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SEE PAGES 3 AND 35.

Overwhelming response to Shabbos Project in SA as global event triples

In South Africa and worldwide, the Shabbos Project remains a key date on the Jewish calendar, bringing together Jews of all backgrounds in a spirit of joy and unity, and in celebration of Shabbat.

Here in South Africa, the *Great Big Challah Bake* in Cape Town kicked off the celebrations, with more than 800 women of all levels of observance joining together from across the community at the Herzlia Weizmann campus.

That energy spilled over into the Johannesburg challah bake later in the week, with around 5000 women attending the event on the rooftop of the Norwood Mall.

Over the Shabbos itself, Cape Town's shuls ran full programmes including communal dinners, lunches, learning programmes and musical havdalas, with Sinai Indaba international speaker Nili Couzens delivering inspirational talks at a number of Sea Point shuls.

"I was at the Cape Town challah bake, and there was such an incredible energy and excitement — the joyfulness was infectious," says Chief Rabbi Dr. Warren Goldstein, who founded the project in 2013.

"In the aftermath, I've had enthused calls from Cape Town rabbis and community members telling me about the events at their shuls, and numbers of people involved. This is our tenth Shabbos Project as a community and it's heartwarming to see the ideals of Jewish unity and reconnecting to Shabbos remain as compelling as ever."

Esteemed Holocaust historian Deborah Lipstadt visits Cape Town



Professor Lipstadt delivered a powerful address to a packed audience at Gardens Shul

See page 7



A packed hall at the Herzlia Weizmann campus, as over 800 women joined in this year's Great Big Challah Bake

Continues on page 4

Litvak heritage worn with pride



On 19 November, Ben Levine, Dune Tilley and Gregory Furman chose their Litvak heritage as a lense through which to channel the theme of Opulent & Over the top; With a view of Africa and being African in all its forms, when they attended the red carpet event held by Zeitz MOCAA and Gucci.

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Des says...

By Desrae Saacks, Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle

Bearing witness

Last month, historian, activist and US special envoy Deborah Lipstadt gave an inspiring talk to our community.

True to her dictum, to 'come with a scalpel, not an axe', she dissected the nature and roots of antisemitism with consummate skill and precision, explaining what antisemitism is — and what it's not. (more on page 7)

In his column on page 31, Julian Resnick references our wounded past in a discussion on the recent Israeli elections. He asks himself, "What are you? A prisoner of history?" and replies, "Yes. Yes. Yes." He says, "...the wounds are still there, and when they are touched — when those who know how to exploit the fear and anger manipulate these wounds, as those running for Knesset on the right did — the old pain and anger surfaces. And then we vote as traumatised people".

The Chronicle seems to have a life of its own, with each issue forming around a particular theme, whether or not by design. This time, the theme that's emerged is 'bearing witness'. Bearing witness allows us to look back, to find value and meaning in our past, and to move forward.

Rabbi Bryan Opert writes on page 29 about the importance of bearing witness, invoking a lesser-known and enigmatic character from our texts. And on page 30 we read of a hidden Jewish community in Portugal, dating back to the 15th century, and the surviving artefacts that bear witness to their story.

I recently watched a documentary about the 'Paper Brigade', a group

of 40 Jewish writers and artists rounded up by the Nazis when they invaded Vilnius in 1941. The group was tasked with identifying items of value in the YIVO collection worthy of being looted, while the rest were to be destroyed. Instead, they risked their lives smuggling these items back into the ghetto and hiding them for future retrieval. Eight members of the group survived the war, and found meaning as deliverers of stories and culture on behalf of the dead. Today, YIVO Institute is continuing the work of preserving these cultural artefacts and by extension, the long and proud history of Lithuanian Jewish life.

Three young men from our community — rising stars in the world of art and fashion — offered an interesting lense through which to view our heritage. At a recent gala evening they stepped up, proudly proclaiming and owning their (our) Litvak heritage. They explained that the clothing they chose to wear (borrowed for the night from three local rabbis) would historically have been worn by all the men in the community on special occasions, as an expression of celebration and respect; and that this informed their choice to present themselves in this way at the event which was themed around opulence and identity. This was in fact culturally appropriate 'opulent' attire. (see photo on page 1)

The Cape Jewish Chronicle is here to showcase, record and bear witness to the ongoing history of our shared Cape Town Jewish community, in all its shades and shapes.

From all of us at the CJC, we wish you a *Chag Channukah Sameach* and a happy 2023. See you in February.



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Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		Earliest	Latest	
DECEMBER				
2 Dec/9 Kislev	Veyetzei	6.14pm	7.25pm*	8.23pm
9 Dec/16 Kislev	Vayishlach	6.19pm	7.31pm*	8.29pm
16 Dec/23 Kislev	Vayeshev	6.24pm	7.36pm*	8.34pm
23 Dec/30 Kislev	Mikketz	** 6.27pm	7.39pm*	8.37pm
30 Dec/7 Tevet	Vayigash	6.30pm	7.42pm*	8.39pm
JANUARY				
6 Jan/14 Tevet	Vayechi	18.32	19.43*	20.40
13 Jan/21 Tevet	Shemot	18.33	19.42*	20.39
20 Jan/28 Tevet	Vaera	18.31	19.37*	20.36
27 Jan/6 Shevat	Bo	18.29	19.32*	20.31

N.B. Please note that the times indicated are the *earliest* times for candle lighting. Please consult your Rabbi. *Please contact your local shul to determine their Shabbat acceptance time. **Light Channukah candles before you light Shabbat candles.

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SnapScan

Overwhelming response to Shabbos Project in South Africa as global Shabbos Project triples in size

This year also saw the launch of Shabbos Project 2.0 — the “Journey to 25 hours” — empowering Jewish families to take incremental steps to keep Shabbos throughout the year. To date, around 400 families have signed up.

“I’m overwhelmed by all the people who are embarking on the Journey to 25 hours through the “8 steps” of the day; who are going on this adventure to bring more Shabbos into their lives, step by step, week by week.”

Across the globe, the Shabbos Project tripled in size, with a record 3,711 citywide unity events held in more than 1,500 cities across the globe — up from last year’s previous high of 1,175 events.

Israel was this year’s big success story, especially after bitterly divisive elections: more than 100 municipalities ran Shabbos Project programmes, partnering with NGOs and volunteers to host more than 1,400 community-wide events.

Across the country, an estimated 250,000 participants were involved in Shabbos Project events ranging from challah bakes, communal Shabbos meals and musical Kabbalat Shabbos services, to parades, havdalah concerts and pre-Shabbos educational activities in thousands of secular government schools.

The project was driven by an astonishing coordinated effort across Israeli civil society — a diverse coalition bringing together local municipalities, innovative NGOs, Israel’s Ministry of Education and Jewish youth movements — helping to bridge the stark political and religious divides in Israeli society.

The US, too, was a hive of activity with over 1,200 unity events taking place across the country.

In San Diego, 180 diverse Jewish organisations coordinated events for the entire Jewish community, including learning programmes, challah bakes, food demonstrations and full Shabbatons.

In Los Angeles, the Harkham Hillel Hebrew Academy hosted a block party and Kabbalat



Shabbos service in the streets along with a Shabbos lunch in the school gym while religious and secular families paired up for Shabbos dinner.

And in Arizona, women decorated their own challah boards and made challah at a vibrant “Zumba challah bake”; lit Shabbos candles and joined together for a celebratory Friday night dinner; and capped off Shabbos with “interstellar havdalah experience” at a local planetarium.

Elsewhere in the US, Project Inspire’s annual “Body and Soul Retreat” in New Jersey involved more than 500 Jews from all over the United States, Canada and Israel; a challah bake in Palo Alto brought together 17 different local Jewish organizations and schools; Fort Lauderdale hosted a havdalah concert on the beach; Aish ran a full Shabbaton for young professionals in Denver; and North Carolina ran a “Shabbos Challenge”, encouraging participants to take on an aspect of Shabbos observance.

In France, the focus was on youth. French events also outpaced previous years, with 557

events happening in 11 countries, up from 363 in 2021. Shabbatons were organised at university campuses in cities across the country. Also popular was the “La Semaine du Chabbat Mondial” — a full week of Shabbos-themed interactive learning experiences held in the lead-up to the project, for people of all ages and levels of Jewish knowledge/observance.

One of this year’s most moving stories comes from Strasbourg, France, where twenty young Jewish refugees from Ukraine attended a Shabbos dinner along with hundreds of local youth.

In South America, Buenos Aires hosted a mass outdoor challah bake in a park for around 3,000 women. And in Santiago, Chile, hundreds of participants hosted their own “Shabbos table” at a local synagogue, inviting family and friends to join them.

Other global highlights included a festive Kabbalat Shabbos for parents and children at a school in Brisbane, Australia; a challah bake to raise funds for community members in need in Lisbon, Portugal; a community Shabbos dinner in Oita, Japan; and a Shabbaton in Lagos, Nigeria.

New countries joining the project this year included Tahiti and Morocco, with events taking place in Casablanca in the build-up to Shabbos, culminating in a community-wide Shabbos lunch.

“We’ve witnessed an outpouring of emotion across the Jewish world, as Jews from all walks of life have embraced the Shabbos Project — a sublime moment of Jewish unity centered on Shabbos,” says Rabbi Goldstein.

“In the face of rising anti-Semitism and general global uncertainty, the response to the Shabbos Project is a powerful declaration of a positive Jewish identity; a proud refusal to be defined by hatred of others, but rather by the Divine values that give us inspiration and purpose, and that have held our people together.”

Photos: Emma Levin Photography

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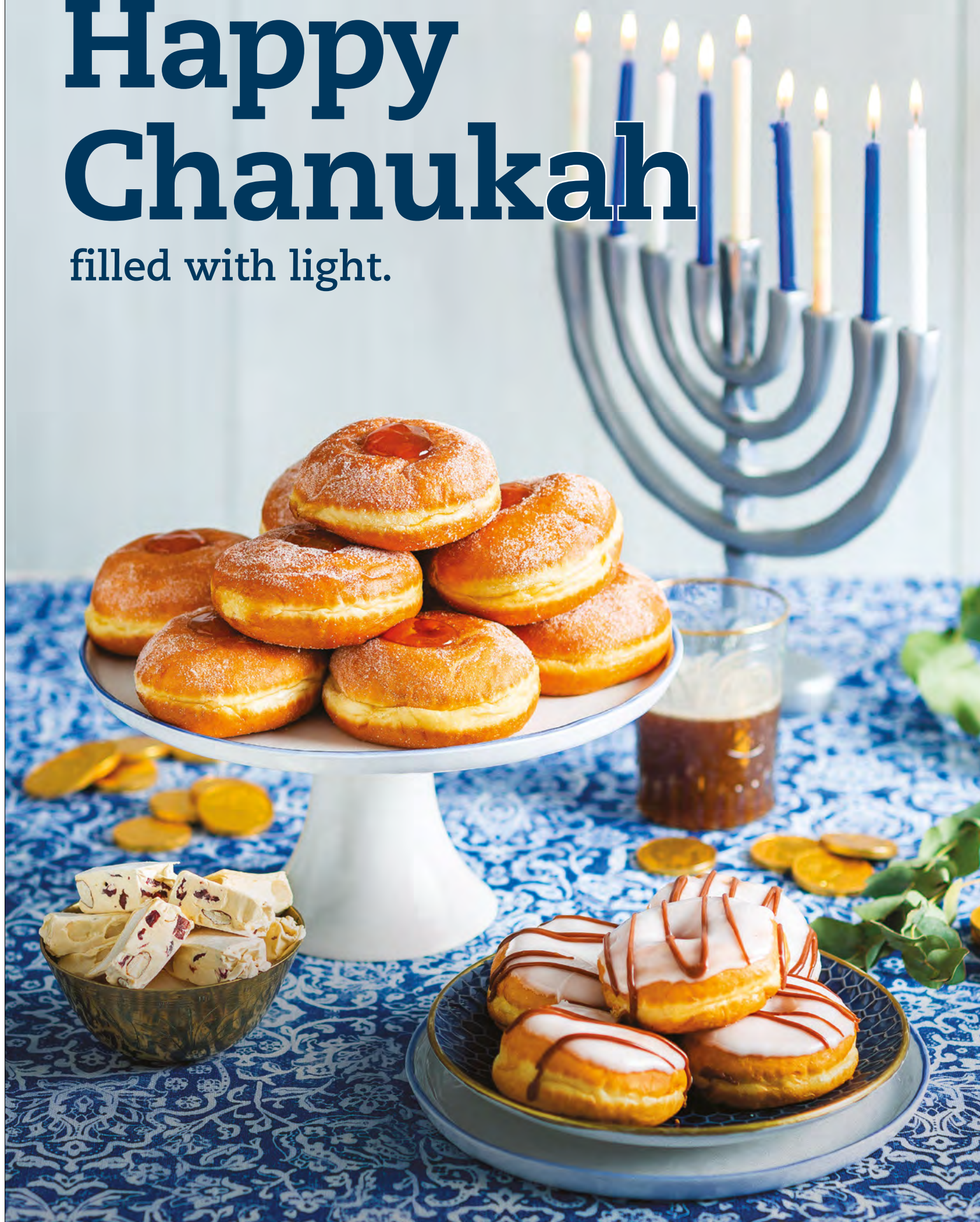
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Don't hide that Jewish pride

By Daniel Bloch, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

What makes you proud to be Jewish? Is it the Kippah you wear every day? Do you feel most proud when lighting Shabbat candles with your daughter? When you're sitting in shul listening to the chazan, does the melody fill you with pride?

Whether it's an action or a moment that inspires you to feel more connected to your Yiddishkeit, each of us has a connection to something unique that makes us feel proud to be Jewish.



This past week, I had the honour of representing the South African Jewish community in New York, at the 2022 Anti-Defamation League (ADL) summit on antisemitism and hate — *Never is Now*. This annual summit is the world's largest conference-type event focused on creating greater understanding around — and ultimately the obliteration of — antisemitism and all forms of hate. The event took place at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Centre in Manhattan, and was attended by more than two thousand Jewish people from more than 60 countries. Until this event, I'd never been in a room with so many Jews, so much Kosher food, and so many passionate discussions on antisemitism. I was extremely proud to be a Jew standing together with so many other Jews — all unafraid to stand up for what we believe in; to fight for our right to express our Jewishness.

The conference programme was packed with a stellar line-up of speakers including Mayor of New York Eric L. Adams (who quoted Nelson Mandela in his speech), Director for the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) Christopher Wray, Actor David Schwimmer (remember him as Ross Geller in *Friends*?), academic and best-selling author Michael Eric Dyson, US Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, who presented via video recording as she was in South Africa (read on page 7), and US President Joe Biden, who shared words of solidarity with the global Jewish community, also via video recording. There were also several emotional and inspiring speeches from the President of the Jewish Confederation of Ukraine Boris Lozhkin, and Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla — an incredible human being who exudes Yiddishkeit and clearly inspires people to do better, and to do more.

One day included a variety of sessions focused on antisemitism on social media, stopping extremists, preparing the community for antisemitic threats, anti-Israel and anti-Zionism rhetoric, and much more. While many of the sessions focused on the American Jewish community, we also heard from, and about other Jewish communities including the United Kingdom and France. The reality is that almost every Jewish community around the world is experiencing antisemitism in some form. But, that said, places like Panama, Bulgaria and yes, South Africa (!), are amongst the safest place for Jews to live — and that's a fact!

I attended a series of roundtable discussions with approximately 50 Jewish leaders from communities in Chile, Argentina, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Ukraine, the UK, the USA, Canada, Norway, Switzerland, Brazil, Panama, Finland, Australia, Italy, Colombia, and of course South Africa. We shared our experiences of Israel Apartheid Week, legal cases of hate speech, antisemitism, and more. This for me was the highlight of the conference as friendships were forged based on common beliefs and interests. One particularly memorable occasion was a meal shared with community leaders from the UK, Italy, Colombia, Chile and France, discussing the diverse nature of our communities and the challenges we experience. Diverse as our backgrounds were, there was one strong commonality between us — that we are all proud to be Jewish and will do whatever it takes to protect our way of life.

What makes me proud to be Jewish? My family, my shul, the organisation I represent and am a part of, the community I serve, and the connection I feel to other Jews around the world. So again I ask, what makes *you* proud to be Jewish?

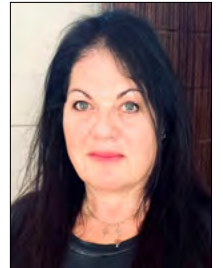
*Read a full report-back from the ADL *Never is Now* summit in our Cape SAJBD newsletter.

VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Showing up, standing up, speaking up

By Adrienne Jacobson, Chairperson, Cape SAJBD

Whew, it's been one hit-the-ground-running, packed to capacity, densely engaging and exhilarating whirlwind of a month since stepping into my role as Chair of the Cape SAJBD — and I've felt like every minute has been counted and accounted for with meaning, purpose and action.



I've met with many political, diplomatic, faith-based, community, lay and professional leaders, and government officials, to continue to forge relationships — and I've been so moved and inspired, not only by the work they're doing and the genuine interest and investment in collaborative conversations, but also by how well we, as the Cape SAJBD are received in the broader Western Cape leadership space.

My observations and reflections so far are that this leadership space is underpinned by *Showing Up, Standing Up and Speaking Up* — and this notion has framed my perspective of all the events and functions that have taken place in the last month.

This past month, the launch of our *Entrepreneurs Network*, with the Cape SAJBD, partnering with *Entrepreneurs' Organisation South Africa (EO South Africa)*, *ORTjet* and *Over The Rainbow*, is a beautiful example of leadership *Standing Up* together and sharing resources, as we create platforms for entrepreneurial growth across a diverse and disadvantaged spectrum, to foster economic growth and opportunity. We're also providing support structures, problem-solving networks, strategic alignment guidance and access to experienced entrepreneurs for mentorship. Thank you to Dawn Nathan-Jones and Craig Nudelman for your combined vision and the comprehensive work it took to spearhead this project. And also to Viv Anstey and Justin Asher for *Standing Up* and pitching in, judging and mentoring. This teamwork validates Michelle Obama's quote, "Leaders who are truly strong lift each other up; Leaders who are truly powerful bring others together."

I had the privilege of meeting and engaging with ambassador, professor, historian and author Deborah Lipstadt (see page 7), as we co-hosted her visit together with the United States consulate and the SA Jewish Museum. I also got to engage with Western Cape Government representative, Masizole Mngasela at a special function hosted by the German Consulate in collaboration with local government. Both these leaders — Lipstadt and Mngasela — demonstrate the power and courage it takes to *Speak Up*, in this case against antisemitism. While Deborah Lipstadt said that "People like David Irving do not throw firebombs, they throw the words that cause others to throw firebombs," Masizole Mngasela called out the ANC speaker to parliament for antisemitism and hate speech, and demanded accountability and an apology.

It was also a rare privilege for me to witness Professor Karen Milner, Professor Milton Shain, and Deborah Lipstadt participating in a panel conversation together at the Kaplan Centre at UCT, discussing their individual journeys and experiences related to speaking up against antisemitism.

This resonated so deeply for me with our *#wordsmatter* campaign which aims to call out antisemitism, racism, prejudice, hate speech, exclusion, gender-based violence and inequality, wherever we encounter it.

To speak up against these evils is to stand in the light, and, as we wind down to the end of a challenging year, and head into Channukah, may our leadership and everyone in our community continue to *Show Up, Stand Up and Speak Up* — with light! And may we merit to experience Miracles, Blessings and Peace in our time.



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US antisemitism envoy Deborah Lipstadt visits Cape Town

By Mandy Allen

The esteemed Holocaust historian recently spoke to a riveted audience at the Gardens Shul on the challenge of rising global antisemitism

An unrelenting pursuit of justice in the name of the Jewish people has underscored, and continues to power the illustrious career of New York-born Holocaust academic and author, Professor Deborah Lipstadt. Her name was brought to prominence with the high-profile libel case against notorious Holocaust denier and disgraced historian David Irving, immortalised in both the 2006 movie, *Denial* and Lipstadt's book about the case. The six-year legal battle and three-month long case — a judicial benchmark — was eventually won by Lipstadt in April 2000. The headlining case put paid to the (relatively) 'quiet' part of her pre-trial academic life.

As well as her decades-long scholarship focused on teaching about the Holocaust and antisemitism, Professor Lipstadt has contributed her expertise to various Presidential administrations including those of Presidents Clinton and Obama. This parallel trajectory has led to her current position in the Presidency of Joe Biden, *US Special Envoy for Monitoring and Combating Antisemitism*. It's a role of great responsibility and one she views, in the context of fighting the mutating virus of antisemitism, as "a gift I am deeply grateful for and humbled by, to be able to make some sort of difference".

Since her May 2022 swearing-in, Lipstadt has hit the ground running. While she has visited South Africa before, this is the tenth country she's visited in six months in her new ambassadorial role, including several nations in the Abraham Accords (next stop, Morocco).

The fortuitous timing of Lipstadt's address on the eve of the 84th commemoration of Kristallnacht was not lost on the crowd of 200-plus people, including dignitaries, who assembled in Cape Town on 8 November to hear her speak. All listened attentively as she discussed the challenges and approaches of her position in what is, as she describes it with a wry euphemism, "a growth industry, unfortunately." She is, of course, referencing the 'skyrocketing' of antisemitism around the globe — particularly in the last eighteen months — acutely facilitated by the pervasiveness of social media.

One of Lipstadt's chief objectives is to help individuals, NGOs, organisations, and even those in government to understand what antisemitism is — both the 'hardcore' and the 'softcore' iterations, as well as its nuances. "It can be difficult to define at times, there can be a confusion as to what antisemitism is. It's a prejudice, like any other prejudice of course. Yet it differs fundamentally from others, it has certain unique characteristics. You know it when you see it. One example is how the antisemite appears to be 'punching up'. Their antisemitism is couched in the façade of morality." Discussing the issue of college campuses (there

has been a serious uptick of antisemitism in the USA) she says the topic of antisemitic prejudice "often gets left off the agenda. Jews are perceived to be privileged," she explains, "There's a resilience to Jews that makes it hard to conceive of us as victims, which means instances of discrimination are often downplayed or ignored... Antisemitism is," she eloquently explains, "ubiquitous, free-flowing — it comes from all directions, from elements within the right, the left, anywhere on the political spectrum, from other groups... And it presents in different strengths that result in different dangers. But all come from the same stereotypes."

"You can't carry an axe, you have to carry a scalpel."

Professor Lipstadt's multifaceted role encompasses not only 'putting out the fires of antisemitism' domestically and abroad (with strong bipartisan support), but also strengthening diplomatic ties to identify and fight antisemitism. "Part of my role is helping to weave antisemitism into the broader scope of American foreign policy. If there is an antisemitic comment or action I don't just condemn it, I also work with my colleagues to forge a joint front in stipulating accountability. Antisemitism runs counter to America's deepest beliefs and we see it as a fundamental threat to democracy," she says. "I also emphasise the interconnectedness of antisemitism with other forms of discrimination. To fight one without fighting the others is trying to roll the boulder up the hill."

One of the most positive developments of her tenureship relates to the ground-breaking Abraham Accords. "The engagement and positive discourse we are seeing in the open approach and serious desire of these countries to discuss antisemitism is something we could never have predicted."

Lipstadt cautions that it's vital to fight and highlight Jew-hatred while being mindful of what we call out as antisemitism. "There are times," she explains, "when it's appropriate to call out the action, to highlight the language or content as being wrong, but not necessarily labelling something as antisemitism." To understand and root it out, "you can't carry an axe, you have to carry a scalpel." *Nuance*. She emphasises that the geopolitics of the Middle East is no excuse for being antisemitic, however. "One can call out a policy or action that you don't agree with or like without reverting to antisemitic tropes or rhetoric."

A strong proponent of free speech, Professor Lipstadt addressed the phenomenon of social



Lester Hoffman, Tvi Brivik, US Consul General Todd Haskell, Ambassador Deborah Lipstadt, Adrienne Jacobson, Gavin Morris and Rabbi Osher Feldman

media, and its role in spreading and perpetuating antisemitism, be it hate speech or materials such as books and videos. "Online global platforms mean that the haters have a megaphone of unbelievable proportions that they didn't have before. This gives antisemitism traction. There's an increasing toxicity and it's in this toxicity that hatred thrives. But banning things is not the solution. Then it just becomes forbidden fruit."

In wrapping up her address, and answering the question of whether she thinks she (or we as a collective) will ever be able to eradicate antisemitism from society, Lipstadt is honest. "I have a lot of big ideas before I go back to teaching at my university, but solving it is not something I can see happening." "However," she emphasises in conclusion, referencing the well-known saying by Rabbi Tarfon, "It is not up to you to finish the task, but neither are you free to avoid it."

"Too much energy of the world is spent 'othering'. It may not be your job to complete the work of eradicating antisemitism, but you cannot desist from beginning the work, from doing what you can. As long as you're telling the truth, you're right."

**Professor Lipstadt's address was facilitated by the US Consulate and Consul General Todd Haskell at the invitation of the Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies and South African Jewish Museum.*

A Deborah Lipstadt Bibliography

Must-Read

Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory (*Plume Books, 1994*)

Antisemitism: Here and Now (*Schocken, 2019*)

History on Trial: My Day in Court with a Holocaust Denier (*Ecco, 2006*)

The Eichmann Trial (*Schocken, 2011*)

All books by Deborah E. Lipstadt

Must-Watch

Denial, the film account of Deborah Lipstadt's legal battle with Holocaust denier David Irving, starring Rachel Weisz, is currently available on Showmax



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Getting down to business

By Benita Zive



Earlier this month 50 aspiring entrepreneurs got together to celebrate the pre-

launch of an exciting new collaborative networking initiative.

When it officially kicks off early next year, the Entrepreneurs' Network will see diverse business owners from across the spectrum of cultures and communities coming together to share experiences, skill sets and connections.

The brainchild of Cape SAJBD Board Member and Chair of Associate Relations, Dawn Nathan-Jones, and Cape SAJBD Programme and Development Manager, Craig Nudelman, the Entrepreneurs' Network platform has been months in the making. As a multiple award-winning business leader, professional speaker, entrepreneur and co-owner of social upliftment enterprise Over the Rainbow (OTR), Dawn is passionate about building businesses and helping entrepreneurs to thrive. Dawn and her OTR business partner Lesley Waterkeyn's enthusiasm for the project and the concept of collaborating to build a peer-to-peer networking platform also inspired Richard Rayne, current President of the Western Cape Branch of Entrepreneurs' Organisation (EO), to get involved. The final piece of the partnership fell into place when Lisa Sandler, Head of ORT Jet Cape, agreed to lend her expertise to the initiative too.

The pre-launch event took place on Wednesday 9 November and was hosted by Deloitte at their Waterfront office — said to be the most environmentally-friendly building in Africa! Cape SAJBD Chair Adrienne Jacobson opened the event,

"Listening to the brilliant pitches from the entrepreneurs was powerful, and an opportunity to learn from each other. We're delighted to be part of this initiative that resonates and complements the work we do at ORT Jet," Lisa Sandler, Head of ORT Jet Cape Town

reiterating that the Board "shares a dedication to and passion for developing sustainable growth and improving the quality of life for people in the Western Cape" and that "the Entrepreneurs' Network project resonates deeply with the Board's work in these areas".

Each prospective EN member had to submit comprehensive background information on their business before being accepted into the initiative, and was later given the opportunity to present a one-minute pitch at the event. Competition was tight with 90 or so applications being received initially, and selecting the final 50 members was no easy task. "For six months from January next year we aim to hold regular meetups for the entrepreneur cohort where they'll be introduced to some amazing speakers and be encouraged to network and learn from each other. We've also divided the cohort into smaller groups and appointed team leads so they can get together and support each other anytime throughout the process," says Dawn, "Research shows that eight out of ten entrepreneurs fail within the first 18 months, so we've decided to do something about this staggering crash-and-burn statistic. Entrepreneurs supporting Entrepreneurs is at the heart of everything we'll be doing over the next six months".

Guests at the soft-launch were treated to pearls of wisdom from business leader Simon Susman, previous Chair and CEO of Woolworths Holdings Limited, who opened the floor with some robust questions. A video presentation on tips and techniques for positive pitching by author and coach Justin Cohen followed, after which each entrepreneur was given a minute to present their business pitch.

The evening culminated in a fun networking session, leaving the entrepreneurs feeling inspired and thrilled at having had the opportunity to connect and engage with likeminded



Simon Susman with members of the Cape SAJBD, Entrepreneurs' Organisation and Over the Rainbow



Avron, Dean, Stanley and Neil: A few members of the first Entrepreneurs Network cohort



Sibusiso, Unotida, Fabrice and Fabrice: Entrepreneurs at the pre-launch of the Entrepreneurs Network

businesspeople from all walks of life.

"It doesn't matter how big or small your startup or business is, the challenges are the same. We all know how difficult it is for small businesses to get off the ground in South Africa. We're excited to have found the perfect partners and platform from which to share experiences and learnings that will make a real difference in building innovative and sustainable businesses," says Dawn.

The Cape SAJBD is committed to creating a stronger South Africa. With engaged and efficient leadership, it seeks to connect Jewish identity to projects and activities that have a positive impact on local communities. The Entrepreneurs' Network aims to do just that and continue to live the Board's motto: Educate, Engage, Empower.

**The Cape SAJBD thanks Ryan Dogon and his team at Deloitte for helping to make the Entrepreneurs Network event a great success.*



Representatives of the Cape SAJBD, ORT Jet, Entrepreneurs' Organisation and Over the Rainbow, came together to celebrate entrepreneurial spirit

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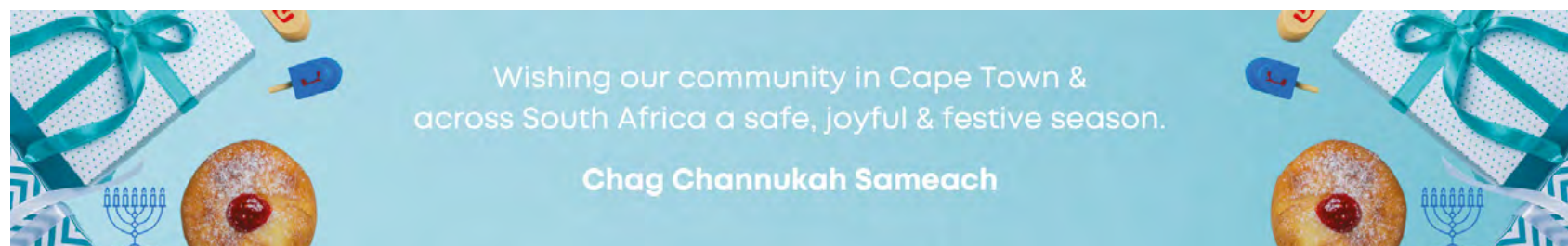
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Chag Channukah Sameach

Park established in Israel to commemorate SA Jews who opposed apartheid

Tel Mond, Israel – 8 November 2022: A groundbreaking ceremony took place yesterday in Tel Mond, Israel, to launch a memorial garden that for the first time commemorates a remarkable group of South African Jews who contributed to the struggle against apartheid as well as gave support to the State of Israel.

Explains Michael Kransdorff, chairman of the Jewish National Fund in South Africa, who is championing the garden, “At a time when some are trying to divide South Africa and Israel for their own sectarian interests, this garden will be a living testament to the bond between the two peoples in the struggle for freedom.”

The 5000m² memorial garden is surrounded by trees in the Tel Mond park, a 22,000 m² area located in central Israel. Tel Mond is home to an English-speaking community just 15 minutes from Raanana where many South Africans have settled and 10 minutes from the beaches of Netanya.

A South African artist is to create a sculpture to recognise the Jewish contribution to SA's struggle for freedom in the park, 36 trees will be planted and there will be stones throughout *Gan Siyabonga* (We thank you Garden — *Gan*: garden

in Hebrew and *Siyabonga*: we thank you in Zulu) for each activist with QR codes. When the QR codes are scanned, a short personal history of the activist will be revealed. 36 trees were chosen because according to Jewish tradition, each generation is saved by 36 righteous people.

Kransdorff adds, “There were many South African Jews who contributed to South Africa's liberation and who were supportive of Israel's establishment and development. These heroes have never been recognised and many are not well known, yet they were instrumental in helping to build better societies in SA and Israel. We are researching the stories of honourees to be commemorated in Gan Siyabonga, which include artists, rabbis, musicians, lawyers, educators, doctors, parliamentarians, those who went into townships to feed the hungry, and even those who took up arms in South Africa against the apartheid government.”

Rowan Polovin, national chairman of the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF) said, “This memorial garden, a first of its kind, is a powerful testament to a group of South African Jews who fought against injustice in South Africa while also embracing the need for the Jewish State of Israel to exist and thrive. Those we are honouring wanted to right



Breaking ground at the Siyabonga Garden in Israel: Rowan Polovin, National Chairman (SAZF); Michael Kransdorff, Chairman (JNF-SA); Mayor of Tel Mond, Lynn Kaplan; Bev Schneider, Executive Director (JNF-SA), Isla Feldman, Former Director (JNF-SA)

the injustices that they witnessed in South Africa. They were equally inspired by the Jewish people's struggle to reclaim their ancestral land and their right to attain political freedom. They contributed in various ways to Israel, some fought for the creation of the state, some chose to live there, others helped develop civil society, and even from abroad, many raised funds and offered diplomatic and public support.”

David Benjamin spoke at the event about his father who will be one of the activists honoured in the garden. “My late father, Rabbi Myer (Sonny) Benjamin, was an outspoken critic of the government during the apartheid era and played a major role in the struggle for human rights. He held multiracial prayer meetings at a time when it was illegal. He housed hundreds of displaced people in his synagogue who were expelled from their homes by the Nationalist government. It's heartening when people who neither sought recognition are acknowledged for their actions.” Rabbi Benjamin was a staunch supporter of the state of Israel and emigrated there in 1988.

Says Ruth Wasserman Lande, a South African member of the Israeli Knesset (parliament), “As someone who grew up in South Africa and immigrated to Israel, I am immensely proud to witness the bridging of those two worlds with the opening of this park — donated by the South African Jewish community which is known for its staunch support of and loyalty to South Africa on the one hand and its love of Israel on the other”.

It also bridges a divide between two countries that unfortunately are experiencing a difficult stage in their relationship. SA has been through tremendous hardship and so have the Jewish people. There are deep connections between us that have been kidnapped. This project is another stone in a bridge to bring South Africa and Israel closer.”

It is anticipated that the statue and special song to commemorate the garden will be unveiled early in 2023.

As the list of those who will be commemorated is still a work in progress, families, friends and comrades are invited to submit names for consideration. Please email admin@sazf.org



Artist's impression of the Siyabonga Garden in Israel to honour anti-apartheid activists



Israel: one big, messy family

South African Olah, Josie Lutrin, made Aliyah with her family in August 2021. Josie recently participated in the Israel Centre's Aliyah Prep Seminar in South Africa, where she shared practical advice for those considering Aliyah based on her own recent experiences.

Her top tips: be kind to yourself, keep realistic expectations of yourself and the process, and do what you can while you're still in South Africa to prepare for your new life in Israel.

"You're so busy moving and worrying about what to take and what to leave, dismantling your life in South Africa, that you may overlook the fact that you're actually emigrating and you have to think about starting your life in a new country, adopting a new culture, raising children in an unfamiliar school system, and living your life in a foreign language!"

Josie laughs about the language barrier. "As ridiculous as it sounds, I underestimated the importance of Hebrew. There's a big difference between ordering a coffee as a tourist in Jerusalem and dealing with the bank as a new Olah. You might



Josie (2nd from the left) pictured with Telfed's welcome crew at Ben Gurion Airport

know a lot of South Africans living in Raanana," she adds, "but that doesn't mean everything in Raanana is in English. It isn't!"

Josie and Dean participated in the Telfed Klita Webinars from their quarantine hotel when they first arrived. "Nowadays, you don't have to be in Israel to meet the Telfed team. Schedule meetings, look at their website, check out their cost of living index, contact their regional volunteers and ask questions on their

Facebook page. There is so much you can do while you're still in South Africa – don't procrastinate and think you can do it all when you get here."

At the November Aliyah Seminar, Telfed CEO Dorron Kline spoke about adjusting to a new standard of living, but an improved quality of life. "I totally agree with Dorron on this," says Josie. "We have less but we need less. My kids started babysitting to earn their own money but they're walking to babysit

alone at night. They're learning the value of hard work (which includes household chores) while enjoying the independence that life in Israel brings."

Josie has been a part of a new Telfed initiative welcoming Olim as they land in Israel. "It's hard to describe the feeling of being on the other side. I love seeing familiar faces and smiles as they enter the arrivals hall. They're home! We didn't make Aliyah because we didn't want to live in South Africa. We made Aliyah because we wanted to be in Israel and it's so exciting to see others realise their dream of living in Israel."

Josie knows how painful it is to leave friends and family and that there's no replacement for that, "but where in the world does a taxi driver give you his cell number when he hears you have no family? And there's no Saturday in Israel," adds Josie, "its Shabbat. For everyone. Whether you're going to shul or the beach, and that's ok. We're now a part of one big, messy family, but it's our family."

If you would like to start planning your Klita (absorption), please be in touch with Daniela Shapira, Telfed's Klita Advisor: daniela@telfed.org.il

Deloitte.

Entrepreneurs sharing their ORT Jet experience...

"It is amazing in our small community we have an organisation filled with purpose to help businesses succeed. Thank you for doing what you do and for believing in me."

– Caryn Querido, Adam International

"As an entrepreneur, ORT Jet has been invaluable in assisting me in a variety of ways. I feel very privileged to belong to such a generous organization and its contributors."

– Michelle Shevelew, M2S Architects

"ORT Jet gives entrepreneurs the rare opportunity to tap into an incredible pool of business expertise and wisdom, which can often make the difference between success and failure."

– Josh Kotlowitz, Future Forex



Thank you to ORT Jet Cape Town's Mentors, Donors, and Partners!

ORT Jet empowers entrepreneurs in our community. Thank you to the hundreds of people who together create the ORT Jet ecosystem.

Guest speaker, Greg Smith shared an outstanding and inspiring talk. The OneSpark team are purpose-driven entrepreneurs making a significant impact through disruption and innovation.



Caryn Querido, Josh Kotlowitz and Michelle Shevelew



Nicole Friend, Rachel Wohlman, Nikki Wohlman, Bev Da Costa, Lisa Sandler, Candice Magen, Liat Beinart and Caroline Kaimowitz



Phillip Weinstein and Selwyn Greenhill



Helen Schneider, Melissa Zolty, Ryan Dogon, Ilana Shone, Greg Smith, Lisa Sandler, Greg Cohen and Nicole Friend



Nicole Friend, guest, Ilana Shone, Dalia Katz, Ryan Dogon and guest



Guests enjoying Greg Smith's talk



Philip Abrahamson and Dean Sandler



Josh Da Costa, Bev Da Costa, Michael Bachmann, Talya Bachman and Paul Da Costa



**HERZLIA
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Herzlia Alumni Reunions



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It's been reunion season at Herzlia. We've celebrated nearly every milestone reunion all over the globe, including one in Joburg! There's something so wonderful about seeing old faces, reigniting memories from school and reconnecting with your alma mater. Milestone reunions are very important at Herzlia, so each year we celebrate a 10th, 20th, 30th, 40th and 50th reunion. The class of 1974 are already organising their 50th school reunion for two years' time in 2024!



Class of 1992 (30th reunion)



Ruben Ezekowitz (MY 1960) at the Herzlia Joburg reunion



Jonathan Leslie (MY 1996) and Lesley Sacks (MY 1987) at the Herzlia Joburg reunion



Gary Davidson, Daniel Woznica and Penny Cohen (MY 1992) 30th reunion

Class of 1992 — 20th October

The 30th reunion for the class of 1992 was an online and in-person hybrid event. 30 alumni came to the school's new FRESS canteen and 22 joined globally via Zoom. Everyone was very excited to see each other after so many years. Jonathan Wosk said "Everything went off amazingly and the programme was really excellent. It was great seeing all our old classmates – some whom I hadn't seen for 30 years."

All Alumni Living in Johannesburg — 23rd October

Around 50 alumni from all year groups, even as far back as 1960, joined the Herzlia leadership team at the Wanderers Club in Illovo, Johannesburg for an evening of memories, laughter and a great walk down memory lane!

There was great interest in recent school developments and how much the school has changed since they attended — they clearly still care for their 'old' school.

Class of 1972 — 23rd October

On the same evening as the Joburg reunion, the class of 1972 held an event in Israel with some joining via Zoom. The Israel reunion took place over two days with a tour included in the festivities. Alumna, Jenny Tavor had this to say: "It was FABULOUS!!!!!! The organisers did a monumental and superb job arranging everything. I will never ever forget it."

Class of 2012 — 30th October

The class of 2012 celebrated their first milestone reunion (10 years since matric). Around 60 alumni joined in person on campus and a few via Zoom. They commented that they couldn't believe how much has changed in ten years, not only physically in terms of infrastructure, but also in terms of new and modern policies being implemented in the school.

Class of 1982

Earlier this year, the class of 1982 held a reunion at Café Riteve and more recently another 11 members of this year group gathered in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Alumna Sharon Stillman remarked, "lots of reminiscing, tributes, and laughs were had."



Daniel Bloch (MY 1997) and Belinda (Shapiro) Rabbie (MY 1998) at the Herzlia Joburg reunion



Ryan Green (MY 2007) and Ricky Novis (2010) at the Herzlia Joburg reunion



Stuart Beck, Geoff Cohen and Daniel Beck (MY 2012) 10th reunion



Class of 2012 (10th reunion)



Class of 1982 (40th reunion) in Minneapolis

If you're keen to organise your school reunion in 2023 please be in touch with the Herzlia Alumni Association: oldherz@herzlia.com.

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Meet Herzlia Momentum 2022 moms

Momentum is a year-long journey empowering women to connect to Jewish values, engage with Israel, take action and foster unity including an 8-day Israel experience, during which women explore the Jewish homeland, take in inspiring Jewish wisdom and join a global Jewish sisterhood. Back home, women channel their energy and passion personally, professionally, and communally, and continue their journey through education and leadership programmes.



Herzlia's Discover Experience

By Jenna Zetler, Grade 11, Herzlia High School

Discover was a highlight for many Herzlia Grade 11 pupils. The jam-packed five-day Jewish life camp engraved everlasting memories for all. Our camp consisted of meaningful tefillah workshops, insightful guest speakers, *ruach* filled with immense energy, a collaborative talent show and an overall feeling that our grade cohort had connected further and bonded together spiritually. I personally loved sharing the aspect of keeping Shabbat together as a grade. To be able to look around and see everyone engaging on a personal level, without technology consuming one's thoughts, was a beautiful sight to see. The goal of this camp was to ignite everyone's soul, their Jewish identity. I am proud to say it was an amazing tool in guiding me to explore my Jewish identity. I can say for certain that every one of us has grown from this shared unique experience. We had opportunities to step outside of our comfort zones where we truly grew and enriched our Jewish identity. This didn't stop when we left *Mitzpah* (campsite). The journey has only just begun. We are going to keep asking questions, exploring our self-identity and making unforgettable connections. Not alone, but together.



Michaela Perkel

Gabriel Sieff

Jonah Schwartz and Mila Smith



Feel the Beat

Herzlia Weizmann Primary and Herzlia Alon Ashel Pre-Primary got together for a first-time-ever 'broadway' collaboration — *Pinocchio* — which proved a sell-out hit!



Feel the Beat 2022 gave us all the feels! Mazaltov to 150 talented pupils by day... and stars by night! The show lived up to its theme of 'Commorate, Appreciate and Celebrate', and we're already counting down the days to the next one.



www.herzlia.com



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The new 360NE swim series — are you coming?

If you're a Capetonian of a certain inclination, the arrival of spring means only one thing. It's time to get back into the sea.

This year, ocean swimmers young and old have been participating in the inaugural 360NE Openwater Swim Series. The home beach is Clifton's 4th and the sponsors are 360NE Asset Management, which was founded in 2004 by Steven Liptz and Cy Jacobs.

Liptz is a fierce believer in education through sport. "Those are the things that will make a difference to South Africa," he said. "Sport teaches you discipline, concentration and creativity. The more South Africans learn that, the stronger our society and our economy will become."

So far, two events have taken place against achingly beautiful backdrops. The season opener was the 360NE Clifton Mile. Swimmers of all ages and (almost) all skill levels braved the cold Cape water to swim in the shadow of Table Mountain and Lion's Head. The Enduro swim followed a similar



route, but, as the name suggests, it was an event for those on the fit side. Fortunately, for those of us who would rather just drink in the scenery, *vida e caffè* is always standing by with complimentary coffee.

Still coming up between now and August 2023: off-the-beaten-track swims, the unique Viking Swim, the New Year's Day Mile and so much more. If you feel like joining us in the sea, go to The360NESwim.co.za. You can also follow all the action via Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

At one with the drum

For at least the past couple of decades, the name Warren Lieberman has been synonymous with African drumming – a somewhat unusual association for a Jewish man born in Johannesburg in the mid 1960s.

After graduating with a degree in physics and applied mathematics at the University of Cape Town, and then completing a BSc with Honours in electrical engineering, Lieberman did a 360-degree turnaround when he established the Drum Café in 1995. What started as a series of weekly jam sessions, first at his home and then in an actual 'café', quickly expanded to become a tool for corporates to bring together their diverse and divided employees in post-Apartheid South Africa. Lieberman explains that music is a universal language and that drumming together is a unifying activity that breaks down barriers of age, religion, race and gender. "The methods used by Drum Café were effective because business, like music, requires communication and teamwork. When people drum together, they feel like they are part of something bigger, but still have a crucial individual role to play," says Lieberman.

Then, in 2002, Lieberman partnered with creative director Kathy-Jo Ross, to develop *Drumstruck*, a fully interactive theatre experience that would enable the pair to "bring the joyful, transformative process of communal drumming to audiences across the world, including an 18-month stint off-Broadway in New York, Australia, Dollywood in the USA (where the performers were accompanied on stage by Dolly Parton), and a 10-year run in Japan.

During this period, Lieberman also invested a great deal of time and energy into his passion: the research and preservation of traditional Southern African music and instrumentation. He published an in-depth study of traditional music in a book authored by Laurie Levine and has gradually assembled an extensive and unrivalled collection of rare indigenous African instruments.

In 2015, Lieberman relocated from Johannesburg to Cape Town with his family, and he has since been driven to find a way to bring the beauty and joy of traditional South African music and interactive drumming to local audiences.

Drumstruck at Silvermist is a scaled-down version of the global hit production. Directed by Kathy-Jo Ross, the cast features multi-talented performers Mpho Rasenyalo, Tumelo Seleke and Zama Qambi.

Before embarking on the African musical journey, guests participate in an intimate Constantia valley wine tasting facilitated by owner and winemaker at Silvermist Wine Estate, Gregory Brink Louw. Children, and those who prefer a non-alcoholic option, are offered a delicious rooibos tea tasting.



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Highlands House

Aged Residential Care for Our Community

Ben, our legal eagle

Mathilde Myburgh interviewed Ben-Zion Surdut, long-time supporter of Highlands House and Honorary Life Member as of 2022

"Thank G-d for Highlands House." People don't appreciate it.

I know what it means for even younger people. I know that payment is sometimes an issue. If you can't pay, you don't pay. I know there are a lot of people pretending that they cannot pay, and that has always been my bugbear. The children say, "Oh, the house is our inheritance!" Or the kids have gone overseas and left their mother here. Those who can afford it, tend to go to the facilities on the Atlantic Seaboard and in Century City. Yet, this space is Jewish, it is ours, and it deserves to be looked after, it deserves to be your first choice. I tell people, "Thank G-d for Highlands House".

I've been very involved in Jewish affairs — I was the first chairman of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, I served on the Cape SAJBD, where my portfolio was Youth & Students, and where I befriended the wonderful Gwynne Robins. I was chairman of the Cape Jewish Chronicle for 24 years. I don't know how long exactly I've been involved with Highlands House. Primarily, I've been a legal advisor and involved in matters to do with the constitution. I've also helped residents to sort out their testaments, although this wasn't primarily my task. I worked closely with Pam Kopman, the previous administrator. Some years ago, I was a trustee for the Leiserowitz Trust, and with the late Ivor Schneider, created the Leiserowitz Wing. I've always been involved as a trustee with the Board of Guardians (now Jewish Community Services). Again, thank G-d for the Board of Guardians.

"I've been an attorney for nearly 60 years — I'm probably the oldest Jewish attorney in Cape Town. It all began well over 40 years ago, after I got married. The Board of Deputies held an Open Day where different organisations presented introductory sessions. I got involved in the Board of Guardians, attending weekly Relief Committee meetings. Sylvia Gottlieb got me involved — she knew everything about everybody. Then there was Eliot Osrin. If not for him, I don't know if there would be a Highlands House. He attracted funding. I don't have to tell you what it costs to run Highlands House — and people still try to cheat the system.



Dr Leon Geffen with Esther and Ben-Zion Surdut at the Honorary Life Members luncheon earlier this year. (Photo: Yolanda Kretzmer-Keys)

Working with legal affairs, deceased estates and financial requirements

The question is, have these families, who expect to be subsidised, ever contributed to the community?

The children want Highlands House to look after their parents while they protect their inheritance. For example, if an elderly person owns property, we'll recommend that it be sold in order that they might afford Highlands House services and sundries. The family won't let them sell — but also don't want to pay fees.

How do we get younger people involved once more? Come and give classes at the Home, help with groceries, give residents an outing... there's so much you can do.

In a few of these cases, I worked with Pam to successfully recover funds by registering security bonds over that property, in favour of Highlands House. When the person died, there was a secure estate claim in place.

One of the nastier cases I dealt with was a wealthy son who refused to help his mother. So we sued — well, we started proceedings against the son on behalf of his mother. Can you believe it? He didn't want to finance her. Of course, when it came to court time, as I anticipated, the mother didn't want to take it further. So the case was dropped, and I'm not sure what happened after that.

The girl at the station, and our children

I was born in Zimbabwe and went to boarding school in Cape Town from age 15, matriculating in 1958. I've been here since then. Esther, my wife, comes from Paarl. She worked for South African Airways and wore her uniform well. I discovered that this girl I saw at the railway station every morning was Jewish and that she was going to Israel with her family, to a kibbutz called Dafna. It turned out that her aunt and my aunt were neighbours on this kibbutz...

Esther is an artist. After many years of working for the airlines, she went back to university, aged 70, to get her BA Fine Arts degree. Now she teaches history of art and painting. She was nearly 50 when we had our laatlammetjie.

When the children were little, I went back to university and did a SocSci honours degree, and then a Masters in Public Administration. It hasn't helped me one iota, but it was wonderful. I ended up lecturing at UCT for a while.

We lived in Constantia for 42 years and raised our children there. Three years ago, we moved back to the same Sea Point building that we lived in when we first got married fifty years earlier. I have no plans to move.

We, the Capetonian Jews, are not following our children when they move overseas. I haven't seen my daughter for four years. She is a Paediatric Social Worker at a children's hospital in Sydney, where she is part of a trauma team working

with abused children. In Cape Town, she worked at Valkenberg Hospital for a while, and then as a social worker at Herzlia. According to her, Valkenberg 'was a pussycat' compared to Herzlia's parents.

All my children are in medicine, in one form or another. My son in Melbourne is a nutritionist and volunteers for Hatzolah, which works like our CSO but is more medically focused. My son in Manchester is a dentist. My other son works in infectious diseases at Livingstone Hospital in Port Elizabeth (Gqeberha), and no doubt he will in due course move overseas. We will encourage him.

The pandemic changed my working hours

Highlands House had a very difficult time at the beginning of COVID-19. We were worried about staff and contractors being carriers. That's why I still don't see my staff. When I leave in the morning, they haven't arrived yet. At 4.30am, I'm ready to get into the car. It's prime time — the phone doesn't ring, and I can do all my dictation. I can really think, and if I have something difficult, I bring that home and sit with it quietly. It usually turns out to be not that difficult. I open a file, zone in on it, and focus.

"Highlands House has to carry on"

Highlands House has to carry on. I think we have a big challenge ahead of us, maintaining a connection to Highlands House and achieving financial sustainability. The Leiserowitz Wing is an example of well-applied funds from the Trust to construct this luxury wing. There are big strategies for where to next.

How do we get younger people involved once more? Come and give classes at the Home, help with groceries, give residents an outing... there's so much you can do. I don't know why I got involved back then. I think Highlands House Foundation is 'up there' with the fundraisers and the foundations — it's not a relatable entity to the general community. If you have a skillset that the professional staff don't have, volunteer your time and help solve problems. That's what I did, and that's what I encourage when it comes to community work.


www.highlandshouse.co.za

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

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Highlands House

Aged Residential Care for Our Community

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**JEWISH
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CAPE TOWN



www.jcs.org.za

JCS@WORK

HARMONY IN THE HOME

Effective Methods to Manage Behavioural Problems in Children

Renee Donneson
Social Worker

Jewish Community Services is a designated Child Protection Organisation rendering services to vulnerable families and children. Parents or Caregivers of children who present with behavioural problems are often referred to Jewish Community Services to assist in managing the behaviour.

The social workers at Jewish Community Services educate the parents with methods and strategies of how to respond to the behavioural issues that their children are displaying and will often refer the child/children to a Child Psychiatrist for an assessment if so indicated.

The education process is multi-faceted with the aim of better equipping the families with insight as to managing the behaviours and create a harmonious household.

We educate the parents and Caregivers as following:

- Always, as difficult as it may be, respond in a calm manner to your child.
- Demonstrate that you dislike their bad behaviour.
- Engage in friendly and open communication with your child that the unpleasant atmosphere created is unacceptable.

- Never smack your child.
- Recognise and acknowledge your child's positive behaviours.
- Make your child understand the negative impact of their untoward behaviour regarding themselves and the family.
- Institute strict discipline at home but simultaneously be caring, loving and nurturing.
- Parents need to inform the school that their child attends so that they can receive the appropriate care within the school environment.

Please contact Jewish Community Services on **021 462 5520** should you require this type of intervention or would like any further information.

“The social workers at Jewish Community Services educate the parents with methods and strategies of how to respond to the behavioural issues that their children are displaying and will often refer the child/children to a Child Psychiatrist for an assessment if so indicated.”



#JewishCommunity #FamilyServices #SocialWork





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

Forward planning

This year has simply flown — and what a year this has been!

The CJSA team have worked tirelessly to encourage our members to return to the various centres, and it feels as if they are butterflies emerging from the cocoon. We have also been working to encourage those who prior to COVID-19 were either not members, or had not yet taken the first steps to join our in-house functions.

Members are expressing their enjoyment at participating in our programme and joining our weekly outings, renewing old friendships and forming new ones. Outings and catered functions are usually well-supported and often fully booked.

I am currently planning for next year, and am considering initiating a series of workshops for retirement, and living your best life when you get to that stage. A few topics that I feel would be worthwhile include financial literacy, digital awareness, lifestyle redesign, realigning relationships, memory improvement, entrepreneurship, and mentorship.

To my delight, this morning I came across a podcast by Marilyn Snyman called *Clear and Helpful: taking care of yourself and others*. She interviewed Marilyn Hallet who has started an online platform called

You've-earned-it. She provides a free weekly online newsletter to those over the age of 60, with articles and information on a variety of topics pertinent to those looking at retiring — or newly retired — and needing ideas or pointers to navigate ways of living well in this next phase of life. She showcases savings and discounts, provides insight into tax issues, unpacks life rights for those wishing to move or downsize.

There are also many articles of more general interest. She highlights the fact that 80% of South Africans have not saved enough for retirement as we are now living longer, and she stresses the importance of each one of us becoming creative entrepreneurs and diversifying as we age. It is essential for retirees to have a passion or purpose. Each one of us is a treasure to our family and we have so much to offer the youth. There is a possibility of excellent mentorship and a massive potential for those who are just beginning their life careers.

Before retiring, we should look at what brings us passion and joy. Retirement should be considered a utopia — a time to explore and fulfil dreams. However, if one doesn't plan properly it can cause insecurity and boredom. Life coaches and retirement coaches can assist with

the transition from being employed to life as a retiree. They can help you find a sense of purpose, to occupy your time and energy with something that fulfils you and results in a vastly rewarding retirement.

Other ways to live well as we move into the retirement phase of life would be to work as long as you can, engage in healthy sleep patterns and decrease stress.

Older persons are finding it very difficult to keep up with rapidly evolving technology. Many are tech-savvy to a point, and in many cases a younger family member assists with the basic needs. There is definitely a digital divide in the ability to access information on the internet for a wide variety of activities. On the plus side many 60+ have been forced to adapt to technology since COVID-19, by learning how to use apps for banking and shopping and it is important to keep up because fear and a lack of confidence will hold you back.

This past month's highlights include the annual JCC* AGM which we recently hosted with the seven welfare organisations joining as one, to showcase the way in which we hold the vulnerable members of

* (Jewish Care Cape is the umbrella body for the seven Cape Town based Jewish welfare organisations)

our community, to ensure that they are able to live a dignified life. Each year, organisations honour people who work tirelessly for them, whether as a professional or volunteer. This year's CJSA award was presented to Marcia Raymond, who has served as Chairman and on the Executive since a year after CJSA was formed. CJSA Trustee Abe Sank was presented with the Chairman's Award — so richly deserved as Abe serves on the Boards of many JCC organisations. We congratulate both our CJSA recipients as well as all other awardees who were honoured at the AGM.

As this is the last newsletter for 2022, we hope that the summer season brings each one of you joy, and that safety is maintained while you are out and about. As we reopen in Sea Point, we hope to be operating from our new home, which we will be sharing with the UJW at Stonehaven in Albany Road. This is exciting for all of us and expect that the sharing of the property will bring both organisations much happiness as we work closely serving the community.

Sochen

Diana Sochen
Executive Director



Ageless Grace with Cathy Hudson and West Coast members



Cape Garden Centre outing



Babylonstoren outing with Southern Suburbs members



Milnerton members enjoying the Sanlam Art Gallery outing



Southern Suburbs enjoyed a special morning at High Tea restaurant



Milnerton members enjoying tea after listening to guest speaker Uhrs Huber



Housekeeper Popi Gonu baking for our members

Social and Personal

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

Births: Jos and Steven Horwitz — grandson

Special birthday wishes to: Abe Sank — 90

Welcome to new members: Jeanne Rudolph Zaidel, Jill Lewin, Allan and Freda Jacobs (returning members)

Well wishes to those who have been under the weather: Collette and Barry Levin, Hymie Becker

Our wishes of strength to members who have recently lost loved ones: Yvette Polovin — mother Ruth Bernstein; Zelda Rabkin — son Trevor

Consider This

What if we had never been 'naked and afraid'?

By Rabbi Emma Gottlieb

A few weeks ago, as we read again from the beginning of the Torah, I found myself noticing something in a new way (this is why we read the Torah anew each year!).

In the narrative of Adam and Chavah, I found myself drawn to the word *ervah*, in the verse that states (3:7), "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were *ervah*; so they sewed fig-leaves together, and girded themselves." Most English versions of Torah translate *ervah*, as 'naked'. The humans saw they were naked, and rushed to cover themselves. The more I thought about it, the more unfortunate this translation seemed. The rush to cover up their nudity implies shame — certainly all Judeo-Christian religions at some point have taught (or still do) that nakedness is shameful; that bodies are inherently sexual; that we are responsible to cover *ourselves* up to help ensure that *others* can control their focus and their sexual urges. How many thousands of years of shame have we carried because of

this translation? How many humans have been harmed by these ideas over the ages?

And then I wondered, *what if, instead of 'naked', we had been given the translation of 'vulnerable'* (i.e. then their eyes were opened, they saw how they were *vulnerable*, and rushed to make protective clothing)? After all, when Adam and Chavah eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, they become aware, first and foremost, of their mortality, and of their human agency — their ability to make choices with inherent consequences. Both ideas carry a sense of vulnerability. The awareness that we cannot change the fact of our mortality, and that we may err and suffer the consequences of our actions, or — even worse — the consequences of another's actions, leaves us vulnerable. Awareness of our own humanity comes with awareness of our limitations. Adam and Chavah's eyes are opened to this knowledge and so they rush to try to cover themselves protectively — not because they are ashamed, but because they are suddenly aware

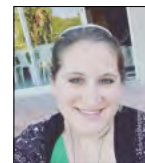
of all the dangers around them (the burning sun, the cold night, poisonous plants, stinging insects, etc).

Rabbi David Wolpe, also looking for an alternate translation, brings forward the idea from Midrash that the humans realise that they are 'naked of mitzvot' — seeing that without guidance, they will not know how to properly conduct themselves in this new reality where they are suddenly aware of their own free-will. Wolpe explains how we often try to cover ourselves with possessions, titles, connections and refinements to help us feel safe. "We fear being naked, not in the physical sense, but in the metaphysical sense... But the Midrash insists that to be naked is not to be stripped of possessions, or attachments; it is to be stripped of good deeds. One who is cloaked by righteousness is not naked... To be without goodness is to be truly exposed, with mitzvot one need not feel unprotected or afraid."

Whether we lean in to the traditional explanation of *ervah*, or look to other understandings, the same underlying ideas are there — the humans feel

exposed, not because there is anything wrong with being unclothed — not because there is anything shameful about their naked bodies

— but because the world is full of dangers, of temptations, and of that which we cannot control. When we use our creative abilities to make that which can protect us (which is one of the ways that we understand the concept of being created *betzelem Elohim*, in God's image — having a measure of God's creative abilities), and when we turn to Torah to guide us in making good choices — we find that we are far less vulnerable, less exposed, less naked. We can move forward with confidence, in faith, on the path that God has revealed. We won't avoid danger — we won't evade mortality — but perhaps we will spend less time feeling ashamed of ourselves and our limitations. If we feel proud of how we use our creative energy and proud of how we conduct ourselves — we will have far less to fear when we are called to return to the Garden.



Simchat Torah magic

Simchat Torah Magic was back in person after three years, and the shul was pumping with music, dancing and felafel. The band was amazing — *kol hakavod* — and the joy was all around. The magic continued at Glendale the next morning as we celebrated with the residents and gave each of them a turn to dance with the Torah.



Rabbi Malcolm and Student Rabbi Andi reading from the Torah



Dancing with the Torah



Helen Schneider, Diana Sochen, Yvette Polovin, Jeanne Livingstone and Leo Shub dancing with the Torah

Mazaltov to last month's Bnei Mitzvah!

Casey Meyerowitz
5 NovemberAna-Maria Firer
5 NovemberDane Gawronsky
12 November
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Mensch Mitzvah Day 2022 launched at the Hatfield campus with volunteer and beneficiary groups and individuals meeting up to share their Mitzvah Day plans and pick up their #MenschMitzvahDay2022 merchandise!

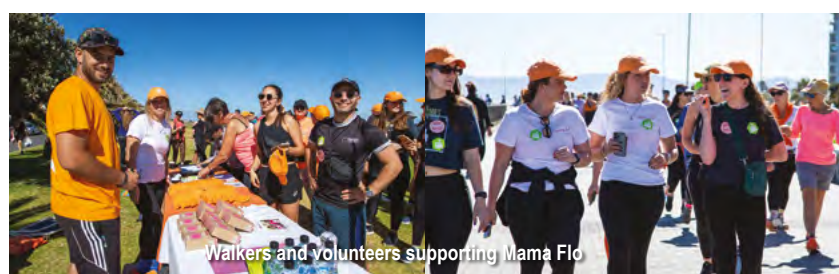


We Volunteered Together!

Volunteers planted fruit trees and flowers at the Langa Agrihub which supports local urban small-scale farmers in the area. This is an on-going project of SA Urban Food and Farming Trust supported by The Joint Distribution Committee GRID division and Mensch



Mensch Network members and UJC Group Mama Flo hosted a 5km walk on the Sea Point promenade to raise awareness about period poverty with their ambassadors from Khayelitsha Site B community



Walkers and volunteers supporting Mama Flo



UJW hosted a number of events for Mitzvah Day



ASTRA hosted Nolutshando Sheltered Employment Trust for a craft workshop



Volunteers cuddled babies at the Little Hands Baby Home in Woodstock



Volunteers visited elderly residents of themba Community Old Age Home and gave the home a lick of paint!



The Adventure Kids Club and Moishe House Cape Town enjoyed a day together at the Sea Point Pavilion Pool



Carers from Autism Western Cape, Ikamya Labantu and Nolutshando Sheltered Employment enjoyed an afternoon of Art Therapy for reflection and selfcare offered by Creative Stance Studio

The heart of WIZO is *Women for Women*

WIZO is a Zionist organisation that was established in 1920 in England through the vision of Rebecca Sieff.

She and Vera Weizmann founded WIZO as a way to realise their dream of achieving the betterment of the lives of Jewish women and children. Vera's husband Chaim became president of Israel. On a visit to South Africa, they envisaged one united front called Women's International Zionist Organisation, South Africa!

The heart of WIZO is *Women for Women*. This article highlights some of the incredible assistance that abused women receive in Israel from our beloved WIZO.

Our foster homes and day care centres in Israel continue to flourish and are a source of hope, comfort and provision. They provide physical, emotional and social integration to help women and children become responsible functioning adults. This project shapes and uplifts the State of Israel, and WIZO South Africa is proud to have assisted in maintaining these homes.

At least 200 000 women and 600 000 children are victims of domestic violence and abuse in Israel. Abuse of women is a worldwide phenomenon to which Israel is not immune. WIZO runs two battered women's shelters that provide victims of domestic violence with the lifeline and support they need to pick up their lives and start anew. In the shelters they learn to take control of their lives, by receiving a clear message that they are protected and can start moving forward, striving to attain quality of life after trauma.

Women are referred to the shelters by government departments and/or the emergency hotline operated by WIZO. They are provided with counselling, financial planning, job training, legal advice and support groups. They are encouraged to spend time with their children and also receive child care guidance. These women are empowered to lead independent and financially stable lives.

A fathers' project, led by a group of men living in the neighbourhood, visits the shelter, portraying positive male role models for the residents.

Once these women and children move to transitional apartments, the true triumph is visible. The post-shelter programme for families called *Growing Together* assists integration back into the community, whilst weekly gatherings at local WIZO branches provide mentorship and support.

In a guidance programme called *New Page*, a social worker assists with the next steps and provides financial and vocational rehabilitation. On leaving the shelter, the transition is more manageable and the women feel less alone.

A recently launched programme called *Continuing On Your Way* teaches women to learn more about themselves and acquire ways of coping. It is free for women who require assistance.

Families who stay together come for treatment. Domestic violence is addressed and WIZO provides dedicated treatment to the violent person. This project, funded by WIZO, also offers a 24-hour anonymous hotline for men, the only one of its kind in Israel.

Recently, a campaign of advertisements on the buses was launched for this WIZO men's hotline. Amazingly, 150 callers flooded the line, reaching out for help and ready for change.

One caller said, "I was alone with my anger and had nowhere to turn. Calling the hotline gave me the first step to change my ways and have better communication with my family."

WIZO's purpose is to increase the number of women in positions of power and influence to ultimately reduce violence in Israeli society, and thereby empower women across Israel. When the family can be helped and the abuser rehabilitated, WIZO always step in.

One woman said, "When I left the shelter, I was stronger and more independent than ever. WIZO took me out of the darkness that was my life." This is what WIZO aims for, by continuing to do what matters!

WIZO's aim is to give women a sense of belonging and to boost their confidence, thereby uplifting lives. WIZO is recognised as the largest Women's Zionist Organisation in the world. WIZO makes a genuine difference in the lives of the most vulnerable in Israel.

WIZO South Africa wishes you and your families a happy and prosperous new year.



Shelley Trope-Friedman,
President, WIZO SA

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I AM LEON SINGER

I love Property and I love People.

I have been with RE/MAX since 2007 and joined RE/MAX Premier this year. Before that I was with several Real Estate companies in Gauteng and Cape Town.

I made Aliyah in 1972 to Kibbutz Kfar Blum and while I was there the Yom Kippur War broke out.

I've been to Kibbutz Maagen Michael and did the Ulpan there. After that I went to the Tadmor Hotel School in Herzlia

I look forward to bringing light to your home.

My enthusiasm to learn and push myself to new levels is what motivates me.

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If you are looking to sell, or get a free evaluation on your home please contact me.



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No more siesta, just *fiesta!*

A peek into the UJC Community Celebration.

Over the last few years, uniting as a community has been challenging. At the beginning of 2022, the UJC promised that this year we'd connect and celebrate once more. And that's exactly what we did.

Picture this: Sea gulls flying overhead as Los Gitanos serenades the crowd. Platter upon platter of delicious treats keeps everyone satisfied. Speeches are heartfelt. The Host, TaliBabes, has people crying with laughter. A breeze carries the scent of the ocean over the dance floor as the GOODLUCK band energise young and old, and the sun slowly sets to reveal a full moon.

"Tonight is a celebration of those who came before us, the pillars of this community who laid the foundation for the vibrant community we are today. Those who set up structures like the UJC to ensure we look after each other for generations to come," reflected Jodi Sher, Vice Chair (UJC) "It's a celebration of the kindness it takes to ensure that every member of our community is looked after. That no one goes without food or a roof over their heads. That every child is educated and that the vulnerable get the care, love and respect they deserve."

The UJC exists to support the vitality, viability and ongoing growth and development of Cape Town's Jewish Community. This is accomplished by ensuring that over 35 institutions, including schools, welfare organisations and other communal bodies, have the funding they need to fulfil their own crucial purposes.

"Lastly, it's a celebration of gratitude. Thank you to each of you for showing up, not only tonight, but in supporting the UJC to ensure our community never wavers. For your generosity, dedication, the hours you volunteered, and for being on this journey with us, so no one is left behind."

Tickets sold out in less than 2 weeks and over 350 people from across the board of our incredible, diverse community came together in this one-of-a-kind celebration. The #UJCFiesta was a beautiful reminder of our interconnectedness and our responsibility to look after our own.

"Here we stand, a dynamic, strong Jewish community at the tip of Africa, leading by example. Showing that no matter what others think, we are united and unwavering in our Jewish pride," concluded Jodi. And with those beautiful words on everyone's minds, the celebrations continued late into the night.

Here's to many more moments of celebration. We can't wait for the next!



@ujc_cpt #UJCFiesta

ujc.org.za

Outstanding new books available at the Gitlin library

The only Jewish community library in Africa!



CONVICTION by **D.A. Mishani**. Inspector Avi Avraham begins two investigations on the same day. A new-born baby is found in a bag outside a hospital, and a Swiss tourist disappears from a beach hotel near Tel Aviv. An inquiry reveals that the tourist has been using a fake passport and two names. Could he be a Mossad agent? Both investigations spiral into a maze of deception threatening to put Avraham in conflict with the most powerful men in the country — who technically do not exist.



THE ESCAPE ARTIST by **Jonathan Freedland**. Journalist Freedland delivers the powerful and true story of Rudolf Vrba, the first Jew to escape Auschwitz. In 1944, resolved to reveal the truth about the camp and to warn the last Jews of Europe of their fate, he completed a gruelling walk to Slovakia, smuggling the first full account of the camp. This detailed report reached Roosevelt, Churchill and the Pope. Vrba helped save 20,000 Jewish lives.



ANNA & DR HELMY by **Ronen Steinke**. The remarkable story of an Egyptian doctor who saved many Jews living in Berlin from the Nazis. Dr Helmy met Anna, the daughter of one of his Jewish patients, in 1936. When asked three years later to hide her, he took her into his medical practice as his assistant, taught her some Muslim prayers and Arabic while claiming she was his niece. Mohammed Helmy is the only Arab honoured as 'Righteous among the Nations'.



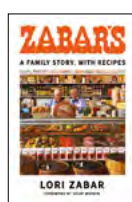
ASHTON HALL by **Lauren Belfer**. Manhattan art historian Hannah Larson travels to Ashton Hall in England when her honorary uncle falls ill. Soon after her arrival, her son Nicky finds the skeletal remains of a woman Isabella Cresham walled into part of the manor. Working from clues in centuries-old ledgers, Hannah recreates the Ashton Hall of the Elizabethan era. As the secrets of Hannah's own life unravel, she finds the experiences of Ashton Hall's women are not different from her own.



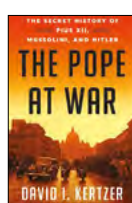
THE HUNT by **Faye Kellerman**. This Kellerman finale has alternating storylines: Inspector Decker's effort to close his last homicide case; and the terrible circumstances surrounding the parents of his and Rina's foster son Gabe. Teresa, Gabe's mother, has been attacked and her younger son kidnapped by her estranged ex-husband. She enlists the help of her first husband, a high-end criminal. Simultaneously, Decker tries to solve the case of a body found in the woods. A cleverly paced mystery.



I KEPT WALKING by **Minou Soumekh Mischlin**. A poignant account of Minou, growing up in Iran with a disease that branded her as 'less than'. She had to flee Iran and confront the psychological toll of her polio. Unwilling to be crushed by the conservative society into which she was born, Minou had the courage to enter therapy and succeed in America. From Tehran to a Jerusalem hospital room, she worked on her inner self, embraced her culture and defied its taboos to keep on walking.



ZABARS by **Lori Zabar**. In 1934, when Louis and Lilly Zabar rented a counter in a dairy store in Manhattan to sell smoked fish, they could not have imagined that it would eventually occupy half a block and become a beloved mecca for quality food of all kinds. A passion for excellence led four generations of Zabars to continue with a deli that would allow immigrants, New Yorkers and celebrities from Nora Ephron to Marlon Brando to rub shoulders.



THE POPE AT WAR by **David I. Kertzer**. When Pope Pius XII died in 1958, his papers were sealed in the Vatican Secret Archives until 2020. David Kertzer, a leading Vatican scholar, reveals how the pope set aside moral leadership to preserve his church's power. A portrait of the Pope's silence as war was looming and the Nazis began their systematic mass murder of Europe's Jews. The book shows how from 1939 — 1945, Pope Pius XII bent to the wills of Hitler and Mussolini.

A wonderful Chanukah to all our library borrowers! Contact us on admin@gitlinlibrary.co.za or phone 021 462 5088



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The Jewish Literary Festival is back

Planning is under way for another bumper edition of the Jewish Literary Festival to be held at the Gardens Community Centre on Human Rights Day, 21 March 2023.

After we had to adapt our 2020 JLF line-up to a series of online sessions, we are thrilled to be staging an in-person event again.

Visitors can look forward to an abundant line-up of writers from Cape Town, Johannesburg, and overseas, including some old favourites and many new faces.

One author travelling from the UK is novelist Louisa Treger. Her novel, *Madwoman*, released this year, is an extraordinary work of historical fiction that tells the story of Nellie Bly, considered the first female investigative journalist. Nellie was what you might call an 'inconvenient woman', defying conventions to trailblaze a path for the future of women. In *Madwoman*, Louisa Treger has focussed on the act that brought Nellie fame and the job she wanted, but also put her life at extreme risk.

To land a job at a major male-dominated newspaper, Nellie makes a bargain with the editor and owner: she will get herself committed to the mental asylum on Blackwell's Island (now Roosevelt Island

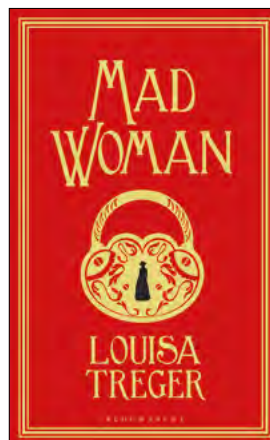
off the coast of New York), and write the story of her incarceration in exchange for a job. Treger's vivid prose is magnetic as she immerses herself in Nellie's persona and gets right under the skin of this extraordinary woman.

A local investigative journalist who also put herself at risk for her craft is Janine Lazarus. Formerly the head of the crime desk at *The Sunday Star*, Lazarus worked on the story of the Norwood rapist and serial killer in the early 1990s. Breaking almost every rule in newsroom ethics, she became increasingly obsessed with this story, and *BAIT: To catch a killer* is her account of how she helped the Norwood police catch this deadly criminal by becoming human bait.

Don't miss these and other exciting local and international authors at JLF 2023. Bookings will open soon so watch this space, visit www.jewishliteraryfestival.co.za and like our Facebook page.



Janine Lazarus, local author of *Bait: To catch a killer*



Louisa Treger, International (UK) author of *Madwoman*

OTHER AUTHORS APPEARING AT JLF2023: Antony Albeker • Alan Ambor • Jonathan Ancer • Gigi Fenster • Anton Harber • Joanne Jowell • Des Lindberg • Rael Levitt • Gail Schimmel • Patricia Schonstein • Gus Silber • Steven 'Boykey' Sidley • and many more...

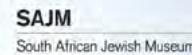


JEWISH Literary FESTIVAL

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, 21 MARCH 2023

SAVE THE DATE

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astra Busy with *Busy Books*

JEWISH SHELTERED EMPLOYMENT

Newly appointed supervisor Sonja De Freitas is already making a big impact in the needlework workshop at Astra Centre.

Her team of workers have put together a new version of our activity book for pre-schoolers — *The Busy Book* — originally initiated by Trish Jaffa. This second book in the range has an African theme to it. It includes shape recognition, counting, a maze, animal recognition and other fine motor skill activities. All the elements that go into the book are traced, cut out and hand sewn by the workers. It keeps them constantly busy and creative, and facilitates them reaching their potential. Sonja says that every page is testament to their efforts and dedication. The pages are put together by the workshop's seamstresses, Una Dirks and Johanna Solomon, to produce the beautiful end product. The workshop is extremely proud of its team effort.



Sonja De Freitas (L) with David Shofer (front R), Saul Maresky and Lisa Groll

Family Announcements

CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

ABE WOLLACH

To our special family, friends here and abroad,
and the Cape Town community.

Thank you for the support, love and caring messages we have received during the difficult time of the passing of our much-loved husband, father and grandfather, Abe.

With much appreciation.

Frankye, Jodi, Larry and Hope and their families

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

@capejewishchronicle



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SAAND



A VIEW FROM THE BAR

Noisy neighbours

By Anton Katz SC

As the December vacation period approaches, the spats over noise on neighbourhood WhatsApp groups increases.

I belong to a WhatsApp group dealing with the common interests of residents in the area where I live. Issues raised include safety, lost pets, keys and credit cards, the pick-up times and dates for garbage collection and load-shedding schedules. There are approximately 200 members of the extended residential group.

The topic that generates the most heat and number of posts is what may be called 'noisy neighbours'. At about 11pm on a recent Saturday night, a polite post by a young father complained that there was a very loud thumping party disturbing the peace, happening in a nearby street. The post included a lament that he was the father of a young child who was sick and badly needed her rest. The responses to the complaining post were swift and numerous. Some posts heavily supported the complaint. They indicated the party host was selfish and had no right to disturb the area, even though he was using his own private property. A couple of posts alerted the local security company to check out the disturbance. But there were some who criticised the complaining father. They said things like 'Get a life', 'It's Saturday night — party time', 'It's summer — enjoy it', 'Live and let live', 'Go join the party, I will'. And by 1am the posts on both sides of the debate became more intense. Those who supported the young dad resorted

to calling the police and threatening court action. On the other hand, those who had joined the party said it was the best of parties and invited all the neighbours. I'm told the party ended abruptly at 1:30am, and peace broke out.

The law

Does the law deal with the loud (disturbing?) party on a Saturday night in a residential area? Like in the case of all clashes of rights, the law tries to balance and resolve conflicts rather than leave it to the physically stronger of the two to sort out. Peaceful resolution by law is always better than resolution by violence, where the stronger or more violent party prevails.

The law is: an owner may do as he pleases on his own land, but his neighbour also has a right to the enjoyment of his own land. If one of the neighbouring owners uses his land in such a way that materially interferes with the other's rights of enjoyment, the latter is entitled to court assistance to stop or at least limit the interference.

So, the starting point is that the loud and noisy party host may do as he pleases in his house and garden. But if his conduct materially interferes with his neighbour's use and enjoyment of his property, then a court could order the party to be shut down. This body of law is known as nuisance or neighbour law. In South Africa, neighbours are expected to tolerate a reasonable level of interference resulting from the use of neighbouring land, but when the use

of land affects neighbours in ways that exceed reasonableness it becomes unlawful. An affected party has the right to interdict offending behaviour only if the nuisance is unreasonable. So a court exercises its judgment whether the effects of the nuisance exceed (in its nature, scope or level) what could reasonably be expected of the neighbour to accept or tolerate. Reasonableness will always be the standard.

Reasonableness

And reasonableness will be assessed by whether the problem is continuing, ongoing and repetitive and the intensity of the nuisance. The principle is that any use of land that causes ongoing immissions of water, unpleasant smells, smoke, vibrations or noise on neighbouring land or that in any other way infringes the normal use and enjoyment of neighbouring land, in an ongoing and unreasonable manner, constitutes a nuisance which is unlawful and could therefore be interdicted. Also relevant as to what constitutes reasonable usage depends on various factors, including the general character of the area in question — persons living and working in an urban area would, for example, reasonably be expected, in general, to be more forbearing about a higher level of noise intrusion into their lives than neighbours living in a rural housing estate.

In South Africa, neighbours are expected to tolerate a reasonable level of interference resulting from the use of neighboring land, but when the use of land affects neighbours in ways that exceed reasonableness it becomes unlawful.

In the loud party in a residential area case the law will look at how often a party occurs, how loud is the noise, how long is the noise going to occur, at what time of day and which day of the week. Also did the party host send out warning flyers or WhatsApp posts giving affected neighbours a chance to readjust their schedule during the party? If a very loud party occurs between say 9pm and 1am on a Saturday night once a year with prior reasonable notification of the hours of disturbance to those affected, a court will be less sympathetic to a complaint than to a twice-weekly loud party which starts at 10pm and

lasts throughout the night with no end in sight. It always depends on the facts that are proven by the warring neighbours. I sometimes like to play opera (and Bob Marley)

relatively loudly, but I try to be considerate and am always sensitive to the time of day. I avoid playing loud music on Sunday afternoons (snooze time) or too early in the morning.

A relatively recent case involving a mixed-use area in Durbanville is interesting. Mr. Christopher worked from home as a pastor, and required a peaceful environment to write, research, study and counsel his congregants. His property abuts the property occupied by the Versters. Mr Verster owns the property. Mrs Verster operated *Puppy Town* from the property. On her website, it was described as a daycare centre which offered constant supervision, structured playtime, potty training, basic training, socialisation with different dogs and constant feedback to the owners about their dogs. Every morning Puppy Town's clients dropped their dogs off at the property and collected them again in the evening. There were up to 17 dogs present on the property at any given time during business hours. The dog noise from Puppy Town drove Pastor Christopher insane, and he went to court to shut it down. The Cape Town High Court found the constant all-day incessant barking unreasonable and ordered Puppy Town to move premises. In doing so, the court considered the evidence of the nature of the neighbourhood, the testimony of the surrounding neighbours about the level of dog noise, and the principles of the law of nuisance including by-laws the City of Cape Town had on its books concerning noise.

Ultimately it boils down to individuals conducting themselves in a reasonable and considerate manner. A useful motto to adopt is: try not to do to others what you wouldn't want done to you. Always try to see the other person's point of view, and perhaps peace and harmony will break out.

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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By Rabbi Bryan Opert



TRAVEL

Into the heart of crypto-Judaism in Portugal

by Bonny and Debbie Feldman

As South African Jews of Ashkenazi descent, we have long realised that our education and life experience has not included much about our Sephardi brethren — their origins, their history and their trials and tribulations.

During lockdown, we discovered a world we knew little about, through various webinars that focused on elements of Sephardi history — and found it fascinating.

And so, on a recent trip to Portugal, our interest in finding out more about the Portuguese Jewish community was sparked. It's a quite fascinating — but tragic — piece of history. With our interest in Jewish history, it would have been odd to have visited the country and not to include a stopover in the town of Belmonte, a rural town which offers an insight into the way of life of people who were, outwardly, devout Catholics but who practised other rituals — remnants of the Jewish religion of their pre-Inquisition forebears.

While Belmonte is not a town of major interest for tourists, it has been attracting visitors with an interest in Jewish affairs from around the world.



In Belmonte today, Jews can safely display a mezuzah on the doorpost



Castelo de Vide: the indentation in the doorframe suggests that this may have been where a mezuzah had been affixed prior to the Inquisition.

The reason? It is one of very few places in the world where one can meet people who live as Jews but who know that they are descendants of crypto-Jews: people who were forced to convert to Christianity during the 15th and 16th centuries because of the demands of the Inquisition, but who managed to continue practising elements of Judaism in secret over the following 400 to 500 years.

The secret practice would have continued today if not for a Polish Jewish engineer called Samuel Schwarz, who came to the area in about 1917 for work purposes. He met people who, once they felt they could trust him, shared some of their activities and the vocabulary they used in their secret religious practices — baking special bread for Easter (in fact, it was for Passover but the two festivals occur at roughly the same time); finishing off prayers with the word *Adonai*; and saying the Christian prayers without mentioning the name of Jesus at the end. Realising their connection to Judaism, Schwarz spent many years researching their lives and shared the story with the wider Jewish world.

Essentially, he had identified a living remnant of the post-Inquisition world, and his discovery subsequently led to the opening up of life for the Belmonte Jews, who today practise their Jewish religion freely and securely. After centuries of being fearful — so frightened of being found out that

the secrecy continued for hundreds of years — they no longer have to fear being denounced as Jews to the authorities.

Today, the Jews of Belmonte proudly practise their religion, wearing kippot in public, and adorning the outside of their homes with attractive tiles sporting Hebrew wording or symbols of Judaism. Their homes in the ancient Jewish Quarter of Old Town Belmonte proudly show off large, colourful mezuzot — something not even their grandparents could have risked doing. There is a hotel, the Sinai Hotel run by a local Jewish family, that attracts Jewish travellers — again an indication of the freedom that the community now enjoys.

In more recent years, a synagogue was built in the Jewish Quarter, and we attended a Shabbat service. The service was led by a teenage boy from the community, who told us after the service that he and his brother are the only two school-age children among the Jewish community — in addition to five babies born recently! We also identified a few Jewish graves in the nearby cemetery, which appears at first glance to be a Catholic cemetery.

The town also offers a very good Jewish museum — well worth a visit. There is also a Jewish museum in the town of Castelo de Vide, and another small museum in Tomar, which also offers visitors entry into a synagogue that dates from the early 15th century.



Bust of Samuel Schwarz, a true hero of the Jewish nation



Castelo de Vide — name of the street in the Old Jewish Quarter

(Schwarz also played a vital part in preserving the synagogue, having bought the building in 1923 and then donating it to the Portuguese government on condition that it was used as a museum.)

For anyone thinking of visiting Portugal, make sure that you add on a few days, to take in the fascinating history of the Jews. Make sure you do plenty of research in advance so that you can get the most from your visit.



A colourful tile on the outside wall of a house in Belmonte



Memorial stone in the town of Portagem, recording information about the Jews who fled from Spain to Portugal during the Inquisition



Belmonte Synagogue

Disclaimer: The information in this article is based on what we have read, rather than our own independent research. We are therefore unable to guarantee absolute accuracy. Bonny and Debbie Feldman

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ISRAEL: A JOURNEY MAKING MEANING

1648

Julian Resnick writes from Israel

In 2010 I was sent to NYC on a three-year shlichut on behalf of the Jewish Agency for Israel.

Not a bad posting I admit. If one must be out of Israel, away from the children for three years, why not New York City? It was not my first Shlichut working for Israel and the Jewish People. I had previously been to San Francisco and to London, and I knew the settling in routine; find a place to live, find the local equivalent of Pick n Pay, open a bank account, learn the best local route between home and the office, choose a local cellphone provider (in San Francisco it had been slightly different as it was pre-cellphones, so the last item was not on the list back then in 1980).

Fast forward to 1 November 2022, just a few days ago. Israel (we) hold our fifth election in just under four years. Do we just love voting? Revel in the mud-slinging and hurling of insults, making promises that everyone knows are not going to be kept, enjoy life without a national budget, crave the huge waste of money, like an extra day off work, or is there something else happening over here?

I knew that my next article was going to come a short while after the elections in Israel and, as I was pretty sure about the outcome (which I was dreading) and it turned out that my predictions were pretty accurate, I was going over the opening lines in my head and thinking about what the most appropriate opening would be.

Perhaps the neutral, *A triumphant Netanyahu returns*; or perhaps, clearly showing my political inclinations, *The Beginning of the End of the Dream?*; or with a South African reference, *Does this remind you of days long-gone in South Africa?*; or, once again with my South African background coming through, *Cry the Beloved Country*.

Because I was a young adult when I left South Africa, I only voted once in a 'general' election (apostrophes, because how could it have been a 'general' election if most of the public was not allowed to vote?). I entered the voting booth in Sea Point and asked myself whether the thing to do was to vote for Colin Eglin, the candidate for the Progressive Party, or to carry out some act of defiance. I wrote 'Free Nelson Mandela' on my voting slip, and came out feeling that I had moved the revolution one step forward (oh, the innocence of youthful fantasy).

So, why did I begin my response to the results of the November 1st elections in Israel with a story,

seemingly unconnected, about how one begins a new job in a foreign land? So, there is something I have not revealed yet about those early days in New York City just over twelve years ago in the beginning of September 2010. I consider myself a forward thinking liberal. A political progressive, a Zionist, a proud Jew, moulded by my early years of growing up in Somerset West in a small Jewish community while at the same time trying to make sense of all the contradictions surrounding me. I knew that something was a little off in my surroundings. I was aware of a growing confusion around the mixed messages of a liberal home environment (with of course three full-time servants plus a part-time cook), a conservative small town with the usual primary school for the white

children (I did know that the other children went to a separate school, but it did not bother me initially at all, as that was the world I knew) and then, *kaboom*, the opening up of eyes courtesy of Habonim, youthful political activism (very much small fry in the world of political activism). Enough background; I am getting carried away.

Early September 2010, NYC. I decide to use Verizon as my cell carrier and I go to get an American cellphone. We work out the package, and as the final part of the deal, my new cell number is revealed to me. Until today, I remember the final four digits of the number and my shock when I saw them. There are ten digits in an American cell number. I do not remember at all what the first six were, but I will never forget the final four — 1648.

What is so special about 1648 you might ask? And you are, of course, right to ask; as I am sure that for most of you it does not leap out of the page.

What is so special about 1648 you might ask? And you are, of course, right to ask; as I am sure that for most of you it does not leap out of the page. If it had been, say 1652, some of you might have said, "Oh, Jan Van Riebeeck arrives at the Cape of Good Hope." If the numbers were, say 1967, some of you might have said, "Ah, the Six Days War." But 1648!?

For me, as I was handed the phone, this forward thinking, free Jew, citizen of the world (and of the State of Israel), self-proclaimed liberal and political progressive, I see not only the numbers 1648, but also Cossacks bearing down on me (and I am on the Upper East Side of NYC, just off Lexington Avenue on 88th Street, and not on the Steppes of Russia or Ukraine, for heaven's sake!!).

In 1648 in Ukraine, Bogdan Chmielnicki (sometimes spelled Khmelnytsky) led an uprising of Cossacks and peasants against the Polish rulers of Ukraine. During this uprising, hundreds of Jewish communities were destroyed, and tens of thousands of Jews lost their lives. (Julian, that was 1648 and you are standing on the Upper East Side in 2010 and there are delis down the road, multiple synagogues a few blocks away and the 92nd St Y — one of the hubs of Jewish intelligentsia minutes away. It is a phone number, just a phone number and these are random digits!! What are you? A prisoner of history?)

Yes. Yes. Yes.

I thought of that moment when the results came through a few days ago. Very soon, the predictable began

to happen. My Facebook friends started throwing around the words and phrases I knew would soon be flooding digital media. 'Fascists'. 'Racists'. It is the end of the Israel we knew and loved. That's it. I have to find a new place to live. This is the beginning of the end." I would be less than honest if I did not admit that some of these thoughts crossed my mind as well.

I am both pained by, and ashamed of, the rhetoric used by Itamar Ben Gvir, by Bezalel Smotrich, by Miri Regev, by Bibi Netanyahu. When I see Itamar Ben Gvir, I do see in my mind's eye people from another time and place wearing brown shirts. I shudder to think of what Avi Maoz of *Noam*, part of the Religious Zionist List of Ben Gvir and Smotrich, wants to do with respect to the LGBTQ community (for those not in the know, he is an extreme homophobe).

But I totally get why they are going to be in power. Many, many people in Israel — good people, I know some of them, some of them are members of my extended family (some even grew up in Cape Town) — voted for the extreme right because they too have what I will for a moment call, the 1648 syndrome.

They too, often totally unaware of it, vote the way they do, because of Bogdan Chmielnicki.

We are a wounded People. Many of the wounds are no longer open and in fact, with many of us, even the scar tissue has largely disappeared. But the wounds are still there, and when they are touched — when those who know how to exploit the fear and anger manipulate these wounds, as those running for Knesset on the right did — the old pain and anger surfaces.

And then we vote as traumatised people.

Bogdan Chmielnicki 1
Theodor Herzl 0.

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



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SPORT

Ryan Maron: the Jewish kid from Cape Town coaching Afghanistan at a World Cup

By Justin Asher

Many kids dream of playing professional sport, but for one youngster at Grove Primary in the 1980s, who excelled in everything from cricket to swimming to rugby, his dream would soon become a reality, thanks to sheer determination, and the passionate support of his family.

In 1987, at just 12 years old, Ryan Maron broke into the Western Province U13 cricket team, shortly after making a move to Rondebosch Boys' Prep School. Just a year later, he also featured in the provincial cricket team, and as a goalkeeper in the U13 football team, as well as starring for the Western Province Maccabi football side in 1988. As a prop, he also played A-team rugby at Rondebosch although two knee operations would side-line him later during his school days.



Players look on during training as Ryan Maron leads a West Indies fielding session during his time as coach in the Caribbean

By 1993, the ambitious Maron, who always dreamed of playing on Newlands' hallowed ground, would come to take his cricket far more seriously. He received full colours, represented the Western Province U19 side and achieved a Cricket South Africa Level II coaching certification. Between 1998 and 2005, Ryan enjoyed the benefits of a provincial cricket contract bouncing between the A and B squads. He also featured in the Netherlands for five years as an overseas professional, and for clubs in Lancashire and Warwickshire, where he spent a year with former Proteas pace bowler, Allan Donald, who incidentally took 85 wickets that season and was later (2020) voted as the club's 'Greatest Overseas Player'.

"It's tough making a career out of sport," he says. "Obviously I'd have loved to play more provincial 'A' team games and gone on to represent South Africa."

He continued: "I always wanted to be a professional cricketer and sometimes

I had a few distractions along the way which slowed my progress, but I just wanted to play at Newlands and play for South Africa."

The aspiring cricketer got his shot once though, albeit a little unorthodox. India had been visiting South Africa during the 1996/97 summer and the Proteas squad was hit by injury on the eve of the New Year's Test in Cape Town. Needing some extra capable hands in the field should any more injuries arise, the Proteas management and Ryan's mentor and stalwart Brian McMillan invested in Maron's services as 12th man, driving him to and from Newlands every day. Perhaps he was the lucky charm, as the trio of McMillan, Lance Klusener and Gary Kirsten all scored centuries in the first innings. Although he sat in the dressing room throughout the series eager-eyed, naive to the world of the storm that would follow in the years

to come, he'll always wonder whether it was Hansie Cronje's captaincy that won the game by 282 runs, or the leader's post-match conversations with Indian representatives.

But reality would soon set in. Ryan's playing career wasn't bearing fruit as had the careers of others such as Gary Kirsten, HD Ackermann, Adrian Kuiper, Brian McMillan, and Meyrick Pringle. While they were moving on to cement their place in the team, represent national sides or start their own businesses, Maron found himself needing to differentiate — so in 1999 he started his own business, *Ryan Maron's Cricket School of Excellence*.

A spate of coaching gigs and trophy-winning triumphs began to form his career path. With a Level III coaching certification under his belt, Maron packed up and travelled extensively to coach wherever he could. He won the One-Day competition in Denmark with Esbjerg Cricket Club and the Gloucester Trophy with Cheltenham. In 2005, as the coach and vice-captain of the South African Maccabi

side, he won the gold medal while also picking up the *Hoofdklasse* (Premier Division) in Amsterdam for VRA Cricket Club. He followed this up a year later and in 2007 he cracked the role of Fielding Coach for the Netherlands National team.

One could write a hundred-page thesis on Maron's career, but it is his latest role that's really caught the attention of his community back home. In 2014, Maron was called in to assist the Afghanistan cricket side as fielding coach during a One-Day International series in Dubai and heading into the 2015 Cricket World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

"I was only there for the Dubai series, and I worked my butt off in the 42-degree heat. It was only when I went back a couple of months later for a second Dubai series that Moles [the Afghanistan coach] told me to pack my bags and join them for the World Cup."

Although Maron and Moles' troops lost their first two World Cup games against Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, they managed to steal a victory against Scotland with just three balls remaining. Maron stayed on after the spectacle event but would eventually be replaced when Pakistani legend, Inzamam-ul-Haq, took over the reins along with his own coaching staff.

The Jewish kid from Cape Town would go on to travel to the Caribbean with his Afghanistan side where he was offered another job — this time taking the West Indies to England for a two-month tour with series in Zimbabwe, New Zealand, Karachi, and CWC qualifiers. He would later set off on a seven-country tour with former world-class fielder and South Africa middle order batsman Jonty Rhodes, where they ran high performance coaching clinics around the world.

"I took a decision that I wanted to be a focused fielding coach, where I work with these guys to push them out of their comfort zone, bring in different techniques and coaching aides. I thought that would take me to the next level and it really has, giving me the opportunity to work with Jonty and other international sides."

"I've thoroughly enjoyed working with Afghanistan. Many of them have been refugees and they're incredibly hard workers. For many, this is their way out and a way to make a living from something they love."

Remarkably, Maron has never told his teammates that he's Jewish. While he feels it's important not to bring religion into the workplace, he has assimilated well into life with



Ryan Maron spent time getting to know West Indies legend, Brian Lara, during his stint in the Caribbean.

the Afghanistan side. "I respect their religion. We would often stop practice for prayers which happens about five times a day. I sit with them at dinner, eating with my one hand, alongside all the other players and coaches. I certainly wouldn't be embarrassed to share my religion if I ever had to, but I've adapted well to their culture and enjoyed it."

So where to next for Ryan Maron? He'll be heading home from the T20 World Cup after a disappointing string of results sent them packing earlier than they'd hoped.

"I want to see my family and spend some quality time with them before my next tour to Sri Lanka at the end of November and then the start of the Pakistan Super League in January."

If Maron's contract with Afghanistan is extended, he could face further travel from March but right now he's just grateful to spend time with his family who've made it possible for him to be abroad for so long to chase his dreams.

"It gets pretty lonely on tour. You've got to keep yourself occupied and focused. I'm not able to be with my family, to help around home, to assist my wife Darianne, and my kids, so I am grateful to my family for their love and care, along with their messages of support, whether we win or lose — that keeps me going."



Ryan worked with the Afghanistan national cricket side during the T20 Cricket World Cup.

USING MY NUDEL

Wonderful women

By Craig Nudelman

Wow, what a terrible driver, she must be a woman!

Jeez, my boss just wouldn't give me a break today, what a b***h!

She must on her period...

She's so temperamental — you know how women are so emotional...

That woman only got where she is because of her looks!

If these sentences made you angry or upset, good! They should! If you replaced any of them with another gender or ethnic group, it would be hate-speech and a societal uproar would follow swiftly. While misogyny is a form of hate speech in South Africa, it's telling what little comments we let slip by. According to the Women's Legal Centre, South Africa remains a deeply unequal society in which "womxn bear the brunt in respect of much of the inequality and discrimination."

In a previous column I wrote about gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide, and how this is still commonplace in this country and globally. However, the reason that I'm writing about respecting women is because of what I just went through — a truly life-altering experience. I was in hospital for over a month in preparation for epilepsy resection surgery (which went extremely well — thanks all for your thoughts and prayers!). If it were not for the women and girls in my life and around me, I wouldn't have survived that immensely long time in the hospital itself. My mother, my daughters, my mother-in-law, my sister, my sister-in-law, the sisters and nurses at the hospital, the anaesthesiologist, and my women colleague and friends, and, especially my wife Gabi who was and is a rock, deserve all the praise I can give, and more.

I have been on the Nahum Goldmann Fellowship Network Leadership Seminar, and November's topic was on toxic leadership and toxic masculinity. It was a challenging session, but I came out of it realising that I have a voice to demonstrate that not all males are toxic. Through forums like this column, I can use my voice to encourage those around me to give praise and thanks to the women in their lives, be they romantic, personal, familial, or collegial. No more 'boys will be boys' or 'locker-room talk'. We need to move on and become better men and boys for the sake of humanity — not just for women. It's up to us to be partners to women in the fight against misogyny and GBV.

What can you do to be a partner?

Be mindful of your speech and

actions. If someone says something sexist, hold them accountable. Don't demonstrate toxic behaviour to your children. There were numerous times when I was still teaching that I heard young boys at school behaving awfully towards their girl classmates. Toxic masculinity at school can manifest verbally, physically, or mentally. Too often I heard the word 'girly' being said in a derogatory way, especially towards other boys who were being bullied. This has to stop and it is our duty as parents and teachers to ensure this does not happen in our sacred spaces.

How do we justify these acts of misogyny and violence, in all forms, to our children? Why do our leaders in all phases and places in our lives perpetuate the cycle of abuse? It is not just in broader society that it happens — we Jews are not perfect! We are also guilty of this in many scenarios globally. Just consider the case of Israel's President Moshe Katsav, who was imprisoned for seven years for rape and sexual harassment.

The women and girls in my life are all amazing individuals who deserve the utmost respect and their dignity upheld. I do not want my daughters growing up in a society where they have to fear their superiors if they want a promotion, or be afraid to walk alone in a shopping centre. I want to keep on promoting gender equality and ensuring that we have a sustainable future for our women, which is one of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In fact, if you look at the SDGs, all of them can be related to gender equality, such as equal education (girls should have equal access to STEM subjects), good health and well-being (reproductive rights are the keystone of healthy girls and women — something which our peers in the United States don't understand), and sustainable economic development (women must be included in the economy to ensure a country and region can grow). Women make up 51% of the world — they must be included in everything, without prejudice.

So be a part of the solution — be a mensch. Speak well of these important individuals who give life to the planet and feed us with hope and light.

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.



MENSCH THOUGHT-LEADER OF THE MONTH

Imposter syndrome to leading leaders — a journey to Haifa with family and friends

By Gina Flash, executive director of Mensch

In October this year my personal and professional worlds collided in the northern Israeli city of Haifa.

I had the opportunity to travel again for work for the first time not only since before Covid, but since having my daughter Eden, who is 9-months old and still breastfeeding. An unexpected and deeply forward-thinking 'carer's stipend' from Schusterman Family Philanthropies meant I could attend their alumnus gathering for a Leadership Fellowship I participated in back in 2016, by bringing Eden and my fiancé Emile, to care for her while I worked. I've mentioned this incredible gift to a few working mom friends, and each has commented how impressive and needed this kind of support is if we want to see women grow and excel in positions of leadership, whilst also having families.

Folding stroller and baby carrier in tow, we three boarded an EIAI flight to Ben Gurion!

This was not my first trip to the holy land — I've been blessed with many opportunities to visit Israel; a year programme after matric and several conferences and programmes via my involvement in Netzer and now Mensch. It was though, the first time I could share the experience with my little family. The personal and professional blending in the sights and sounds of Israel.

The Schusterman website describes the goals of the fellowship as being to 'support, cultivate, and invest in exceptional Jewish leaders committed to building and sustaining Jewish non-profits and Israeli civil society.'

The 18-month leadership development programme and lifelong fellowship community offer rising executive-level professionals the opportunity to develop as authentic, dynamic leaders through a robust curriculum, a cohort of peers, and guidance from top coaches and experts.'

I started my fellowship journey in the early stages of setting up Mensch. Fresh from working at the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, I had taken a leap, left my job and was in the process of convincing a well-respected group of community leaders to join the Mensch board. Like many Jewish community professionals I was armed with youth movement leadership, a degree and work experience in something mostly unrelated, and a passion for community work — in my case, engaging the Jewish community in positively transforming South Africa for all!

The fellowship allowed me to develop my leadership, opened my mind, and expanded my professional worldview. It opened up networks, to a diverse, highly professional global Jewish world I previously didn't know existed. My cohort made up of 29 impressive and inspiring Jewish leaders from communities in Sydney, and cities across the US and Israel, became close friends and colleagues I could call on for support and collaboration. Though most of us admit to having a serious case of 'Imposter Syndrome' that we were included in the programme, in the years since, we've all grown into our 'leadership skins' thanks to the incredible support and investment the Schusterman foundation has made in each of us.

Being in-person again, we shared and celebrated our wins, practised deep listening and holding of space for some serious losses in the years since we last met. For me, the fellowship is a space in which I can practice vulnerability, like Brené Brown says:

"Vulnerability is not winning or losing; it's having the courage to show up and be seen when we have no control over the outcome."

There are few spaces in life that offer that kind of non-judgement, yet these are the kind in which people and leaders flourish. My aim in the coming year is to create similar spaces in which others can do the same.

Gina Flash is the founder and executive director of Mensch, the largest Jewish social justice network in Southern Africa. visit www.Mensch.org.za



Gina Flash, baby Eden and Emile Fourie in Jaffa

SIMCHA SNAPS



Brent Chernotsky and Hella Borochowitz Photo: Barclay Studios



Barmitzvah, Casey Levi Meyerowitz Photo: Sheldon Taylor

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Barmitzvah, Dane Gawronsky Photo: Sheldon Taylor

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