

★ JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

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Women's Month: focus on women in business and women's health



The Flower Café — Page 17



Women's Health: The Health Team — Page 22



The Pekel story — Page 17

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Regular contributors

Page 3	Bonny's Beat Shabbat Times Patrons Panel
Page 4	Upcoming community events The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute
Pages 6 - 8	Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies
Page 9	Mensch
Page 10 - 11	Limmud
Page 12 - 13	SA Zionist Federation (Cape Council)
Page 14	Temple Israel
Page 15	Highlands House
Page 18	Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre Nechama
Page 19	United Herzlia Schools
Page 20	Cape Jewish Seniors Association
Page 22	Simcha Snaps
Page 23	SA Jewish Museum
Page 24	Voluntary Subscriptions
Page 25	Jewish Community Services
Page 29	Chronic ads Astra Centre Publish your Rosh Hashana greeting in the Cape Jewish Chronicle

Features and Opinions

Page 4	The Jewish community of South Africa is making moves
Page 16	The Shining Light Awards 2023
Page 16 - 17	Entrepreneurs' Hotspot
Page 18	Our Lily z'l, Glendale Home's own Eshet Chayil
Page 21	Where is the largest mezuzah in the world? July book news
Page 22	Health Focus
Page 23	A samovar returns to its shtetl home
Page 24	Julian Resnick writes from Israel
Page 26	Coping with hate speech
Page 27	Craig Nudelman on recognising our heritage
Page 28	Musical theatre — Cape Town has many performers



8



12

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Bonny's Beat



By Bonny Feldman, Managing Editor Cape Jewish Chronicle

A sense of community

My family recently had quite a traumatic experience when Rex, our family pet, a large cross-breed dog, escaped from our home and went missing for about 28 hours.

While we experienced a great deal of anxiety, worrying about where he might be and whether he would be found alive, the event also demonstrated the concept of community.

One may live one's life quite independently, going through the routine of daily life on one's own — and that may be absolutely fine. But, at a time of crisis, this independence may result in loneliness and a feeling of desperation from carrying such a burden.

But, during our lost dog episode, this did not happen at all. Once the message spread about a missing pet — and went far and wide via social media — we were inundated with offers of support from many people, most of whom were complete strangers to us. Yet these incredibly kind souls gave of themselves and their time, spending hours driving around the Atlantic suburbs and walking around the area in case they spotted Rex.

What a wonderful way to learn about the concept of community. Being aware that other people care and want to help is so important. You realise that you're not on your own. In the process, you also meet people you may never otherwise have

encountered — people with different life experiences, from different cultures and backgrounds. And this can be so rewarding.

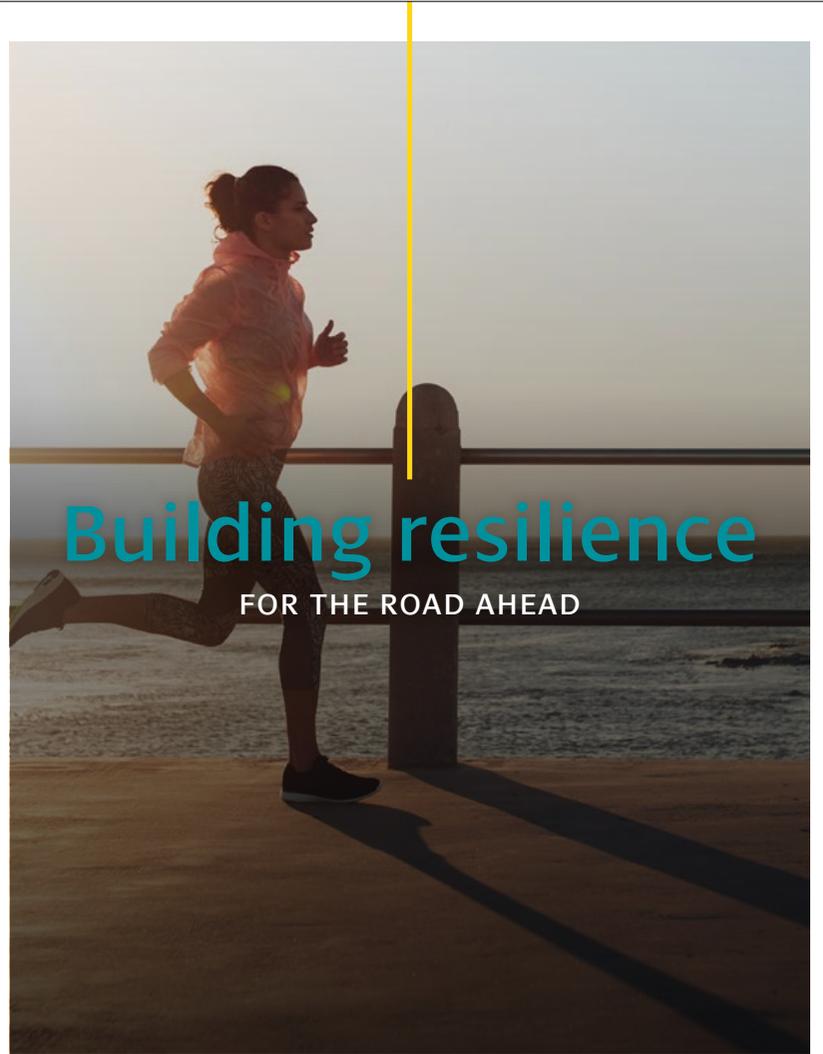
Talking about community, it's fascinating to see the growing Jewish community in Berlin. Who would have thought that a destination at the heart of Nazism in the 1930s and 1940s would have moved so far 80 years later?

You'll see a number of references to Berlin's current Jewish community in this issue of the Chronicle — in the story about the largest mezuzah in the world, in Daniel Bloch's report about his recent trip to the city, and in the article about the launch of Egonne Roth's book.

As for August being Women's Month, we're thrilled to bring you good news stories about women challenging societal limitations by establishing successful businesses of their own — all with the support of ORT Jet Cape Town. Read their inspiring tales on pages 16 and 17.

We've also managed to tap into the brain of local doctor, Lauren Lee — a successful business-owner herself — to share important news about women's health. Read and take heed of the advice offered on page 21.

Our August issue covers a wide range of topics so we're sure there's something in it for everyone. Here's hoping you enjoy it and that you find it thought-provoking!



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Shabbat and Yom Tov Times

Date	Portion	Candle lighting		Ends
		earliest	latest	
4/5 August	18 Av <i>Eikev</i>	17:03	17:51	18:45
11/12 August	25 Av <i>Re'eh</i>	17:07	17:56	18:49
18/19 August	2 Elul <i>Shoftim</i>	17:11	18:01	18:54
25/26 August	9 Elul <i>Ki Teitzei</i>	17:14	18:06	18:58
1/2 September	16 Elul <i>Ki Tavo</i>	17:18	18:10	19:03

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UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Community Organisation	Event	Date	For more info
SA Jewish Museum	Exhibition Synagogues of South Africa – A Historical Photographic Exhibition	Ends 6 August	Click here
	Exhibition & Book Launch Women of Action: A History of the UJW	7 August	Page 23
Jewish Community Services	Pop-up Mall Women's Day – 10am - 4pm	9 August	Page 25
Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre	Exhibition Chayela – Wunderkind of the Vilna Ghetto	Ends during August	Click here
	Exhibition Seeing Auschwitz	3 September	Page 18
Nechama	Skills Development Communication & Counselling Skills course	7, 14, 28 August & 4, 11 September	Click here
	Educational Seminar Finding Courage in the Face of Loss	28 August	Page 18
SAZF Cape Council	Film Screening Cultural Film Club: Fiddler on the Roof	13 August	Click here
Limmud	Conference Limmud Conference 2023	20 August	Pages 10 and 11
Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute	Educational Symposium Living & Engaging Ethically	24 August	Page 4
Mensch	Skills Development Lift Leadership	27 August – 29 October	Click here
ORT Jet Cape Town	Competition Shining Light Awards 2023	Entries close 21 Sept	Page 16
Cape Jewish Seniors Association	Events Programme Weekly in-house programme	Weekly throughout the year	Page 20

The Jewish community of South Africa is making moves

The Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research undertook the first survey of the Jewish community of South Africa since 2005.

The survey was conducted among over four thousand people prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, but the results were finalised and published more recently.

According to Research Officer, Reviva Hasson, "The survey should be viewed as a snapshot in time of the Jewish Community in 2019." However, even though it dates from a little while ago, the picture of the local community is likely to be fairly similar today.

The Cape Jewish Chronicle will bring you information in our next few editions that comes from the survey and that we think is likely to be of interest to you.

The first topic we'd like to share with you concerns the movement of Jews

either domestically or internationally. Around 15% of the surveyed group of people (South African Jews aged 18 and above) indicated that they are likely to leave South Africa.

This desire to leave South Africa is driven largely by 'Concerns about the future of South Africa (political stability/government)'.

Israel is the most popular destination for people as the country they will move to. But there is also a significant desire to move within the country. As regards relocating to another region or city within South Africa, the majority identified Cape Town as the place they would like to move to. The reason for this is the desire for a 'Better lifestyle (cultural life, outdoor life)'.

The report on the 2019 Jewish Community Survey of South Africa (JCSSA) can be found on the Kaplan Centre website. www.kaplancentre.uct.ac.za



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MAKING SENSE AND SEEKING
MEANING

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THE LIMITS OF FORGIVENESS –
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VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Why ChatGPT won't be writing my articles anytime soon

By Adrienne Jacobson, Chairperson, Cape SAJBD

The violin player that has been serenading my relationship with ChatGPT has packed up in despair and gone home in an existential sulk.



Be^Bgging ChatGPT to write an article of 600 words for the Cape Jewish Chronicle on the work of the Board of Deputies and current issues in the Cape Town Jewish community has turned up nothing but bland overtures that just cannot strike the right chord, and literally scores of repetitive and banal drivel. No matter how many times I rephrase the question, it cannot seem to write something constructive and decisive.

Bad music metaphors aside, it would appear that, despite the much lauded Messianic qualities of ChatGPT, it is not the answer to writing this month's View from The Chair. It simply does not understand the unique nuances and ruach of our vibrant Cape Town Jewish Community, nor the complexity and depth of the issues, and political relationships that we are currently navigating.

In fact, one could also argue that social media and ChatGPT only serve to intensify the information dump that keeps us in that repetitive mindless algorithm loop, showing us only more of what we click on in greater varieties of more of the same.

AI really should serve as a reminder to step out of our comfort zone as we scroll through mind-numbing social media and challenge ourselves to think deeper and respond more originally.

Never is this more evident than the increasing volumes of media content and social media, using classic antisemitic tropes woven into anti-Zionist narrative, barely disguised antisemitism, racism and prejudice – much of which has come across our desk at the Cape SAJBD in the past few months. Many will have watched the television interview on Newsroom Afrika, where the AI Jamah spokesperson, Shameemah Dollie Salie, unleashed a wave of hate and intolerance at the LGBTQIA community. Thankfully, she has received major criticism for her words, even being compared to former Apartheid leaders.

Using media to drive a political agenda is nothing new but this has evolved into a toxic triangle between information, knowledge and opinion. This is unacceptable and intolerable. How have we South Africans become so mind-numbingly complacent and disengaged that we are accepting these narratives?

The question we grapple with around the Board table is how, when and on which media platform do we respond, and how best do we tell our story, especially where the platform is hostile. In our Associate Relations subcommittee, we are currently focusing on a media strategy of our own, and embarking on an in-depth analysis of our current media environment, stakeholders and thought leadership. The challenge facing us is how to find media platforms of engagement and communication that will cut through this mindless media loop. How can we engage in critical thought and dialogue in a platform where there is no context or complexity? Sometimes it is better to say nothing and let the flames of a particular issue burn out. Especially on social media when you have the same five people complaining – if the topic gains no traction (very few likes, shares or engagement), then rather let it fizzle out as opposed to giving it any oxygen.

AI really should serve as a reminder to step out of our comfort zone as we scroll through mind-numbing social media and challenge ourselves to think deeper and respond more originally. May we never lose our divine spark of humanity because it is that light that will ultimately banish hate and prejudice.

CONNECT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNITY

Making new friends

By Daniel Bloch, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

At the beginning of July, I spent a week in Berlin, Germany, at the invitation of the German government.



Thirteen others from around the world and I joined a tour of Jewish life in Germany where we were able to learn about this vibrant and growing Jewish community. You can learn more about this community, whom we met with, and the places we visited by reading my article on page 8 of this edition entitled: Experiencing the Jewish Community of Berlin.

Our group was made up of participants from thirteen countries: South Africa, Indonesia, Australia, United States, Latvia, Poland, Belarus, Romania, Israel, Dominican Republic, Argentina, Czech Republic and Spain. During the week in Berlin, I spent almost every minute, day and night, eating, drinking, talking and learning with my new friends. It is quite fascinating to see how much one can learn from someone, based on the environment you find yourself in. For example, when we were in a more formal setting comparing the Berlin Jewish community with other diaspora communities, I learned that the community in the Dominican Republic requires more support teaching young non-Jewish people about the Holocaust. Fast forward a few hours and, when it was only our group having dinner, my new friend from the Dominican Republic told me about her life back home and her three children. Fast forward a few hours later, whilst sharing a glass of wine, we also shared some funny stories and told a few jokes.

In Indonesia, a community of approximately sixty Jews lives among a population of two hundred and twenty Muslims — they seem to get along.

This seemed to be the theme throughout the week. The more time we spent together, the more comfortable we were to share a variety of pieces of information. Did you know that, in Indonesia, a community of approximately sixty Jews lives amongst a population of two hundred and twenty million Muslims – they seem to get along. I also found out that my colleague from Indonesia suffers from insomnia which explains why he was always so tired during the day (he did fall asleep a few times). My friend from New York supports Manchester United so we got along famously; however, being a Rabbi, I don't think he gets to watch as many games as I do over Shabbat. I did meet someone who speaks more than I do – no shock that he is from Israel – a real mensch and someone whom I got to know really well.

Incredibly, I met a young Polish man named Jakub who will be coming to Cape Town in September 2023 to run the Holocaust & Genocide Centre. I was extremely surprised to learn of this revelation and realised that, for the rest of the trip, I had to be on my best behaviour! Our meeting in Berlin was fortuitous and we were able to share stories and get to know each other. Hopefully, this will make his and his family's transition into Cape Town community life a little easier. We also seem to share the same dry humour – not sure if that is a good thing though?

I went to Berlin to learn about the community there, represent the South African Jewish community and try to see what lessons we can learn and what can be shared. I didn't expect to make new friends, however, but we are already continuing the discussions via WhatsApp. You may find me appearing on a Jewish television show in Buenos Aires, or mentioned in an article in Israel, or even attending the next Jewish film festival in Barcelona. With so many friends based all over the world, the question is – where to next?



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Let's continue to grow and strengthen our Jewish community!



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Experiencing the Jewish community of Berlin

By Daniel Bloch, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD

In early March, the German Consul General, Tanja Werheit, nominated me to participate in a programme on Jewish life in Germany, organised by the German Federal Government.

Humbly accepting the nomination and joining thirteen other communal leaders, I embarked on a trip to Berlin to learn about how this has become the fastest growing Jewish community in the diaspora, to learn about Holocaust education, and how they deal with the challenges of antisemitism.

Our group comprised of directors of museums and holocaust centres, members of Jewish councils, journalists and Rabbonim. It was a diverse group of men and women from all over the world: South Africa, Indonesia, Latvia, Argentina, Israel, Spain, Belarus, Dominican Republic, Czech Republic, Poland, United States, Australia and Romania. Over the next week, we would become friends and learn more about one another's communities as well as our shared challenges and opportunities.

The week-long programme was well organised and packed with a variety of meetings, sightseeing and learning opportunities. We met with government and civil society institutions at the German Bundestag, the German Federal Agency for Civic Education, the foundation EVZ in memory of the victims of National Socialist injustice, Kreuzberg Initiative Against Antisemitism, the Association of Counselling Centers for Victims of Right-wing-Racist and Antisemitic Violence, and the Federal Association of Departments for Research and Information on Antisemitism. We also met with the Central Council of Jews which, similar to the SAJBD, protects the civil rights of the Jews in Germany. We explored Jewish culture within the community, visiting the Jewish Museum as well as an emotional visit to the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum – one of the first concentration camps. One evening we were treated to various Jewish film screenings



Group photo at the Jewish Museum Berlin

at the cinema *Filmkunst 66*. We also had enlightening conversations with community members from Makkabi Berlin, the Jewish Students Union of Germany, the Christian Democratic Union, various journalists, students from the Jewish High School Moses Mendelssohn, as well as Rabbi Yehuda Teichtal of Chabad Berlin.

I learned much about the Jewish community in Berlin. Firstly, the government funds the Jewish communal organisations which is part of their commitment not only to acknowledge the contribution made by German Jewry but also to ensure the sustainability and growth of this vibrant community. Secondly, antisemitism is on the rise in Germany and both government and civil society are committed to Holocaust education, combating antisemitism, and putting an end to violent acts against the Jewish community. Unfortunately, despite the advantages of living in Berlin, the reality is that most Jews do not feel safe walking around proudly displaying their Magen Davids, wearing their Yarmies and openly celebrating their Judaism. The security at each of the Jewish installations is noticeably high – I was interrogated upon my arrival at the local shul.

Whilst the aim of this tour was to showcase Jewish life in Berlin, we learned so much about diaspora Jewry from each of the members of our group. There is a Jewish community in Indonesia where 60 Jews live amongst 220 million Muslims – thanks to the work of Rabbi Yaakov Baruch. Journalist Brenda Paula hosts a TV programme on Jewish life for *Television Publica* in Argentina and, soon, there will be eight Holocaust & Genocide Centres in Australia, with Kathy Baykitch running the Adelaide Holocaust Museum. There were so many interesting individuals on the tour and I learned much from each of them.

However, one thing is clear: we all have a love for our Yiddishkeit, a deep-rooted religious connection with Israel and a clear mission to educate our neighbours about our communities.

We have similar challenges related to antisemitism, shrinking communities and a lack of involvement from our young adults; however, we are still committed to making each of our communities the very best they can be. No matter whether you live in the Dominican Republic, Belarus or Poland, we are all Jewish and share a very special connection.



Daniel at the Brandenburg Gate



Torah on display at the Jewish Museum in Berlin.



East Side Gallery – 1.3km long remaining piece of the Berlin Wall



Memorial to the murdered Jews of Europe



Memorial statue at the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum



THE LEADING JEWISH SOCIAL CHANGE NETWORK IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Honey for Change – a sweet new year



On Rosh Hashanah, we dip apples in honey and wish one another L'Shanah Tova U'Metuka – have a sweet and happy New Year.

That's why, this Rosh Hashanah, we are proud to bring you this sweet gift — a jar of honey produced in South Africa, alongside our partners, The Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and Mensch network member organisation Ripples for Change, as part of JDC's Ubuntu Beekeeping Project.

JDC is the leading global Jewish humanitarian organisation, who for

more than 109 years, has been helping the world's most vulnerable people begin anew. Whether they're delivering life-saving aid to those affected by the recent magnitude-7.8 earthquake in Turkey or setting up medical clinics for refugees fleeing the Ukraine crisis, they are the Jewish hands that help communities of all backgrounds and faiths rebuild — ensuring a future that is vibrant, safe, and, yes, sweet.

We are so proud to be the JDC's official Jewish South African partners on the ground and to bring this project to our community.

The Ubuntu Beekeeping Project empowers women in rural South Africa to foster sustainable livelihoods. Through our visionary programme, these women receive comprehensive support to develop successful honey production businesses — beekeeping training, beehive installation assistance, financial education, and mentorship from experienced women entrepreneurs. This programme enables the women to boost their income, enhance food security, and create a brighter future for themselves and their families. By investing in bees and nurturing their natural ecosystem, these

resilient women become successful entrepreneurs and advocates for sustainability. Their achievements not only inspire others but also contribute to the preservation of biodiversity and the vital role of pollination in our environment.

You will soon be able to purchase a sweet gift of honey from this project at retailers in our community! Check the Mensch website and our social media for more information!

L'Shanah Tovah U'Metuka! From all of us at Mensch!

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MENSCH THOUGHT-LEADER OF THE MONTH

On learning from sex workers

By Maria Stacey

“When I worked in the brothel in Hillbrow, I felt like a queen. If I ever lose this job, I will have no hesitation about going back there. Besides, I earned much more than I do now.”

I had just started working at SWEAT (Sex Workers Education and Advocacy Taskforce) in 2010 and was driving to a meeting with one of my new colleagues, a former sex worker. As we drove, she spoke about her experiences in the industry. It was one of my many conversations which, over time, shattered the stereotypes I had previously held.

I had been asked by SWEAT to help set up a national HIV prevention programme for sex workers. I accepted the offer with curiosity. As a community psychologist, I had worked with other groups who were marginalised, stigmatised, blamed or misunderstood. Over and over again, I was surprised as my preconceptions about these ‘unfortunate’ groups of people, were smashed. As people from backgrounds completely different to my own took me into their confidence, I was constantly humbled by their rich humanity. I realised that I had been guilty of a well-meaning but patronising pity. I had fallen into the trap of what writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie calls “the single story”.

The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story.

And so, when I started at SWEAT, I had only known a single story about sex workers. It is probably the same story that you, the reader of this article, have always heard. That sex workers were probably sexually abused as children. They probably started when they were teenagers. They are mostly drug addicts. What else? Most have pimps or are victims of human trafficking. And presumably sex workers would rather be doing anything else and should be supported to exit the industry and develop other skills.

Between 2010 and 2016, I was responsible for setting up and managing South Africa's first national sex worker programme, funded by the Global Fund for HIV, TB and Malaria. Here, sex workers are provided with peer support, education, condoms, group activities, and biomedical, psychosocial and human rights services. I also set up a national toll-free 24-hour helpline, staffed by sex workers who have been trained as counsellors. The programme has made a significant contribution to preventing HIV; keeping HIV-positive sex workers healthy; strengthening sexual and reproductive health; improving human rights; reducing violence, stigma and discrimination; and improving psychosocial well-being and social capital.

I have probably personally engaged with about 6,000 sex workers in every province, and beyond our borders. I have spoken to them in their homes, in brothels, in taverns, at truck stops, and on street corners from Komatipoort to Mafikeng and

from Musina to Cape Town. I have met their children, their partners, their parents. We have lobbied, marched and protested together. We have danced and laughed and partied together. Some are my close friends.

Many enter the industry ‘needing money for everyday life’ and to support their family. When I ask about a pimp, they laugh and say, “Oh, like in American movies” or “We don't need anything like that”.

It is true that some sex workers hate their work and are disgusted and traumatised. But I have met many who enjoy it and would not want to do anything else. For most though, it is just a job. It certainly has plenty of disadvantages, but it has advantages too – flexible working hours, good money, being self-employed.

My aim with this article is not to counter the stereotype of the ‘sex worker as victim’ with one of the ‘happy hooker’. It is to show that, like all of us, sex workers are infinitely complex human beings. To end with another quote from Chimamanda Adichie:

“The consequence of the single story is this: It robs people of dignity. It makes our recognition of our equal humanity difficult. It emphasises how we are different rather than how we are similar.”



Maria Stacey is a clinical psychologist and consultant specialising in public health, human rights and social justice, and a member of The Mensch Network. To learn more about her work visit www.mensch.org.za and select Network Members.

[back to contents](#)

Meet some of the Limmud speakers

Dov Stern



Greg Alexander



Gareth Kantor



Ilana Stein



Nicki Brivik



Bryan Opert



Jessica Jantjies



Yael Sherer



Allison Kaplan Sommer



Omer Benjakob



Andrea Ausztrics



Ashley Fischhoff



Tamir Hod



Dov Lipman



Michal Zoran



Sarah Levy



Andi Kuti



Joel Haber



Naomi Ferziger



Neil Janes



David Fenster



Carol Musikanth



Gergő Borbás



Jeffrey Veidlinger



Karen Kallmann



Adam Ferziger



Natasha Hausdorff



Dennis Davis



Malcom Matitiani



Barbara Nussbaum



Reuel Khosa



Adrienne Jacobson



Daniel Bloch



Erin Dodo



Philip Miller



LIMMUD... ALL THIS AND MORE...

Omer Benjakob: Wikipedia - the politics of knowledge in English and Hebrew
Disinformation-as-a-Service: Going Undercover

Sarah Levy: No Laughing Matter? Humour during the Holocaust

Greg Alexander: When your head and heart hurt - a breathing meditation

Natasha Hausdorff: Defining Anti Zionism and Antisemitism
Israel in the International Arena: Law of Armed Conflict and Human Rights

Andrea Ausztrits: Documentary - Young Jews in Budapest, the third Generation of Hungarian Jews after the Holocaust
Self-publishing - what and why we share

Gareth Kantor: How Jews and Ping Pong Made China Great Again

Dov Lipman: Religion and State in Israel: Where are we Heading?
Jewish Philosophy for Teenagers: Answering Questions about Judaism

Naomi Ferziger: Ability, Disability, and Accessibility: Moses, the Leader of a Developing Nation
The Revelation at Sinai: A Multisensory Experience

Jeffrey Veidlinger: Marc Chagall and the Soviet Yiddish Theatre
The Holocaust in Ukraine

Dov Stern: Letting go: A workshop exploring the lessons after amputation

David Fenster: Interactive rhythm workshop without musical instruments
Biblical Bangers and Bashers! Drumming in Jewish sources

Yael Sherer: From Personal Trauma to Social Activism and Advocacy

Adam Ferziger: Ashes to Outcasts to Martyrs: Cremation and Jewish Identity before and after the Holocaust
Female Clergy in Male Space

Nicki Brivik: Bridging the Oy-gasm Gap

Joel Haber: A Land of Milk and Muffetta: At the Crossroads of Israel's Cuisine and Culture
The Original Culinary Movers and Shakers: Jews as Transporters of Food

Andi Kuti: Creating your own ritual

Dennis Davis: The crisis of constitutional democracy: South Africa as a case study

Gergő Borbás: Design Thinking: the Solution to Wicked Problems
Personal Histories - Theatre in Holocaust Education

Ashley Fischhoff: From Vine to Glass: Women Farmworkers and the History of Wine Production in the Cape

Michal Zoran: Tell me a joke in Hebrew - Israeli Humour in comedy and stand up

Allison Kaplan Sommer: From Golda to Gal Gadot: The Triumphs and Trials of Israeli Women
Behind Today's Headlines: Israel's Turbulent Political Reality Explained

Ilana Stein: Tikkun Olam – a Jewish Concept or a Retrofit?

Neil Janes: When The Mishnah Met AI

Jessica Jantjies: Unveiling Hidden Threads: A Journey of Discovery, Heritage, and Belonging

Tamir Hod: Israel Police Unit for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes – Holocaust Survivors' Legal Retribution
Bob Dylan BLVD Corner Leonard Cohen Street

For the full programme see www.limmud.org.za

Bookings through Quicket

Venue: Cape Town Jewish Community Centre

09h00 to 18h00 on Sunday 20th August





As water flows, peace may come

As a leader in the management of national water supplies, Israel is using its expertise to assist people elsewhere to maximise water resources with a view to creating a sustainable future.

And this includes our own country. As we know only too well in Cape Town, climate change is having a dramatic effect in many parts of the world, resulting in severe drought, followed by floods. Add to that the impact of polluted water that causes the blight of cholera in many parts of the country.

A recent visit to South Africa by a delegation from the Israel Water Authority, organised by the KKL-JNF, highlights what can be achieved in the sustainability of water resources for the years ahead when there is proper planning and management.

Over the years, Israel has developed a sophisticated approach to understanding how to manage water resources — a focus driven largely by the reality of significant desert areas within the tiny state, as well as the increasingly lower rainfall figures that the country experiences. It shares its learnings among its Middle Eastern neighbours, and with countries on the African continent. Through the efforts of the Agency, significant quantities of water are sold to Jordan, a country with severely constrained supplies of water, helping to cement the peace treaties that the two countries have signed. In addition, previously unthinkable contact has been made with Bahrain, Oman, the UAE, and Sudan — all driven by concerns about sustainable supplies of water.

According to Yechezkel Lifshitz, Director General and Chairman of the Board of the Governmental Authority for Water and Sewage of Israel, “Israel’s success in the management of water resources goes back to the early years of the State. In the 1960s, for instance, it became clear that an intervention was needed to turn the town of Eilat in the Negev Desert into a viable location for people to live and work in. It was then that a major desalination plant was constructed, and today Eilat has a constant supply of water.”

Access to reliable water supplies has also allowed the country to develop a thriving agricultural sector. Whereas the country initially used potable water for all water needs, a shift has been made to the use of treated sewage for agriculture and other sectors. “Now, we use 85% of the country’s treated sewage for the growing of food,” Lifshitz explains. “This is a far higher percentage of treated sewage use than in other countries.”

In addition to assistance with the management of water resources, Israeli experts work on projects organised by the KKL-JNF in various African countries, such as Kenya, Chad and Ethiopia. Many of these projects are led by Yehonatan Bar Yosef, Project Manager — Water Quality, Management & Ecology.

In the South African context, the Israeli delegation met with various local government authorities, but our national government chose not to engage with the experts. “It is indeed sad that our government chooses this route, which is to the detriment of the citizens of the country,” comments Advocate Jonathan Silke, Honorary Life President of the SAZF Cape Council.

Water management is yet another of Israel’s miracles. And the country has demonstrated its willingness to share its expertise across the world.



Ambassador Eli Belotsercovsky, Orna Toeg (Head of South Africa Desk – KKL), Adv Jonathan Silke, Rowan Polovin, Yechezkel Lifshitz (Director General and Chairman of the Board of the Governmental Authority for Water and Sewage of Israel), Dr Yehonatan Ben Yosef (Project Manager, Water quality management and ecology at Jewish National Fund KKL), Tamar Lazarus, Philip Krawitz, Rabbi Sam Thurgood



Introducing Nava Feta Getahun — Trade Attaché at the Israeli Trade Office, with Esta Levitas and Jonathan Silke

Winter Appeal 2023

A collaboration between South African Zionist Federation — Cape Council, South African Friends of Israel, Bnoth Zion WIZO Cape Town and Union Of Jewish Women Cape Town resulted in an incredible day filled with the spirit of Tikkun Olam.

We reached out to our wonderful community who opened their hearts wider than ever before! The pictures speak for themselves.

A special word of thanks to all who gave so generously and to the many sponsors who joined us to make this day so successful. We witnessed the joy and relief on the faces of those who received these much-needed resources. Their generosity has not only helped in meeting the immediate needs of these communities but it has also given them hope and reminded them that they are not alone in their struggles.

Thank you to our dear friend, Pastor Barry Isaacs, who connected us to Gloria and the wonderful work she does through Abbas Restoration House Ministry.

Sponsors: Hungry Lion, Checkers Constantia Emporium, Cape Union Mart. Photography by Guy Lerner

Click here to watch a video of the Winter Appeal handover





Netzer fires it up this the winter season

This past month has been a big step for Netzer as the winter season is when we embrace our Netzer spirit and encourage our channichimot to join us for Summer Machaneh. We've spent our June and July training and refreshing new maddrichimot in all things Netzer, as well as hosting two big events: our Cape Town Winter Day Camps and Winter Shabbaton Nilmad V'Na'aseh.



Netzer at Zeitz MOCAA

Our first Hadrachah seminar for the winter was from Friday 16 June to Saturday 17 June, accompanied by a Shabbat Netzer service that we hosted on the Friday night at Temple Israel Wynberg. We moved into our Winter Day Camps which ran from 3 to 7 July. We took our channichimot for both fun and empowering outings and activities, such as a visit to Clay Cafe, outreach activities, visiting Zeitz MOCAA and hiking Silvermine.

We then jumped right into our Winter Shabbaton planning with our second Hadrachah seminar, running from 10 to 13 July, and having our Shabbaton Nilmad V'Na'aseh from 14 - 16 July. We were at the Habonim campsite in Onrus and spent the weekend empowering our channichimot to be the future leaders of the Netzer movement by educating them on its structure and runnings.

Julian Gordon and Ghaim Atash

Bnei Akiva — winter camp adventures



Madrachim and Channichim all ready for Shabbat

Winter Camp was non-stop fun! We played laser tag, capture the flag, had boat races, learnt at EQT, ran around in the wind and rain, pet baby animals, had a super cool movie night and dance party and, as always, enjoyed a world-class shtick! Grade 8 channie, Ora Martin, says, "My favourite memory on Winter Camp was at the end of camp when one of my friends pied me in the face. My favourite tochnit was when we did karaoke and sang the song 'Baby' by Justin Bieber."

Rosh Winter Camp, Jethro Klitzner, says, "I was so proud to see the large number of channies who had

never experienced a winter camp before absolutely love it. My favourite memory from Winter Camp was watching the different shichvas perform their showcase projects on Saturday night, as well as singing with everyone around the bonfire... also trying to catch a pheasant that escaped from the petting zoo."

If you would like to become involved in Bnei to make friends, explore Judaism, go on adventures and meet amazing role models, please reach out! We have activities every second Sunday! You can contact Ayelet at 083 225 3713.

*Kadimah Bnei Akiva!
By Jessica Conné*

Habonim — second half of year in gear!

It's been a month of amazing international experiences for our Habonim members — with trips to Budapest and Israel (via the Shorashim programme) taking place.

A delegation of 15 maddrichim and our eight Shnatties were maddies on Camp Hallelujah, a summer camp run by Habonim Dror Olami, where hundreds of kids from around the world (Israel, Hungary, Ukraine, Italy, etc.) take part in a week-long programme run by our South African Madrichim. It was an amazing success, with all the children having a fantastic experience and our maddrichim coming back feeling refreshed and inspired for the rest of the year.

Our Grade 10 channichim enjoyed an amazing two-week tour around Israel, led by three maddrichim — Gina Levi, Brad Lubner and Ruby Gimpel. For many, this was their first taste of a Habonim programme, and we couldn't be more excited that they were able to go on Shorashim with us



Shorashim group in the Old City of Jerusalem, at the Hurva Synagogue

and start their journey in HDSA.

We were also able to run two seminars this month — Hanhaggah Sem II and Va'ad Machaneh Seminar (VM Sem). Hanhaggah Sem II was held in Johannesburg and granted the leadership of the movement an opportunity to reflect on the first six months and make plans for the rest of the year. VM Sem was held on the campsite for all the Roshim of Machaneh this December, meaning that preparation is well underway for a huge Machaneh this year!

*Aleh V'Hagshem! Jeffrey Gutman,
S'gan Mazkira Klali*

Diller — Israel summer seminar 2023!

Seven countries, 32 communities, 700 Diller Teen Fellows and countless memories. Diller Teen Fellows Cape Town had the privilege of experiencing Israel Summer Seminar (ISS) this July.



The month was filled with engaging guest speakers, meaningful site visits, a special host family experience with our partners in Shoham, and connections made with like-minded teens from all over the world.

Highlights included an International Shabbaton where we explored our Jewish identity and practices in meaningful ways; Community Week in Shoham, when we were hosted by the most generous and loving Israeli families; and, of course, Global Congress, the gathering of all Diller Fellows from across the globe to learn, engage and connect.

Speaking of the experience, Diller Fellow, Ethan Werb, says, "ISS has been a life-changing experience. Meeting incredible people from all around Israel and the world has

really helped expose me to different beliefs, opinions, and backgrounds, which has furthered my leadership skills immensely. ISS has been a great learning experience and simultaneously is a fun, energetic, and joyful journey filled with many great memories to be made. I stand by the statement that Diller is a place where diverse people unite as one powerful Jewish family, empowering the leadership of the future."

If you're currently in Grade 10 and are interested in applying for Diller Teen Fellows Cape Town 2023-2024, please follow us on Instagram at @diller.capetown and be the first to know when applications open for Cohort 9.

*Martine Kawalsky Katz,
Diller Teen Fellows Cape Town
Program Coordinator*

Mandela Day

On Sunday, 16 July, Temple Israel commemorated Mandela Day by making sandwiches at the Green Point campus. Almost 3,000 sandwiches were made in 67 minutes and were distributed to shelters and feeding schemes around Cape Town. Thank you to everyone who participated on the day.



Happy Mandela Day!



Ruth and Rodney Melmed, Lara Goldin, Kelly Phillips, Ian Morris, Kylie Hobson, Diana Sochen and Yvette Polovin



Helena Anastasopoulos, Kelly James, Rabbi Emma Gottlieb, Bev Lyons, Levi and Emma Maritz making sandwiches together



Glendale residents and carers celebrating Mandela Day with us

Mazaltov to last month's Bnei Mitzvah!



Mia Kerzner 13 July



Oliver Hendler 29 July

Consider This

Tzedek Tirdof – the pursuit of justice in acknowledging the history of our land

By Rabbi Emma Gottlieb

Recently, in Parashat Pinchas, we read about the five daughters of Tzelophechad.

In many contemporary Jewish communities, when we read this biblical tale, we focus on its notable implications for women. But the Torah is actually doing more than affirming women's rights in relation to land inheritance. The Torah is also teaching us the importance of acknowledging the history of land and land-ownership.

In South Africa, of course, this is an ongoing issue of importance, as it is in most countries with histories of colonialism. All over the world, well-meaning and good people live on land that at some point was taken from the indigenous population by force.

As 21st century Jews, we can say that this history has nothing to do with us today, or we can lean into the Jewish values of *Tirdof Tzedek* (the pursuit of justice) and *Tikkun Olam* (the repair of our world), and educate ourselves about restorative justice and reparations in our world today by finding out what our governments are (or are not) doing to correct the injustices of history, and we can advocate for continued work in this area. Some parts of the world are well ahead of others in this process. In Canada, and in Australia and New Zealand, one way they address the history of injustice in relation to land

ownership is by having and using land acknowledgements – statements at the beginning of ceremonies and events in public, faith-based, and education-related spaces.



I want to share with you an example from my recent trip to Toronto, where I visited Temple Har Zion, the shul where I grew up. In their weekly 'Daf' equivalent, they include the following land acknowledgement:

"At Temple Har Zion we acknowledge that we are situated on Traditional Territories and Treaty Lands. The territories include the Wendat, Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations, and the Metis Nation. As Jews and as a community, may we always strive to fulfil our Jewish value of *Tzedek Tirdof* – the pursuit of justice in our society. We pray for healing in the communities and families of all who experienced residential schools, comfort for all those grieving, and strength for all to pursue reconciliation."

As I read these powerful words, I wondered what it could mean, and what the impact might be for South African communities (faith-based and beyond) to begin to adopt a similar tradition.

Perhaps it may one day begin with us.

Netzer winter day camps



Rollercade day



Hike up to Elephants Eye



The SA Jewish Museum



Putt-putt fun!



Kirstenbosch



Highlands House
Aged Residential Care for Our Community



To the **199** amazing women on staff who bring joy and love to us, and our community's older persons

Thank You

#SeeHer
#HighlandsPride
#WomensMonth



Highlands House
Aged Care for Our Community
highlandshouse.co.za/donate



ENTREPRENEURS' HOTSPOT

Support for local entrepreneurs

The World Economic Forum projected that South Africa's rate of unemployment in 2023 would be the worst in the world — at 35,6%. That being the case despite our country being the most industrialised on the African continent.

The joblessness scenario has been with us for at least two decades but things have become even worse since the Covid pandemic. Coupled with this is the fact that our economic growth rate has been extremely slow for an extended period, as well as the reality of harsh employment laws which have resulted in employers' reluctance to hire staff.

It is against this backdrop that the Jewish community has put significant weight behind various initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship among our people. We see this through initiatives for youth — exposing young people to successful entrepreneurs and to like-minded young people in Israel, for instance — as well as through the work of the Cape SAJBD in partnership with Entrepreneurs' Network, ORT Jet Cape Town, and Over the Rainbow. ORT Jet Cape Town is dedicated to the provision of support for entrepreneurs from within the community.

According to Lisa Sandler, Head of ORT Jet Cape Town, "ORT Jet is part of ORT SA CAPE. Established over a decade ago in Cape Town to support and empower small- and medium-sized businesses in our community, we use the skills, resources and business knowledge we already have among members of our community to offer quality guidance to budding business-owners."

The ORT Jet approach is based on four elements:

- A mentorship programme
- Business networking opportunities
- Entrepreneurial training
- Business talks and webinars.

The reach is impressive: well over 1000 Cape Town entrepreneurs benefited from some form of support during 2022, and about 100 gained from the exposure to mentors. In addition, numerous others attended events and training offered by the organisation.

If you want to find out more about how ORT Jet can help you on your entrepreneurial journey, contact lisa@ortjetcapetown.org.za or nicole@ortjetcapetown.org.za.



Community members attending an ORT Jet event, earlier this year



Masterclass with Dr Justin Cohen, hosted at Deloitte. ORT Jet Cape Town's Lisa Sandler pictured on the right



The Shining Light Awards 2023



Shining Light Awards Ceremony 2022, with the Top 10 entrepreneurs

These awards recognise exceptional entrepreneurs, because we believe entrepreneurs have a huge role to play in our country's economy. That's why we're looking for the most impactful, resilient, inspiring entrepreneurs in the Western Cape.

There are two categories: 1. *The Shining Light Entrepreneur Award* — awarded to an entrepreneur who is setting a benchmark for success in the business world. 2. *The Shining Light Social Entrepreneur Award* — awarded to an entrepreneur who is making a tangible and positive impact on their community.

We invite you to enter, or to nominate an amazing entrepreneur to take part in the 4th annual Shining Light Awards. Applications opened on 28 July and the awards ceremony will take place on 22 November.

Email: shininglightawards2023@gmail.com

Apply [here](#)

Nominate an entrepreneur [here](#)



ENTREPRENEURS' HOTSPOT

Cape Town women partner with ORT Jet to drive business success

This being Women's Month, we are focusing on three businesses that are thriving as a result of the support and guidance from ORT Jet Cape Town

Pickling is good business

Anyone with a love of spicy food is bound to be keen on pickled jalapeños, but finding a tasty jar of this delicacy in Cape Town proved to be a challenge for one local Jewish family.

It was the search for the perfect pickled jalapeño that led Sea Point resident, Sandy Goldberg, to start her food business, Pekel.

Sandy's husband, a food aficionado, loves crunchy pickled jalapeños, but nothing available on supermarket or deli shelves in Cape Town satisfied his taste. And so Sandy decided to try to make the perfect pickled jalapeño. The results proved not only to make her husband happy — his work colleagues loved it, too, and this led to enquiries for Sandy to make more of these to sell to others.

Four years later, Sandy's range of pickles has expanded. Now, in addition to the jalapeños, she makes various other pickled vegetables, seasonings and relish.

Helping turn what started out as something just for the family into a thriving business depended on support from various people. And Sandy is thrilled about the assistance she received from ORT Jet. "At one point, I realised that I needed guidance about how to deal with certain things, such as how to cope with bulk orders, how to price bulk orders, how to manage my cash flow," she explains. ORT Jet allocated a dedicated mentor to her, and she has learned many valuable business lessons in the process, allowing the business to grow substantially and to fill a void in the food market.

You can find Pekel products at a number of local delis and at the Sea Point Spar and the Cape Quarter Spar. Look for Pekel-branded jars of pickled foods in the refrigerated

'Pekel' is a Yiddish word, meaning 'parcel'. It symbolises sharing a parcel of food with neighbours and family. Coincidentally, the word also means 'brine' in Afrikaans and Dutch.



A seed planted during the pandemic blossoms today

While the Covid pandemic brought misery to many business-owners, and the loss of numerous enterprises, for some people it created new, unexpected opportunities.

This was the case for Veronica Yankelowitz, who had been at the helm of the Petals Group, an industry leader in the luxury weddings, florals and corporate events space.

"When the pandemic hit, events came to a standstill, and we knew that we were not likely to survive," she explains. Motivated by the need to ensure that the 20 staff members working beside her — a group of people she regards as her family — could continue to pay rent, put food on the table, and send their children to school, they decided to do something that would keep things going.

Although the business lost its working capital having to pay back the deposits for events that had been planned for the next few months, she and her team still felt that they could do something and so, using their in-depth knowledge of event-planning, they identified a few key things to focus on. Veronica explains that, "We knew that we had to create something that would make people happy, something to trigger the senses, something that would be unexpected and different, and ideally something that would be aesthetically pleasing." This led to the creation of a business called The Flower Café, located in Woodstock.

It's a place offering people the chance to unwind and be creative, all within the theme of flowers. Customers can take classes in flower-arranging, attend workshops offered by others in the creative industry, or visit the venue to enjoy the tranquillity of the environment over a cup of coffee and a piece of cake. In addition, the Flower Café provides



bouquets of flowers for delivery as gifts.

It's taken a huge amount of versatility from the entire team, as job roles changed dramatically and instantly. "Drivers had to become baristas, and everyone had to learn to bake cakes and biscuits, no matter what their work had been beforehand," she says. "And because we'd lost the capital that would have kept us going for at least a year, we had to beg, borrow and... no, we didn't steal! But we got through those early, very challenging times — and three years later the business is thriving."

Veronica has been astounded by the response of the public to the concept of the business. In earlier days, there were times when they doubted that they could continue — and then bookings would just come in, and she knew that things were back on track. Confirmation that they had created something unique and sustainable came externally when the Flower Café was named as a finalist in the ORT Jet Small Business of the Year competition, and even more so when it was listed as one of the top 10 businesses in Cape Talk's Small Business of the Year competition.

For Veronica, the support from ORT Jet Cape Town — and specifically from Lisa Sandler — has been crucial in turning this into more than a knee-jerk reaction to the need for survival after the shock of the pandemic. "The great guidance and support available has been truly amazing," she enthuses, "and I'd recommend ORT Jet to other entrepreneurs in a heartbeat!"

A business with purpose and passion

'Purpose' and 'passion' are key characteristics of the make-up of local entrepreneur with international experience, Danielle Ehrlich. Clearly part of her own identity, she embraces these concepts within her work, too.

It's difficult to categorise Danielle's business, *True Story Studio*, because setting it within parameters just goes against the grain for Danielle. Using the skills she learned during her studies in the field of interior design — skills that are essentially about finding solutions to challenges — Danielle has taken on a wide range of clients, providing a variety of services that includes design and branding, working on company culture, creative thinking to solve business problems, media, marketing, and business and ecological sustainability.

As she explains, "If a project speaks to me, if

I feel that what is wanted is in line with my own sense of purpose, I will take the work on and find the approach needed, even if it's beyond my own comfort zone or experience. Each time this happens, I learn so much more and expand my skills." Danielle follows a human-centred design focus. "It's important to bring your people along on the journey of your business — collaboration is crucial," she says.

Talking of collaboration, it's ORT Jet's collaborative approach over more than seven years that has helped Danielle grow her business into what it is today. She is extremely appreciative of the support and guidance she has received from ORT Jet, commenting that, "The mentorship has been wonderful. I've been privileged to have met a number of truly unbelievable people as mentors, and the mentorship has been so vital to the sustainability and growth of my firm."

The business is today well established enough for Danielle not to have to "chase work anymore". She has built up a portfolio of loyal clients, and now brings in new business largely through word-of-mouth recommendations.

"Today, I am able to maintain a great work-life balance because my business has grown into a solid and sustainable firm. The timing has been perfect because I had my first child a year ago, and I love being a work-from-home mom: I run my business at the same time as being there for my daughter."

Yet another thriving woman-owned business that owes its success, at least in part, to ORT Jet!



Our Lily z"l, Glendale Home's own Eshet Chayil

Glendale home cares for those in our community with severe intellectual disabilities.

Providing personal care, social, vocational, educational, residential, spiritual, financial, and healthcare services, Glendale has grown from its humble beginnings in 1966 to a core provider of the community's support services for the disabled.

It owes its existence to a small group of Jewish Capetonians, who identified the need for such a home. An important voice in the Jewish community of Cape Town, Lily Cammerman z"l was a key figure in this group and, on her passing during July, we remember her contribution with great fondness.

The tribute from Glendale recorded that, "Lily was a founding member of Glendale home. Over the years, she drove many fundraising initiatives for the home, working closely with our families. Her dedication to our cause and deep love for both our residents and heroes have earned her an honorary lifetime membership of our governing board."

Lily's immense contribution will be missed. She remains in the hearts and minds of many Capetonians as her communal legacy shines bright through the lives of all those she loved and cared for.



New Director of the Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre

The Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre is happy to announce the appointment of a new Director, Jakub Nowakowski.

Jakub is currently the Director of the Galicia Jewish Museum in Kraków, Poland, and will take up his new position in September 2023. He brings with him a wealth of experience in the fields of Holocaust and genocide studies and education, Jewish history, and Polish-Jewish relations.

Jakub was born and raised in Kazimierz, the former Jewish district of Kraków. Coming from a non-Jewish family living in Kazimierz for generations, he was motivated from an early age to research the history of his neighbourhood. In 2007 he graduated from the Department of Jewish Studies at the Jagiellonian University, where he wrote a thesis on Jewish resistance in Kraków during the Second World War.

In his 13 years as director, Jakub has established the Galicia Jewish Museum as a major institution, both nationally and internationally. He has co-authored many publications and curated various exhibitions which have been mounted in Poland and internationally. He has presented and lectured widely across the world, including in South Africa, and gained international recognition for his knowledge, passion and unique insider's perspective on Polish-Jewish relations in contemporary Poland.

In a recent article, Jakub stated that, "The past is so important precisely because it allows us to understand the present, and thus try to create a slightly better future." He emphasises the importance of education and conversations around how hate, exclusion and deprivation of basic human rights, left unchecked, can lead to devastating consequences.

We look forward to welcoming Jakub, his wife, Gosia, and two young sons to Cape Town, and are confident that his knowledge, leadership and expertise will take the Centre to new and exciting heights.



FINDING COURAGE IN THE FACE OF LOSS

CELEBRATING OUR 10TH SEMINAR

Join us for an insightful and uplifting day with presenters who will share their knowledge and experience ranging from personal stories of coping with grief to accounts of mental health experts, medical doctors, authors and community leaders

Dr Anthony Jackson
No Feeling is Final

Carin Marcus
Walking Alongside Children through Grief & Loss whilst Grieving Oneself

Linda Lewis
Mindful Meditation

Kumi Naidoo
Loss & the Power of Living with Purpose

Panel - Dr Clint Cupido, Carin Marcus, Rabbi Sam Thurgood and Chaired by Sarit Swisa
Maintaining Compassion as a Supporter of the Bereaved

Professor Dave Edwards
Bereavement: The Challenge of Saying Goodbye

Ariella Kuper
Faith, Cancer & the Power of Inner Healing

Kelsey Buchalter
Musical Closing

MONDAY
28TH AUGUST 2023
8:30 am - 3:00 pm
DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL
31 BRICKFIELD RD, WOODSTOCK
R790.00

CPD points approved for Social Workers and Auxiliary Social Workers

Quicket Link: <https://bit.ly/NechamaSeminar2023>
For further details, contact admin@nechama.org.za or, 0214625520 or 0660813397 during office hours 08:30-12:30

SEEING AUSCHWITZ

OPENING: WORLD ACCLAIMED EXHIBITION

The Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre, in partnership with the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Cape Town invites you to the opening of the acclaimed international exhibition *Seeing Auschwitz*.

Today, our mental image of the camp, how we "see" Auschwitz, is informed by a relatively small number of photographs taken from an even smaller number of sources. The exhibition asks us to look beyond their intentions to explore more fully what each photograph reveals, not only of the place and time, but of the photographers themselves.

The opening includes addresses by the new Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre Director Jakub Nowakowski and the German Deputy Consul General Sven Hartwig.

Sunday 3 September, 6:00 pm | CTHGC, 88 Hatfield St, Gardens

Light refreshments will be served.
Booking essential: 021 462 5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za



Herzlia takes the plunge — building new Aquatics Centre

After years of planning, construction has begun for United Herzlia Schools' new Aquatics Centre at the High School campus.

This exciting newest upgrade will update one outside pool to a brand new, enclosed double-pool-in-one. The decision to do this project was an easy one as Herzlia consistently achieves exceptional results in the water polo and swimming sports codes and the current swimming pool was used beyond capacity by numerous schools with scheduling challenges. It was also a relatively small pool that fell just short of water polo competition dimensions and hadn't undergone any major renovation since its construction over 40 years ago.

The new Aquatics Centre's pool will be indoor and will be big enough for two matches, or two sets of concurrent training sessions, and heated to allow for training all year round. It will have modern change rooms and ablutions for both home and away teams with a new, safe, direct access route created to cross the road from Highlands Primary into both the Aquatics Centre, as well as the Goldschmidt Building.

Water sports attract large participation by Herzlian pupils, with water polo currently the biggest sport at Herzlia with over 200 pupils (boys and girls) participating in what has become Herzlia's signature sport. Herzlia competes in water polo against top sporting schools, both locally and nationally. Pupils already train as much as possible — when weather permits, during the year from 06h30 in the morning before school with Herzlia pupils' dedication and passion above and beyond.

Andries van Renssen, UHS Executive Director, says "I am over the moon about the great news that we have secured two significant donors — Wilfred and Fay Back Trust and the King David Golf Club Sports Fund — to help fund the centre. The construction of an aquatic centre gives the school a central hub with recreational and communal areas for pupils. As the aquatic centre sits in the most magnificent setting — overlooking Table Mountain — the roof cover was designed in such a way that it showcases the magnificent view. A central kikar (plaza) will further transform the space into an interconnected facility that creates a central cafeteria and indoor-outdoor meeting spaces."

Shane Brorson, High School Principal, says, "Construction will take several months, and we've got plans in place with local pools which we will use during this time. While there may be some expected disruption, we hope to continue receiving support from the school community during this short period buoyed by the reality that we'll soon have an incredible Aquatics Centre which will elevate sports across all age groups. Our pupils



Artist rendering of new Herzlia Aquatics Centre facade

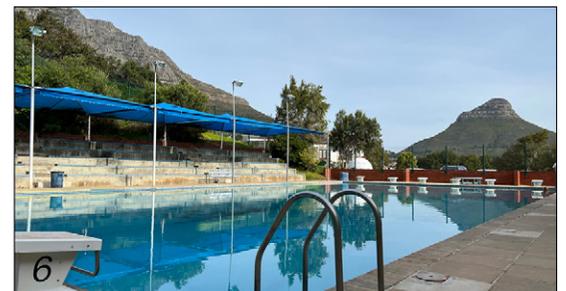


Handover of Herzlia pool site to contractors

will be able to specialise in their sport of choice and have the opportunity to condition themselves with the necessary pre-season training."

Geoff Cohen, Director of Jewish Identity and Community, says that "A brand-new pool complex is exciting and creates a sense of hype for the future. Having a one-of-a-kind facility with a one-of-a-kind view puts Herzlia on the map! It will allow us to host our own tournaments, as well as help nurture and grow the pupils' passion for sports and improve their overall skill level. This is an exciting further investment in our water sports in the future on the back of us appointing Britt Hyland and her team from AquaSharks who, earlier this year, took over the 'learn-to-swim' lessons in all Alon Ashel Pre-Primary and Weizmann Primary curricula."

Ross Van Schoor, newly appointed as Head of Aquatics at Herzlia High School, explains that, "The building of the new Aquatics Centre brings about many opportunities for growth in fitness, skills development and achieving sporting excellence. A state-of-the-art facility will help take Herzlia sport to the next level."



Original, uncovered single Herzlia pool — the view stays with new Aquatics Centre design



Artist rendering of interior of new Aquatics Centre

Herzlia's third group of educators visit Israel with JNF

Herzlia's third group of educators visited Israel in July with KKL-JNF to experience Israel first-hand and gain a multidimensional view of modern Israel. This included Sarah Moross, Shane Brorson, Alexandra Bosman, Alix Epstein, Carol Lerena, Candi Minnaar, Kelli Lunsky and Lauren Paillard. We can't wait to see all the great ideas you will bring back to your schools and classrooms!



Third contingent of Herzlia educators on JNF Tour to Israel — July 2023



Alix Epstein and Sarah Moross, teachers at Herzlia Highlands Primary on JNF Israel tour



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

Old habits die hard

How easy it is for us to become set in our ways — we each have ways in which we prefer doing things even when what we are doing irritates those near and dear to us.

Habits become a way of life and to change them, it is essential that we understand the part that Attitude Awareness has to play.

When you begin a task, your attitude at the beginning more than anything will determine your success or failure in that task. Your attitude towards life determines life's attitude towards you. Life has no favourites, despite many people's belief to the contrary.

If you are negative, it is because you have decided to be negative, not because of other people or circumstances. You control your attitude and, before you can develop a good attitude, you have to act as if you have a good one. Remember: actions trigger feelings just as feelings trigger actions. Treat everybody as the most important person in the world and watch how your life changes.

Attitudes are based on assumptions. In order to change attitudes, one must first change one's assumptions. How important it is to have more reasons as to why you should succeed than why you should fail. When you are faced with a problem, it is far better to adopt the attitude that you can and will solve it.

Control your thoughts and you will control your life. In this way it is easier to become what we think about. If you radiate confidence and the being of a person who knows where he is going, more often good things happen to you right away. Most importantly, in order to develop a good attitude, take charge first thing in the morning.

Success or failure of any undertaking is caused more by Mental Attitude than by Mental Capacity. It is not what happens to you in life that is important, it is how you take it that determines the importance.

We recently hosted our welcome evening at our new home that we are sharing with the UJW in Albany Road and, even though it was a great evening where we were able to host those who had played a special role in facilitating the move, it was evident that the attitude of many of our invited guests came into play. Many invitations were not heeded or responded to, but more disappointing were the 23 guests who had responded, but chose, for whatever reason, not to attend the evening without tending an apology. Each person invited had been chosen for a reason, catering was provided and, without a doubt, it was most disappointing as we are proud of our new venue and really wanted to showcase what we now have to offer. Hopefully, those invited will still pop in as we would like to showcase the centre to them.

We spend a great deal of time planning the weekly in-house programme for each branch as well as an extensive online YouTube programme for your leisure viewing at home. There are many different documentaries, movies and shows that can be enjoyed during the long cold winter days and evenings.

Have an enjoyable month – stay healthy and warm.

Diana Sochen

Executive Director

Another active month for CJSA



Zola Shuman with West Coast members at the CTHGC's Chayela Exhibition



Sonia Norrie at the Art Gallery



Yvette Polovin — mosaic art teacher assisting with mosaic work



Sea Point Members enjoying Kalk Bay



West Coast Members enjoying tea at Cafe Riteve



Mosaic class in Sea Point



Author Egonne Roth speaking to Members in Muizenberg

Social and Personal

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

Birthday wishes: Rahle Kuritzky – 90th, Hennie Bernstein – 93rd

Engagement: Edie Schneider – Grandson

Marriage: Hannah Sofer – Grandson, Rochel Winer – Grandson

Welcome to the new members: Lorraine Levitan, Felicia Janks, Alic Cluch

Well wishes to those who have been under the weather: Charlotte Berson, Harriet Hoffman, Carrie Clift, Sandra Cohen, Harold Friedman and Trevor Lomofsky – all recovering

Our wishes of strength to members or family of members who have recently passed away: Nat Yamey – passing of his wife and CJSA member, Ettie

Darren Feldman – Father
Doreen Payne – Son

Where is the largest mezuzah in the world?

Until recently, it was believed that the largest mezuzah in the world was at Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport.

But now, surprising as it may seem, it is Berlin that is honoured as the city proudly showing off the biggest mezuzah.

Considering that Berlin was the central point for so many Nazi atrocities against the Jews during the 1930s and 40s, highlighted in particular by the Kristallnacht pogrom in 1938, it seems ironic that such an obvious display of a Jewish presence is possible 80+ years later.

But the Berlin of today is clearly a very different place. In 1933, over 160 000 Jews resided in the city; by the end of the War, the number was a mere 7 000. Today, however, Berlin is an attractive destination for Jewish people, and it has seen an influx of Jewish residents from former Soviet Bloc states and, in recent months, from Ukraine. In addition, numerous young Israeli and American Jews now call Berlin home, and the Jewish population has risen to between 30 000 and 50 000.

With this growth in population, there was a need for a more organised community, and it is against this backdrop that the Pears Jewish Campus was opened towards the end of June this year — and the biggest mezuzah affixed to its door. The impressive new building, one of the largest Jewish centres in the world, was put up by the Chabad-Lubavitch community of Berlin at a cost of \$44 million.

The Campus will no doubt play a significant role in Jewish life in the city in the years ahead, perhaps restoring in some way the vibrancy of Jewish life in Berlin during the interwar years.



Daniel Bloch, Executive Director - Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies, and Rabbi Yehudah Teichtal, president of the Chabad Jewish Education Centre in Berlin, Germany, hold the largest mezuzah in the world

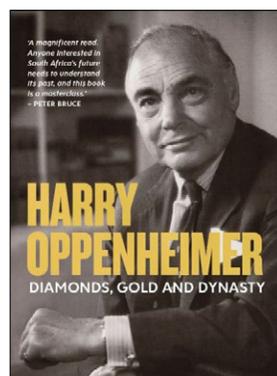
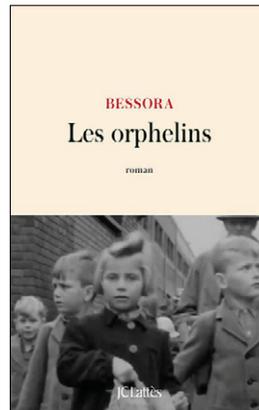
BOOKS

July book news

No doubt coincidental, the three books highlighted in the Jewish community of Cape Town during July all reflect issues relating to identity.

The Orphans — in French, *Les Orphelins* — is a novel. It relates the story of two children who were born in Germany but were adopted by a South African family in 1948. As they became adults, the two children learned more about their adoptive parents, and ultimately rebelled against them.

The author is Belgian-born Bessora, who began her writing career in 1999. This novel, written in 2021, was discussed by the author during her visit to Cape Town.



Dr Michael Cardo's *Harry Oppenheimer — Diamonds, Gold and Dynasty* reflects extensive research into the history of the Oppenheimer family, with a focus on Harry Oppenheimer, one of the most successful business personalities in South Africa.

Cardo had access to both the Oppenheimer family papers and other material, as well as to family members, friends and staff, allowing him to go beyond historical archival material and to include personal relationships among the members of this hugely influential family. Despite having converted to Christianity, Oppenheimer's Jewish

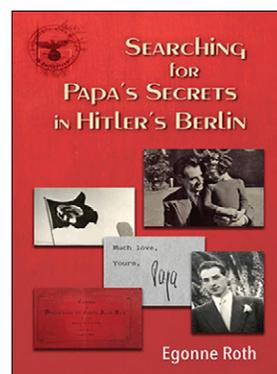
origins created an ambiguity for himself and for some of his family members, including a granddaughter, who converted to Judaism in recent years.

A fascinating tale of discovering her family's past, Egonne Roth's *Searching for Papa's Secrets in Hitler's Berlin*, makes for a captivating read. Growing up in various parts of the Western Cape, Roth was immersed in Afrikaner life and the NG Church, and had a strong sense of German culture through her father who had settled in South Africa from Germany.

On his death in 1994, she was handed a file of her father's papers, and the documents in the file led to close on 30 years of research that took her to various parts of the world. Essentially, what she discovered is that her paternal grandfather was fully Jewish, and that her father and aunt were half-Jewish, information her father never shared with her.

Her book was initially meant for herself, to help her understand various issues about herself. While working on it, she realised that it could be valuable for her children, too, so that they could understand more about their grandfather and his sometimes difficult behaviour. The realisation that the story had a much wider audience came to her once she started reading 2nd generation Holocaust literature, which is how it became a published work.

The discovery of her origins has been a completely life-changing experience, and today Roth lives in Israel and has converted to Judaism.



Author Egonne Roth speaks at the launch of her book

Some of these books are available for purchase at the South African Jewish Museum Shop and for lending from the Jacob Gitlin Library.



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HEALTH FOCUS

Healthy mind, healthy body

The Cape Jewish Chronicle chatted to Dr Lauren Lee, founder of The Health Team, a multidisciplinary medical practice in Mouille Point, about some of the health issues she is seeing among her patients since the Covid pandemic. With August being Women's Month, the focus of the discussion was on women's health. Dr Lee offers some valuable insights and useful guidance.

According to Dr Lee, the impact of the Covid pandemic has gone far beyond the direct effects of the virus. "While our daily lives may have somewhat normalised, we are now facing numerous health challenges post-pandemic."

Two major trends are evident:

Preventative medical check-ups fell by the wayside

Because we couldn't easily visit hospitals and clinics during the lockdown period, regular tests didn't happen. "Women should have annual mammograms and regular PAP Smears," Dr Lee explains. "Sadly these were not prioritised so we are seeing many patients who last had these in 2018/2019. Such important screening tests should pick

up breast and cervical cancer early enough to treat them swiftly, so it's crucial that our community have them done."

Both men and women should also have screening colonoscopies for colo-rectal cancer. "The American guidelines suggest that the average-risk patient should discuss a c-scope with their GP from 45 years old."

The 'Mental Health Pandemic'

Dr Lee is seeing a significant increase in patients suffering from anxiety and depression. "Often my patients present with physical symptoms, such as headaches, constipation, fatigue and insomnia. However, the underlying cause of these complaints may well be secondary to poor mental wellbeing."

"Our community has experienced a lot of loss: the unexpected death of loved ones, the loss of businesses and financial stability, even the loss of confidence in the country's future and our children's tertiary education options." She urges everyone to speak to their GPs and reach out for support. "Maintaining good mental health does not always involve antidepressant medication. Our diet, sleep patterns and support systems are really important. Getting regular sunlight and exercise are also crucial to our overall wellbeing."

Tips from Dr Lauren Lee

- Women aged between 40-49 years should have an annual mammogram. Breast cancer among this age group may be more aggressive and early detection is essential. Women of over 50 years can have a mammogram every 2nd year, but this decision needs to be personalised depending on each individual's risk profile.
- All women over 25 years should have regular PAP Smears. The frequency varies from every 1 to 3 years depending on the patient and the type of testing that is performed.
- All adults over the age of 45 years should have an initial colonoscopy. This is usually repeated every 10 years, again depending on multiple factors. A simple faecal test (FOBT) can also be performed if funds are limited.
- Annual blood tests to assess cholesterol, glucose, Vitamin B12 and iron levels form an important part of medical screening.



Dr Lauren Lee is a family practitioner working in private practice in Mouille Point, Cape Town. With over 17 years of experience as a General Practitioner, she enjoys the diverse challenges that present themselves when working within the family framework. She has an holistic approach to healthcare and partners with her patients to improve their physical, mental and emotional well-being.

Dr Lee graduated with distinction from The University of Cape Town in 2001 and has a special interest in child health, as well as child and adult mental health.

In addition to her daily work in her medical practice, called The Health Team, Dr Lee made a crucial contribution to the provision of safety equipment during the Covid-19 pandemic. In the early days of the pandemic, she co-founded Masks for Medics, an NGO that raised funds to purchase medical grade PPE for frontline Healthcare workers.

[back to contents](#)



SIMCHA SNAPS



Raoul Franco Ze'ev Coscia and Nicole Dina Merdjan

Photo: Neil Kirby

CAPE JEWISH CHRONICLE

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A morning of kids' theatre fun

In the school holidays, the SAJM hosted a performance of the high-energy, interactive children's play, *How to Hold the World*.

Written and directed by Juliette Rose-Innes, who was fresh from an award-winning stint at the National Arts Festival in Makhanda, and starring the talented James Stoffberg, the play was a resounding success with kids and their grownups.

Children aged two to nine sat on rugs and cushions to be extra close and involved in the action. After the show



with its uplifting message, the kids had a blast playing with the props and chatting to their new friend, James!



EXHIBITION
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AUGUST 2023
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A samovar returns to its shtetl home



Sue Benatar handing over the samovar to the Lithuanian Ambassador Dainius Junevicius to be donated to the Lost Shtetl Museum being built in Seduva / Shadova Lithuania. The samovar was made in Russia in 1890.

Many Capetonians have childhood memories of visiting Bobba and Zaide and looking at the unusual ornaments in their home — items such as a beautiful metal spice box, ornate silver candlesticks, a decorative glass in a metal holder for drinking tea, and perhaps even a samovar.

Samovars were popular items in Eastern Europe and Russia during the 19th and early 20th centuries. And, while Bobba's samovar was most likely just an antique on display, previous generations used these 'kettles' on a daily basis to boil water and make tea.

While items like these were treasured family heirlooms, in many cases in today's world they don't have the same attraction: homes are often smaller; the furnishing styles are more modern; and, in many instances, people have immigrated and so it becomes difficult to transport these items across the ocean.

It's a dilemma that faced Cape Town resident, Sue Benatar. Knowing that she and her husband would have to downsize some time in the future, she had to make plans for the future of the family samovar.

A beautiful piece, the samovar also has quite a history. Sue explains: "When my Bobba, my father, aged 11 and his two younger brothers left Lithuania in 1939, just in time to escape the horrors of the Holocaust, they joined my Zaide who was already in Bulawayo, Rhodesia. While there was great relief at having been able to get out of Europe and survive in a safe environment, my grandmother always lamented the fact that she had to leave her beloved samovar behind."

But, one year, on a holiday in Muizenberg, Sue's granny saw a samovar that looked almost identical to the one left behind in Lithuania in a second-hand shop and decided to buy it, so restoring fond memories of this item. In later years, Sue inherited it and kept it in her home as a treasured possession.

And now, with a view to the future, Sue has donated it to the Lost Shtetl Museum currently being built in the town of Shadova (Šeduva) in Lithuania, the shtetl her grandmother grew up in. The new museum is the main goal of the Lost Shtetl Museum Project (<https://lostshetl.lt/>), and is expected to open in about a year's time.

In mid-June, Sue handed the samovar over to the outgoing Ambassador of Lithuania in South Africa, Dainius Junevicius, for its return journey to Lithuania, where he will entrust it to Milda Jakulytė-Vasil, the Chief Curator of the Museum. "Although it was an emotional parting, I am happy that the samovar from Cape Town — via Bulawayo, Rhodesia — will proudly be on display as a memorial to the lost Jewish population of my family's hometown," Sue concludes.



Sue has written a children's book that tells the story of the samovar, called *The Samovar of Smiles*. She is currently busy with the illustrations for the book and hopes to have it published before the end of this year.

ISRAEL: A JOURNEY MAKING MEANING

Guiding in Israel after the fall of the THIRD Temple

Julian Resnick writes from Israel

This is dystopian, so read no further if you like to be comfortable, if you prefer the comfort of armchair Zionism to facing what is happening to us right now, here, in Israel.

I write this on a Shabbat morning (soon, the Shabbat enforcement police units of Ben Gvir will break down my door and take me away to the Gulag – no, I have already wandered off into the dystopia), filled not with the joy of Shabbat, but with a foreboding. Possibly of the type Stefan Zweig was feeling when he wrote this in 1917:

"I say unto you, people of Jerusalem, that war is a fierce and evil beast, one that devours the flesh of the strong and sucks the marrow of the mighty, crushing towns in its jaws and trampling the land beneath its hoofs. Those who awaken it, shall not again lay it to sleep; and he who draws the sword is likely to perish by the sword. Woe to those who murder peace with the words of their mouth.

It is never too late to talk of peace.

.....

Blessed is he who first holds out his hand for peace. Blessed is the king who spares the blood of his people."

Jeremiah, Stefan Zweig, 1917

Those of you who have previously read what I write know by now how strongly I feel about Israel and hopefully will not be shocked by the title I have chosen for this month's piece. Yes, as of now only two Temples have fallen. The first destroyed by the Babylonians and the second by the Romans. Where is the third? you ask. Not when was it destroyed but, before that, when was it built and where does it stand?

I am using a conceit over here. The State of Israel is the Third Temple, and it stands here, in part of the Biblical Land of Israel, without at this point

international borders recognised by the international community and disputed by many – including many of us, its inhabitants.

As I prepare myself to guide one of the sites I most enjoy guiding, the site I use so often as my opening site, the one where I draw the lines of the overarching narratives which will in many ways give substance and clarity to the time I spend with my Journeymen, here in Israel, the Haas Promenade, with the stunning view of Jerusalem it lays before us. The Old City skyline, the City of David, the Mount of Olives, Mount Zion, crucially Mount Moriah and, take out my opening text, one of the ones I love most, the story of the Akedah, the Binding of Isaac, I ask myself for the first time, after months of protests here in Israel, where will I stand to do the overarching piece after our present government has done a Nebuchadnezzar, a Titus, brought down the walls of the Temple, this time with our own hands.

This is not a thought I think with relish.

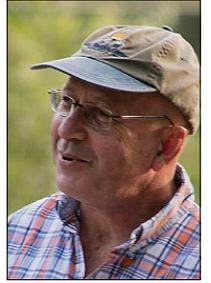
There is no joy in my heart. There is terror in my heart. I thought of Stefan Zweig's powerful piece when thinking about what is happening here, as the new Jewish Wars (Josephus' term, not mine) breaks out around me.

His language is dramatic, not exactly 21st century taste, but it issues a dire warning to us: stop before it is too late. If you prefer not to notice us tearing down what we have built here since the return of the Jewish People from the late 19th century to our home (a home I returned to 47 years ago last week) around 150 years of, literally, blood, sweat and tears – and so much joy, too – then sit back in that proverbial armchair, sing songs from your youth movement days and drink terrible Kiddush wine until everything is a pleasant blur.

If, however, you care to face the truth head on, look Ben Gvir, Smotrich and their band of zealots in the eye, and declare, as we are doing right here, every week, we will resist!!!

Otherwise, when you visit us in the not-too-distant future, I might not

take you to the Haas Promenade and read to you from Beresheet, my eyes might not well up as the angel says, "Lay not thy hand on the Lad."



I might take you to Kaplan Street in Tel Aviv and tell you of the demonstrations, week after week, as tens of thousands warned of impending doom.

Or I might take you to the ruins of the Supreme Court in Jerusalem, where once Shoftei Yisrael, the Judges of Israel, meted out Justice, ruled on complicated cases, protected the rights of individuals, of communities, according to the letter and the spirit of our Declaration of Independence.

I warned you this was going to be dystopic.

The reality of 2023?

Chilling.



Aerial view of Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Credit: Andrew Shiva, Wikipedia

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Coping with hate speech

A case of hurtful antisemitic comments directed at a local Jewish person resulted in a ruling by the Human Rights Commission.

The Cape Jewish Chronicle spoke to the Executive Director at the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Daniel Bloch, to find out more.



According to Daniel, “We encourage members of our community to report anything which they feel is antisemitic. If you are able to resolve an issue at school or in the workplace, that is great, but please let us know about it. In the past we have heard of incidents where parents or individuals have tried unsuccessfully to resolve things without consulting the Board. We are here to help in any way we can and recommend reaching out to us first.

“We believe in restorative justice and this includes educating those who have committed antisemitic or discriminatory acts as to why a particular statement or incident was offensive to a particular individual or group of people. We cannot overcome hatred through punishment. We need to understand the reasons for an individual making offensive comments and educate them accordingly. However, there are times when more severe punishment is required and we would leave our courts to decide on the appropriate penalty.”

What is hate speech and how are people protected from it in SA law and in the SA constitution?

According to the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), hate speech may be defined as expression which goes beyond mere insults or offensive language, and which may infringe the dignity of certain persons or groups. It includes derogatory language or expression intended to belittle the intelligence, humanity, appearance and beliefs of a particular group of people. Hate speech impacts negatively on victims in terms of their self-worth. It causes significant hurt, harm, pain, distress, sorrow and humiliation, is degrading and dehumanising, has the effect of depriving victims of their fundamental rights and it impugns the right to human dignity and equality.

According to the SAHRC, Equality Courts are central to the protection of the right to equality. An Equality Court will determine whether the right to equality has been violated, will sanction offenders, and will provide relief to persons whose rights have been violated. The courts have the power to include actions which offenders must perform to promote respect for and observance of the law and to deter further violations. Equality courts determine matters involving unfair discrimination, hate speech or harassment.

Does the utterance or event have to be in the public sphere to constitute hate speech or can it be in a one-on-one situation? Can it be something on social media that isn't directly addressed to you yourself but is a general comment about Jews?

All of the above. However, in almost every case, there has to be evidence to support the claims. If something is posted on social media or sent via a text message, that can most definitely be used as evidence against the aggressor. It can either be aimed at an individual or at a group of people. Our recent success at the SAHRC involved an individual who was filmed making Hitler comments towards a Jewish individual.

There have been other cases — e.g. the Masuku case of 2009 where Cosatu's Bongani Masuku was ordered to apologise to the Jewish community for a statement he made. The case took 13 years to resolve. Read the story [here](#).

If you are in a situation where you think you could be subject to hate speech, what should you do?



Swastikas on a power box in Macassar

If you are able to record something, take a screenshot on social media, download a file or take a photo – that would be best. If it is in relation to antisemitism, the Cape SAJBD would investigate the matter further and advise on the course of action. If it is related to other forms of hate speech, we would still try to assist to the best of our abilities – this may include referring to another organisation which may specialise in specific forms of discrimination and hate.

It would be best to contact the Board to understand if a case should be laid. Unfortunately, not everything is viewed as hate speech and not every incident will require police investigation.

What should you not do?

Do not try to confront the individual or the group who has accosted you, especially if you do not know the people in question. If something happens at school, university or in the workplace, you should report the incident to a senior person. If you experience hate speech via social media do not engage in conversation. More often than not it will elicit even more offensive comments and you may find yourself outnumbered. Rather report something to the relevant social media platform – first remember to take a screenshot or download the file/image in question.

How can the SAJBD assist?

Once a matter has been reported to us, we would investigate it. There are always two sides to a story which is why we would contact both parties. Once the investigation is concluded and we have all the facts at hand, we will advise the individual on the best way forward.

In many cases, the individual should lay a charge with SAPS or engage with a lawyer. However, the Board would be there to assist. In certain instances, we would file a complaint on behalf of an individual, as in the recent SAHRC case between a landlord and a Jewish tenant. If there is an incident of hate speech aimed at the entire community, then the Cape SAJBD would take action on behalf of the community.

Our Constitution protects us all. But, sometimes, what you may think is antisemitic or hate speech, may not be seen as such by a court of law. However, it is our mandate and our duty to investigate each and every incident which may be construed as antisemitic.

Useful contact details in the event of an incident: We have an antisemitism WhatsApp number which can be used for messages and to send images/videos: +27 79 994 5573. You can also email us on sajbd2@ctjc.co.za.



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Recognising our heritage

By Craig Nudelman

2023 is a big year in Australian politics — everyone is speaking about the Voice.

If you don't know what the Voice is, that's understandable; not many people understand what it is in Australia; and why should you care about something that's thousands of kilometres away when you have your own issues?

A referendum will be held later this year (between October and December) which will speak to an alteration to Australia's constitution, creating a 'voice' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. The grouping will represent indigenous Australians in parliament and will consult the federal government on indigenous affairs. If I were a citizen of Australia I would definitely support the Voice – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders should be able to represent themselves and hold the Australian government accountable for centuries of marginalisation.

I've chosen to write about the Voice this month because I believe we should have something similar for the indigenous people of South Africa. The Khoi and San people in South Africa have been subjected to violence, dispossession, and lack of recognition by the ANC-led government over the past 30 years. In fact, in post-apartheid South Africa, the Khoisan (an umbrella term for the San, Griqua, Khoi, Nama, and Korana peoples) have continued to be marginalised, their languages not being recognised in the Constitution (where 12 others have been). Since Khoisan were classified as Coloured in apartheid South Africa, they have not benefited from affirmative action and other forms of social empowerment in the 'new' South Africa. Besides the cursory platitude – the South African coat of arms has the /Xam people's language as its motto: ! ke e: /xarra //ke, which means 'Diverse people unite' – Khoisan protests about recognition of their status as the first nation people of South Africa have been ignored. They have been protesting at the Union Buildings for the past five years.

Their demands are not difficult for the South African government to concede and accept. They have four demands:

1. To recognise the KhoiSan people as the First Nation of South Africa
2. To recognise the language of the KhoiSan as official
3. To fight for their land rights as aboriginal people
4. For the word 'Coloured' to be removed from government documents and for them to be referred to as Aboriginal People.

Those of us who belong to the global Jewish community have an opportunity to look at this issue through our lens as Jews. After all, we were also an unrecognised people, our culture, language, and heritage either ignored or persecuted. We too were a landless diasporic nation until the establishment of Israel. We too are subjected to discrimination; antisemitism has been acknowledged as racism, but it is still rife, often in the guise of anti-Zionism. We should see it as our duty to fight for the rights of those whose struggles mirror those in Jewish history.

When I was at the Cape SAJBD I went to many interfaith events. One of the participants was KhoiSan activist, Zebada Railoun January, who always welcomed us to Country: the traditional and sacred land of her ancestors that we walked on. Her welcome was the following, "I honour, I respect, the diversity I see today, so no matter what your religion, your heritage, your spirituality, your culture, your identity, your gender orientation,

we are all connected to this land... to sacred Khoi land, the true original custodians of this land which we have the privilege of gathering on today."

This is similar to what Australians say when they are at events, where they acknowledge the land of the traditional custodians, and their elders, past and present. Gabi says it at the beginning of her lectures and tutorials. When I spoke to another representative of the KhoiSan last December, Zelda Ann Hints, at an interfaith event, I told her about Australia's acknowledgement of country and asked if she would interpret it as purely symbolic or a true act of recognition. She said she would appreciate it immensely.

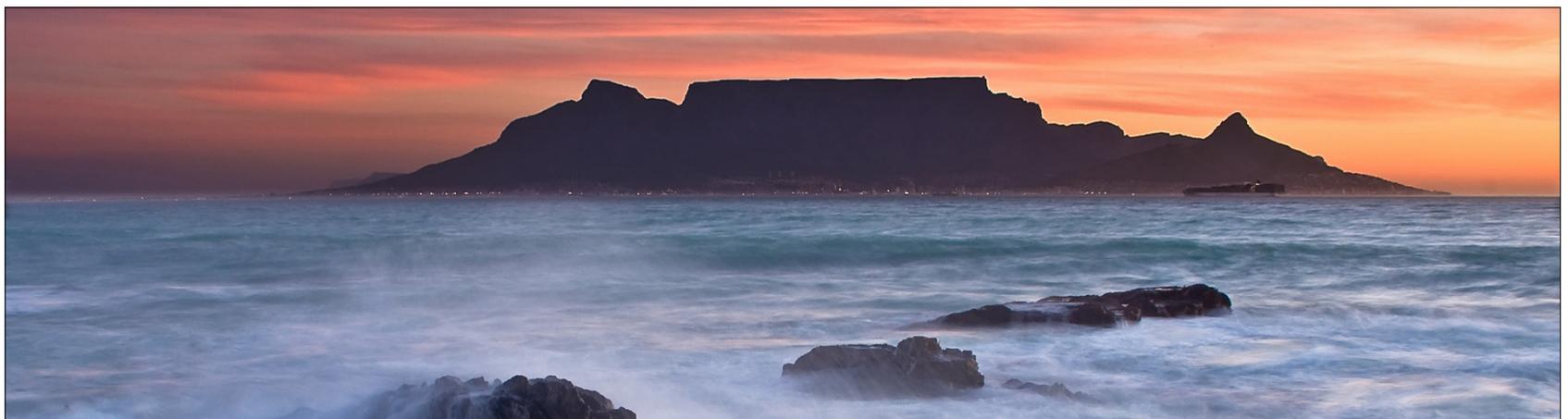
We should educate ourselves about the indigenous peoples of South Africa and recognise that they were the country's first inhabitants. The Dutch took their land and basically annihilated them, infecting them with smallpox. The survivors then became slaves and migrated to the Northern Cape, away from their beloved and sacred mountain, Hoerikwaggo, what we call Table Mountain today.

Recognition and acknowledgement are the first steps in a long walk to acceptance in South African society. We, as Jews, know what it feels like to be a lost people. Your interest in the cause of the KhoiSan can be to the benefit of South Africa as a whole.

A former Capetonian, Craig Nudelman is now based in Sydney, where he has settled into Australian life with his wife Gabi, and two daughters, Jessica and Livi. He works for the Jewish Communal Appeal and enjoys singing as a member of Sydney's Central Synagogue choir and the Sydney Philharmonia Choir. The Cape Jewish Chronicle is privileged to continue to receive regular articles written by Craig.



Those of us who belong to the global Jewish community have an opportunity to look at this issue through our lens as Jews. We should see it as our duty to fight for the rights of those whose struggles mirror those in Jewish history.



Hoerikwaggo, the sacred mountain of the Khoisan



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Musical theatre — Cape Town has many performers

The recent musical performance, *Celebrating Chayela in Song*, part of the *Chayela Rosenthal: Wunderkind of the Vilna Ghetto Theatre* Exhibition at the Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre, provided an opportunity for a number of Cape Town's Jewish performers to showcase their talents.

The musical concert celebrated the career of the late Chayela Rosenthal and the work of her hugely talented brother, Leyb Rozenthal. Chayela, a survivor of the Vilna Ghetto and various camps during the Second World War, settled in Cape Town in the 1950s, and enjoyed an international theatre and music career until her untimely passing in 1979.

Leyb, a child prodigy for his work in Yiddish literature and music, did not survive, having been killed just two days before liberation by the Russians from the Nazi yoke. But, some of his music work enjoyed renewed attention during the concert.

For many of the performers, learning songs in Yiddish did not come easily, although, during the many hours of practice, they became more familiar with the words and the nuances of the language. As opera singer and teacher, Beverley Chiat, points out, "Yiddish takes a little more time for me to learn as it's not a language I studied in depth like Italian, French and German. But everything eventually came together."

On the other hand, Ivor Joffe, Cantor of the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation for 21 years, a seasoned performer, enjoyed singing in Yiddish. "It's a very expressive language," he points out. "I am comfortable with the Yiddish language, having performed in the Yiddish Song Festival for many years. I am so happy that the Rozenthal family's Yiddish music could be shared in such an elegant manner."



Celebrating Chayela in Song: The performers

The exposure to the Yiddish language and songs served as a learning experience for all the performers. "From the number 'Yisroilik', a song written by Leyb, I got to understand more about the lives of the Jewish people, especially the children in the Ghetto and in the camps," explains 13-year-old Zoë Modlinne, who has already enjoyed an international career in musical theatre, having secured the lead role of Matilda in *Matilda the Musical* which took her on tour around Asia.

Despite having grown up in a household with Yiddish-speaking parents, Chayela's daughter, Zola Piatka Shuman, only came to use Yiddish herself in recent years. "While I understand

90% of it, I can't speak it well at all," she says. "Pronunciation is easy for me, but learning the lyrics of the songs we sang by heart was not at all easy!" She has become far more comfortable with the language, however, and wrote her first song in Yiddish in 2019, 'Hert Zich Tsu — We will remember you'.

For many of the performers, their decision to follow a career in the musical world can be traced to their school years. The names of various teachers stand out — Mrs Mitchell from Weizmann Primary School; Gracie Sklar; Richard Freedman and Lesley Rabinowitz at Herzlia Middle School; Liz Staughton at Kings Road Primary School; among others.

In addition to the actual performers in the show, there was a trio of musicians, which included a figure well-known on the local Jewish music scene. Matthew Reid has had a long and passionate love for Eastern European folk music and Jewish Klezmer music in particular. He served as musical director for the Cape Town annual Yiddish Song Festival for 11 consecutive years, and played in Aviva Pelham's production of *Santa's Story*, which travelled extensively beyond South Africa.

Following a passion to perform has created many opportunities to see the world, as Beverley Chiat has experienced. Her operatic career has taken her to many parts of the world, including The Netherlands, Bahrain, parts of Asia, the Middle East, New York (on Broadway) and Israel.

Zoë Modlinne, while still at school, looks forward to a career in the theatre. Her co-performers are all thrilled about having been able to pursue their own passion for music and performance as a career option. They've enjoyed incredible opportunities to perform with other musicians they admire, to travel to different parts of the world, and to enjoy the satisfaction of loving what they do every day.



From left: Matthew Reid, Ivor Joffe and Zola Piatka Shuman. Below: Singers Ivor Joffe, Caely-Jo Levy, Zola Piatka Shuman and Beverley Chiat



Klezmer music today

According to Matthew Reid, "Klezmer is enjoying a revival and has an enthusiastic community of adherents globally.

"Essentially it's music built around certain modes or scales with its popular repertoire and way of interpreting the musical passages. The popular instruments are clarinet, violin, accordion and bass."

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