made peace with the fact that his bowling skills in cricket just weren't up to professional levels, and knowing he would never be selected for the National side, Brooke turned his attention to searching for jobs in the sport industry, holding a bachelor's degree from UCT in Film and Media Studies.

In 2003, he began sourcing and

editing sport stories for one of the biggest online news portals at the time, *iafrica*. But his career took him on a different path in 2005 when he began working for *Big Brother UK* and their production company, *Endemol*.

The former Herzlian made a sporting comeback in 2008, occupying the role of Commercial Manager for *Sport24*, part of the *24.com* group; and in February 2012 he took on the same title — this time with world-renowned football agent Mike Makaab and his sports marketing and player management agency, *Prosport International*.

While many from the class of 1999 moved on to become architects, accountants, and lawyers — sorry there were no astronauts that we know of — Brooke slowly but surely clawed his way toward his dream job. During his time at *Prosport*, Dave finally began to get a taste for professional cricket as he took on

the task of managing several high-profile local cricketers. But in 2016, 13 years after he edited his first story for *iafrica*, he finally got the job he was after.

For many years as a young cricket fanatic, Brooke would be found wandering the corridors of the Newlands Cricket stadium, often with a minutely-sized cricket bat and a permanent marker, in search of someone — anyone — he could get to autograph his souvenir. But now, it's a different

type of stride he's taking through a distinctive type of corridor. This time, he does it in a suit and tie through the corporate office and executive suites of the Newlands Cricket Ground, as the Brand and Sponsorship Manager of Western Province Cricket.

Dave's about to celebrate six years in the role and no day is ever the same. Most recently, he brought a new naming rights partner onboard which now sees *Six Gun Grill Newlands*



hosting the Mumbai Indians' Cape Town franchise SA20 Cricket League — a new cricket spectacular set to reignite the country's passion and support for local cricket, and David is right at the forefront of it all.

There's no doubt in anyone's mind that this job trumps being an astronaut. At least for David Brooke.

There's no doubt in anyone's mind that this job trumps being an astronaut. At least for David Brooke.

Continues from page 26

Renowned academic and teacher turns 80

He received the Des Lee Visiting Lectureship in Global Awareness. Here, his use of simulation gaming as a tool for learning expanded and blossomed. In this field, Leonard achieved international fame.

Leonard has continued to be academically active throughout his eighth decade. Although he retired to Sea Point in 2012, he was thrust back into action in 2014 when Webster asked him to establish an international relations department at their university in Accra, Ghana. This he accomplished with great success. He continued to teach there physically until 2019 and still does so on Zoom.

He is currently the co-Chair of the University of the Third Age (U3a) in Cape Town, and the Chair of the Camps Bay U3a branch.

Leonard is honoured and respected

by his colleagues. He is loved and admired by generations of students on four continents. His booming bass voice has taught them political science and international relations. His soul has taught them tolerance, compassion and humanity. But beyond that, his visionary spirit has given them an inkling of how the world could be if blessed with peace.

Across the geographic divide, we have remained friends for 68 years. Our phrases are now less pompous and we no longer discuss the mysteries of love and of lust, but we still have interminable discussions on the meaning of life, the fate of the universe, the dilemmas of religion and the intrigues of politics.

Dear Leonard, *ad me'ah ve'esrim*.

You have long since scaled the rockface. Enjoy the view from the summit.

Join us for a public lecture by Grant Gochin

ACRY FROM THE KILLING PITS OF LITHUANIA

The speaker is a serial litigant against the Government of Lithuania to exposing their rampant rewriting of their Holocaust history. This talk will address the current situation and how it impacts current human

rights abuses around the world.

The speaker will also discuss how he exposed Lithuania's "No Jew" citizenship policy and led a worldwide media campaign, resulting in Lithuania changing their citizenship policy towards Jews.

Grant Gochin is actively involved in Jewish affairs, focusing on historical justice. He has spent the past thirty years documenting and restoring signs of Jewish life in Lithuania. Gochin is the author of "Malice, Murder and Manipulation", published in 2013. His book documents his family history of oppression in Lithuania. He is presently working on a project to expose the current Holocaust revisionism within the Lithuanian government.



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Queuing for a Queen

By Stuart Diamond

The week leading up to the lying-in-state found me pondering whether to stand in line to pay my respects, or simply give it a miss and watch this important moment in history on the telly. The thought of eight to nine hours of queuing seemed ludicrous — even if it is a British national pastime.

On Thursday 15 September, after a Mitzvah Day interfaith cooking event, I spontaneously decided that I needed to be a part of it all and I headed down to Southwark Park. Initially, my thought was to bear witness to *The Queue*, rather than join it, so — wholly unprepared — with just a bag of Mitzvah Day t-shirts and a bottle of water I set off for what I had planned to be a quick look at a line of fellow Brits.

I left from Golders Green tube station, Metro newspaper in hand, changing from the Northern Line to make my way to Bermondsey Underground Station. While on the tube, I would meet the first of our group of eight, a couple who had travelled down from Milton Keynes to show their respect. On arrival at the station, we were met with encouraging volunteer marshals who directed us towards our starting point. It was 21h15 — arguably a late start — but there was no jostling, just a calm and supportive atmosphere to ensure that each person could experience this moment as they wished.

As we entered the gated walkways, something in me shifted and I knew I was staying for the long haul. Twenty minutes later, conversations started — a couple from Enfield, another from down south and finally a gentleman from Northampton. As a group we represented the best of Britain, a diverse collection of people whose life-stories, faiths, political lenses and even taste in music were vastly different. Yet, a Queen who had served, led and shown by example until her very last, brought this group together.

We made good time on the walk towards Westminster Hall with a brisk pace and only a few stops. As we walked, I tried to soak in all the sites along the way; Tower Bridge, The Borough Market, London Bridge, Tate Modern and the Globe Theatre. I was getting a full experience of London at night. As we reached London Eye and started walking through Jubilee Park and Garden, a cold wind started to pick up, coming off the Thames. As one does, I placed one of the extra Mitzvah Day t-shirts I had in my bag over my work shirt and lifted my collar to protect my neck from the wind. It was not even a minute later when I heard, “Stuart, you’re cold, take my spare jacket”. This was just one act of kindness that took place during that night. The sense of comradeship (and the lending of the jacket) was warming — we shared Kit Kats and marmalade sandwiches, we were given cups of tea from Americans observing *The Queue* and packets of crisps from officials as we wandered along the Thames.

It was then that we hit Belvedere Road with the sight of St Thomas Hospital ahead — and a mile of walking that lasted over two hours. We would later

find out that the line had been paused between the hours of 2am to 4am because this is the best time to vacuum the carpets in Westminster Hall.

With Big Ben in sight and the Palace of Westminster in view, our spirits and walking pace lifted. The time had come to cross Lambeth Bridge — the ninth bridge we would count on our long night — and head towards our destination. Westminster Hall is the oldest building on the Parliamentary estate. What makes it such an astonishing building is not simply its great size and the magnificence of its roof, but its central role in British history. In and around the Hall, the major institutions of the British state came into view: Parliament, the law courts and various government offices. Closely involved in the life of the nation since the 11th century, a journey through the Hall’s past is a journey through 900 fascinating years of history.

On entering the precinct, we would be funnelled one last time, going up and down and up and down. It was a sea of people moving with a single purpose; to say their final thank yous.

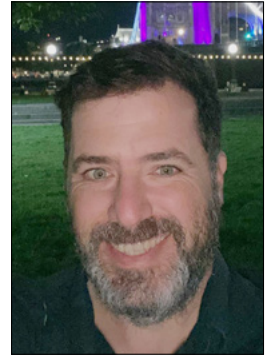
As we drew closer, the conversations decreased as people started to process their thoughts, reflect on the moment and to take it all in.

There was one final airport-style security check, the government and volunteers leaving nothing to chance. As I walked closer, I placed my yarmulke on my head and started towards the door. The climb to the top of the staircase was quiet, not a word was spoken — just the odd cough that penetrated the silence. As we reached the top of the stairs, we could finally see Her Majesty’s coffin draped in The Royal Standard. The lines moved slowly towards the coffin as people said thank you and shared their personal thoughts, prayers and wishes for The Queen.

I chose to say the *Shema* as it is an affirmation and declaration of faith in God. Her late Majesty was a person of faith and I wanted to honour that while using this as a moment to reflect on her work in bringing faiths together. I also shared my personal thanks for her lifetime of service.

To consider that over 250,000 people made a journey of between four and thirty hours to take this opportunity to say ‘thank you’ is astounding. In a world where many seem to have stepped away from truly serving their communities, her late Majesty’s words ring out, “I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service.”

While some might say that ten and a half hours in a line is long, I believe it is the briefest of moments compared to that lifetime of devotion.



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SIMCHA SNAPS



Adam Daniel Bryden, barmitzvah 5 September, Gardens Shul

Photo: Sheldon Taylor



Adam Levin, barmitzvah 28 August, Gardens Shul

Photo: Sheldon Taylor

SEND US YOUR SIMCHA SNAPS!

Have you recently celebrated the birth of a baby, a birthday, barmitzvah, batmitzvah, anniversary, an engagement, wedding or any simcha or achievement?

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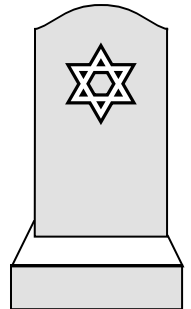


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