

# ★ JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

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## Chag Pesach Sameach

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# Chag Pesach Sameach

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# Bonny's Beat



## Preserving our culture

I hadn't heard of the Yiddish Book Centre in Amherst, Massachusetts, USA beforehand. But I recently heard about a book written by the founder, Aaron Lansky, called *Outwitting History: How a Young Man Rescued a Million Books and Saved a Vanishing Civilization*.

Amazingly, having never heard of Lansky, a week or so after I was first told about the Centre, a news report on the front page of the *New York Times* caught my attention: Aaron Lansky was announcing his retirement from the institution he founded.

What I've learned from reading the book is that Aaron Lansky should be acknowledged as one of the great heroes of the Jewish people. His story is so inspirational that it's one that could move more of us to take action about things that we'd perhaps not otherwise think about.

In essence, what happened is that the young Lansky, aged 23 – a lover of the Yiddish language and culture at a time when most people looked down on it and thought it was a dying language – fortuitously heard about a huge number of Yiddish books that had been dumped in the trash. Still a student at university, he had limited resources to undertake the task of saving the books, but he believed that dumping these literary resources was a huge tragedy, and that it represented the trashing of Yiddish culture.

And so began a lifelong quest to collect Yiddish texts – from elderly people who worried what would happen to their treasured collections of books, to younger people who couldn't understand Yiddish, to public libraries, and to synagogues and Jewish centres across the United States. All in all, he gave new life to well over a million books over the past 40+

years. And, today, with more interest in the Yiddish language, the texts are serving as reading material for new generations.

It's a story filled with warmth and *heymsheyt* (homeliness) – and plenty of humour. One of my best laughs was when Lansky explains that it was popular to translate Shakespearean tales into Yiddish. The Yiddish title page of one of the books he found included this: "*Fartaytsht un farbesert – Translated and Improved!*"

Lansky was motivated to take action about something he felt passionate about, something he believed was the right thing to do. And the world would be a better place if more of us followed the same approach to life.

*We should always be conscious of the need to preserve our culture and our languages – whether it's Yiddish or Ladino. Seize the opportunity 'to do like Lansky' if the opportunity arises.*

This month we highlight a Capetonian whose role as a diplomat for world Jewry means that she looks after the interests of all of us. Read about the vital work being done by Mary Kluk on p.8.

Our legal feature this month on p.33 provides guidance from two attorneys about what to do when an elderly parent starts losing mental capacity.

We also bring you the results of a survey into attitudes in South Africa to sexual violence, as seen during the Hamas attacks on October 7th – turn to p.34.

We wish you all a Chag Pesach Sameach!

### RECENTLY ANNOUNCED:

**A new hub, the American Ladino League, is being founded for people who speak or want to learn Ladino – another example of preserving our culture.**

May you always find light during these times of darkness

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## SHABBAT AND YOM TOV TIMES

DATE	PORTION	CANDLE LIGHTING			
		earliest	latest	ends	
5/6 Apr	26/27 Adar II	Shmini, Hachodesh	17:24	18:18	19:08
12/13 Apr	4/5 Nissan	Tazria	17:16	18:09	18:59
19/20 Apr	11/12 Nissan	Metzora, Hagadol	17:09	18:00	18:51
22 Apr	14 Nissan	Erev Pesach	17:06	17:57	
23 Apr	15 Nissan	Pesach I	17:05	18:48	
24 Apr	16 Nissan	Pesach II			18:47
26 Apr	18 Nissan	Chol Hamoed Pesach	17:03	17:52	
27 Apr	19 Nissan	Chol Hamoed Pesach			18:44
28 Apr	20 Nissan	Chol Hamoed Pesach	17:01	17:50	
29 Apr	21 Nissan	Pesach VII	17:00	18:42	
30 Apr	22 Nissan	Pesach VIII			18:41



# UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS APRIL 2024

<u>COMMUNITY ORGANISATION</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>FOR MORE INFO</u>
SAZF Cape Council	Aliyah Expo 2024	4 April	admin@sazf.org https://ln.tfaforms.net/2180
Cape Jewish Seniors Association	3-night break at Goudini Spa	9 – 12 April	admin@cjsa.org.za
Mensch	Fundraising Training	11 April (Date TBC)	jodi@mensch.org.za
Jewish Community Services	Chai Kitchen – Event TBC	11 April	chaikitchen@jcs.org.za
Temple Israel	The Wineberg Route III	14 April	See page 10
Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre	Volunteer Recruitment Tea	17 April, 10h30	See page 39
Temple Israel	Communal Seder, Green Point	22 April	See page 10
Gardens Shul	Communal Seder	22 April	See page 25
Temple Israel	Time Out – Temple Israel Machaneh Experience Outdoors	26 – 28 April	See page 10
Cape SAJBD	Yom Hashoah	6 May, 12h00 – 14h00	See page 15
SAZF Cape Council	International Guest Speaker	7 May	

## The Candle Project shines a light on lost lives

Numerous Cape Town families will soon give some of their time to reflect on the realities of the Holocaust and how this huge event affected people on an individual level. With Yom Hashoah – the remembrance day for the Holocaust – falling in early May this year, the Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide Centre (CTHGC) will again provide yahrzeit candles as part of its Candle Project.

“We started this project three years ago,” explains Dianne Jocum of the CTHGC, the driver behind the project again this year. “The project is geared to bring the concept of the 1,5 million children who were killed during World War II into something more tangible than this huge number, which is difficult to understand.”

The CTHGC will provide 1 750 candles to children in Cape Town’s Jewish day schools, as well as Jewish children at some other Cape Town schools. “Each candle is distributed together with a card bearing the name and age of a child who perished during the worst period in man’s history,” she explains. “This

way, 1 750 Cape Town families are made aware of a particular child whose right to life and to develop as a human being was brutally taken away. People are invariably left wondering about the particular child whose life they are commemorating in their own homes 80+ years after they were killed, and so the story of the Holocaust becomes much more real.”

The children receiving a candle will light it on the eve of Yom Hashoah, which this year falls on 5 May. It will continue burning for at least 24 hours, and so the members of the family are drawn by the flickering light of the candle throughout that period to reflect on that child’s life.

The CTHGC liaises with Jewish Studies teachers to ensure that age-appropriate education about the Holocaust is conveyed to our youth. Says Kuba Nowakowski, the Director of the CTHGC, “We express our sincere appreciation to the teachers and educators who are collaborating with us once again on this special project. Their dedication and involvement are truly invaluable.

“We also wish to acknowledge the generous support for this Project of the Wilfred and Fay Back Foundation, whose contributions continue to make this Project viable.”

“This initiative is an important element in raising awareness about the Holocaust. As the years pass, the time distance between the events and the current generations widens, and so there is clear value in making young people aware of what happened in their formative years,” Dianne concludes.



**The Yom Hashoah commemorative service takes place at Pinelands No. 2 Cemetery on Monday, 6 May, from 12h00 - 14h00. The theme of this year’s event marks the 80th anniversary of the destruction of the Jewish community of the island of Rhodes in 1944.**



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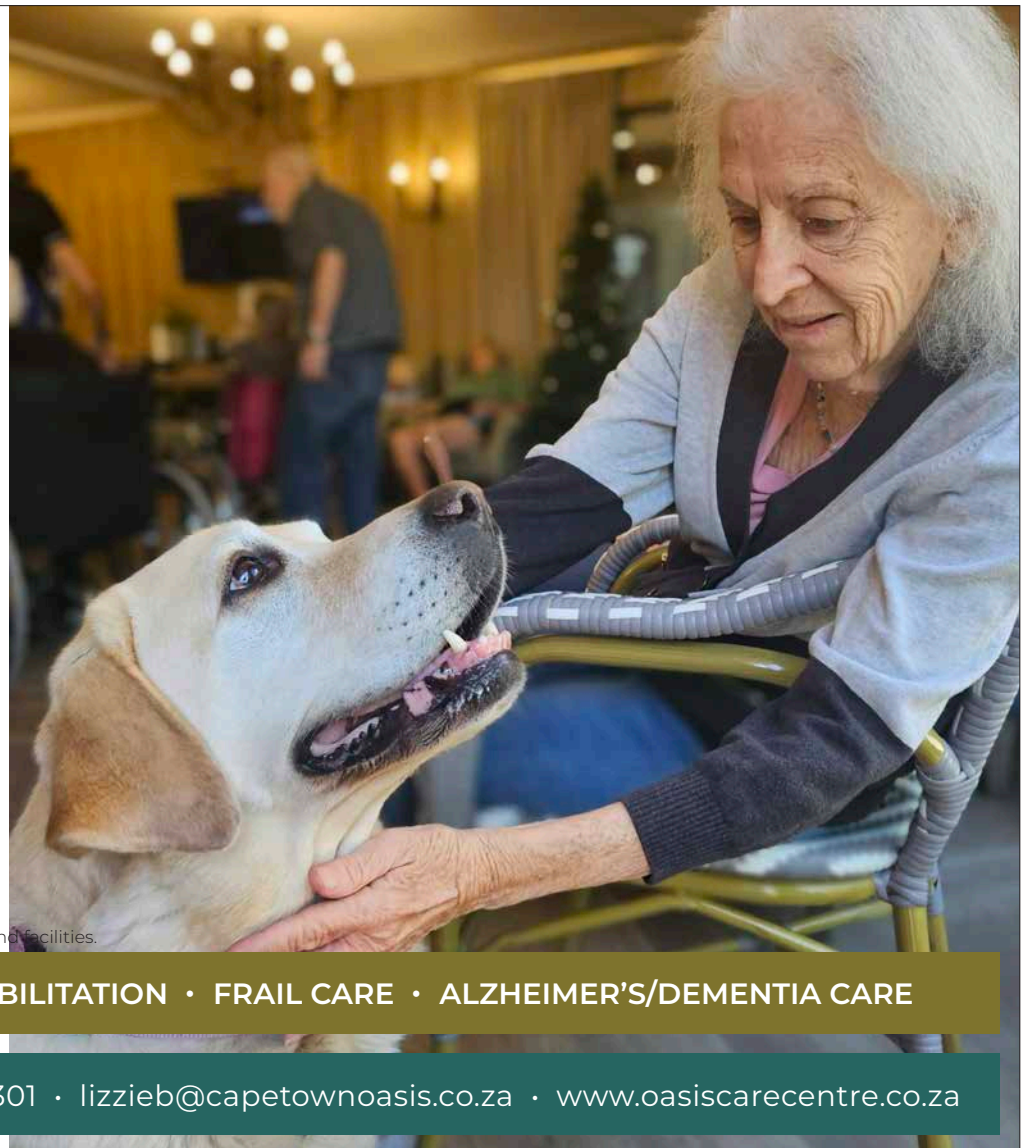


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# CHIEF RABBI DR WARREN GOLDSTEIN'S PESACH MESSAGE

## Reclaiming Jewish identity from the shadow of antisemitism

MESSAGE



The global surge in antisemitism in the aftermath of October 7 threatens not only the physical security of Jews – but our psychological and spiritual well-being too. It poses a danger to our very sense of Jewish identity. It can too easily lead us to define ourselves by the hatred we suffer at the hands of others.

When we ask ourselves and our children what it means to be Jewish, there's an answer that springs all too readily to

mind: to be Jewish is to be a member of a persecuted minority who have endured 2 000 years of suffering and exile, culminating in the Holocaust, and continuing with the terror and fierce hatred we've faced in our own homeland. To be a Jew is to be hated by others.

This unremittingly dark perspective on Jewish identity is not only depressing – it is guaranteed to drive away our children, and the next generation of Jews, from their Jewishness.

How do we reclaim our Jewish identity? How do we prevent Judaism being reduced to a perpetual state of victimhood? We can't just deny the reality – the persecution we have suffered is part of our history and therefore part of our identity. But how do we integrate it into something larger and richer, something more inspiring and less damaging?

The answer lies in the Pesach seder. The seder deals with the painful subject of more than two centuries of slavery and hardship in Egypt. We acknowledge the pain. We eat the bitter herbs, discuss the suffering of slavery in painstaking detail. We face the pain head-on.

But we don't end there. We go beyond the bitter herbs. We eat matzah – the bread of our freedom. We drink four cups of wine, each corresponding to an expression of redemption. We remember the miracles, recall the Divine blessings, recount the inspiring vision of what it means to be a Jew.

We begin the seder with the exalting words of kiddush, declaring our Jewish mission statement – our God-given calling to carry the light of truth and goodness in the world. And we end the seder with the soul-stirring words of Nishmat kol chai, a beautiful prayer evoking the ultimate

redemption of all of humanity, a world incandescent with this light of truth and goodness.

In between, we trace the narrative of Jewish history and Jewish destiny – a story of struggle and pain, but also of meaning and purpose, joy and inspiration. Seder night is rich and colourful, filling us up with our cherished values of faith, family, community and compassion; nurturing our connection to God, our loved ones, the Jewish people and humanity; seeding a deep, inspiring, enduring Jewish identity.

Ultimately, amidst a turbulent world, amidst the painful aftermath of October 7, gathering around our seder tables this year can be healing and uplifting – an uplifting experience restoring the excitement and celebration of being Jewish, and charging a new generation of Jews with the values and vision we hold dear.



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## DISCOVER YOUR HIDDEN LITHUANIAN PASSPORT: 9 OUT OF 10 SUCCESS STORIES START WITH ZERO DOCUMENTS



The idea that reclaiming Lithuanian citizenship requires an extensive paper trail has deterred many from exploring their ancestral roots. However, the truth is surprisingly encouraging – a lack of documents is not a deal-breaker. Dainius Ambrazaitis, a legal expert in Lithuanian citizenship from IN JURE, reveals a striking statistic: "9 out of 10 of my clients do not have such documents. This is completely normal and definitely not a problem".

### The only essential condition

To apply for Lithuanian citizenship by descent you need to know if at least one of your parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents was from Lithuania. Ideally, you would also need to know your Lithuanian ancestor's full name, date and place of birth, approximate year of emigration, and his/her parents' names.

### The simplified process

Initiating the journey merely requires booking a free consultation with the legal expert, Dainius Ambrazaitis, who specializes in Lithuanian citizenship. The success rate is astonishing, with the vast majority of cases leading to positive outcomes, debunking the myth that a lack of documents is a roadblock."

*"I had never thought that I would say that I am a Lithuanian citizen. With minimal information around my maternal and paternal Lithuanian background, Dainius had assured me that my application would be valid." G. Saben, SA*

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# South African leadership at the World Jewish Congress



Mary Kluk

Among the semigrants settling in Cape Town from other parts of South Africa in recent years is Mary Kluk, who moved here from Durban. Mary's move brings huge benefits to our community since she comes armed with significant leadership experience both within the South African Jewish community and internationally.

As regards her work in South Africa, Mary has for many years been involved in activism on behalf of the Jewish community here, having served in many leadership roles in the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. She is also the founder of the Durban Holocaust Centre, which she continues to serve as Director.

As for her role internationally, the Cape Jewish Chronicle spoke to Mary about her current role as the President of the Africa & Australia Region of the World Jewish Congress (WJC), an organisation she has worked with for the past ten years. Through her prominence at this level on the global Jewish stage, Mary certainly puts our relatively small community on the global map.

According to Mary, "The WJC serves a crucial role around the world as a global mouthpiece for Jews. It works closely with Jewish communities and organisations in over 100 countries in all regions of the world." Our SA Jewish Board of Deputies (BoD) is one of these organisations, and it is owing to her position as National Chair of the BoD in 2011 that Mary was brought into the WJC fold. She followed closely in the footsteps of the late Mervyn Smith from Cape Town. He was the Chair of the WJC's Policy Committee in a prior period, and kept the flag flying for South Africa at the organisation.

Established in 1936 in reaction to what was happening to Jews in Nazi Germany, the WJC has developed into a body that protects the rights of Jews all over the world. Much of its work over the decades since its inception relates to the Holocaust – the restitution of stolen property, and assisting survivor communities to



Mary Kluk meeting the Pope

**It's interesting to see the range of countries that are linked to the WJC - the only continent with a limited number of countries involved is Africa. Take a look at the map to see the extent of affiliation – <https://www.worldjewishcongress.org/en/about/communities>.**

re-establish themselves – but it has also played a crucial role in lobbying for the establishment of the State of Israel, and in fostering interfaith relations. "In essence, the WJC is the representation at diplomatic level for Jewish people," Mary explains. "Its platform is based on the unity of the Jewish people and it is driven to act on matters of common concern."

Today, with the hatred against Israel and the Jewish people globally, the Congress again plays a vital role in protecting Jews and their institutions and in ensuring the survival of Israel. "In fact," Mary comments, "we met for urgent discussions in Zagreb, Croatia, soon after the October 7th attack, plotting our response to what has subsequently become a major war."

At this point, South Africa's Jews are perhaps more reliant on the support and guidance of an international body like the WJC because our government's stance is so contrary to what the wider South African Jewish community believes. Our leaders here can tap into the best Jewish

leadership anywhere in the world, and we gain access to resources we would not otherwise have.

Mary is a great supporter of the current President of the WJC, Ronald Lauder, whom she believes has taken the Congress to a new level. She is particularly impressed by his work among young Jews, especially as regards his efforts to grow young leaders. "Lauder introduced the Junior Diplomats programme," she explains, "and it has brought in strong leadership among people in their 30s and 40s, ensuring that we have a strong pool of leaders available for the future."

Another initiative geared to develop young leaders is the Lauder Fellowship, which is "an international network of top Jewish student leaders seeking to represent and advocate on behalf of the global Jewish community." This year's group of Lauder Fellows includes Cape Town's own Erin Dodo, a columnist for the Cape Jewish Chronicle.

Other current focus areas for the organisation are training people on the use of social media and support for students in the battle against antisemitism on university campuses.

As head of the region, Mary works closely with Jewish leaders from a number of countries. "What has stood out for me," she says, "is that, despite coming from quite different countries and cultures, the issues we face are similar." In addition to South Africa and Australia, the Africa & Australia group includes a number of small communities, such as Dubai and Mauritius.

Mary also chairs the Security Committee of the WJC. With so many safety concerns for Jewish



Ronald Lauder and Mary Kluk

communities all over the world, many communities need advice and resources to provide suitable security, a need filled by the Security Committee.

We are indeed privileged as Capetonians to have someone like Mary living amongst us. Her vision and her insight into world affairs are certainly valuable assets for our community.

**FOCUS AREAS OF THE WJC**

- Antisemitism
- Supporting Israel
- Holocaust Legacy
- Interfaith Dialogue
- Jewish Unity
- Community Affairs
- Jews from Arab Lands
- Iran & Global Terror





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# The Talmud and TIKTOK

By RABBI GREG ALEXANDER



Did the world change on the 7th of October? Our world certainly did. The bigger world was already in trouble: climate change, COVID, Russia invading Ukraine were already huge disruptors of world peace. More subtly, the absence of good leadership, and our lack of trust in our leaders, have led to an increasing feeling that the world is not being directed towards hope by the people who should be doing that. A consequence of all of these is a lessening of faith in objective fact – we can all give our opinions as facts and often in ignorance or denial of research placed there by experts – after all, how can we trust those experts to be objective anyway? And who has time to read their research?

In this already difficult environment, we turn to our phones. Social media sets up echo chambers, opinion silos. As Israeli educator, Zohar Raviv, says, today there are “too many surfers, and not enough divers”. Nobody seems willing to do the real research or to read the research of those who have, or to trust that it might reveal something important that we should know before we jump to an opinion. We can all be experts with little to no reading, because how we feel is as valid as fact.

As a result of the above, there has been an increase in opinions and an increase in volume – everyone is shouting loudly. And, at the same time, there has been a corresponding decrease in listening. Nuance or subtlety is not valued. It’s black or white – there are zero ‘shades of grey’.

What can be done considering that we are not world leaders, presidents or prime ministers? I will suggest humbly that what is needed right now in the world is more conversation, less shouting. And to be clear, the aim of those conversations is not to persuade someone to adopt your view, but to listen to

their views, to clarify your views, and hopefully feel listened to.

The Talmud is a fascinating example of great conversations. The rabbis of the time, 1500-2000 years ago were no less passionate or committed to their opinions than we are, and, of course, extremely informed. They were divers, not surfers. The Talmud is a record of their discussions and debates. And, boy, could they argue! One distinctive feature that distinguishes the Talmud is that alongside the prevailing and victorious view is presented the minority opinion. The ‘loser’. And this is studied until today.

But why waste time on the losing point of view if it is not followed? I would argue that this is the very thing that gets us through tough times of conflict. See the other point of view. Understand it. Not to be convinced by it, but to know what others think, how they build their arguments, how there are many ways to approach a problem.

In a world of surfers, let’s dive deep and, when we come up for air, let’s share what we found with each other.

## MAZAL TOV to last month’s Bnei Mitzvah



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*"Despite numerous unexpected challenges Dainius persisted and ultimately got our citizenship reinstated following an Appeal with the Ministry of the Interior. During the entire process he did not require any payment up front, despite undertaking a very significant amount of work on our behalf, as well as his firm's costs. He took payment only after everything was successfully completed."* Tracey J., SA

[www.LithuanianPassport.com](http://www.LithuanianPassport.com)

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## OUR RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



### Partnership with Think Equal

We have partnered with Think Equal, a global organisation focusing on social and emotional development in young children, on a pilot project in the Western Cape.



### Principals' Network

The aim of the Principals' Network is to provide a forum for ECD principals to connect and share.



### ECD qualification for in-service teachers

This course gives experienced practitioners the opportunity of obtaining a qualification in Early Childhood Development (ECD).



### Food relief initiative

We continue to distribute food parcels donated by the Kolisi Foundation to under resourced ECD centres as well as vulnerable families living in poverty.



### Celebrations of success

Celebrations were held for 280 youth, who completed their 12-month work experience.



## CONNECT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNITY

### WHY HATE WON'T WIN! By DANIEL BLOCH, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD



**B**efore taking this job as Executive Director, I was not aware just how much hatred there is in the world. Don't get me wrong...I am not naïve at all as I do read articles, follow social media and watch the news. However, it is only when you are smack bang at the coal face that you realise just how many hate-filled individuals there are in the world. And it's scary!

In almost three years at the Board, I have witnessed first-

hand, more hatred, antisemitism, incitement to violence and aggression than in the first forty-two years of my life. Statements like "Death to Zionists" and "one Zionist one bullet" pale in comparison to the various pro-Hitler and pro-Nazi comments, as well as the statements made by political leaders in parliament stating they will not allow a Jewish state in Cape Town.

People are continuously asking me how I manage to cope with things – Am I not affected by all the hatred and discrimination? – and how can I remain so calm in the face of such barbarity? The answer is a simple one: faith. I have faith that no matter how bad things may get and no matter how much hatred is spewed at our community, hate won't win and we will be triumphant. Again, some of you may think of me as delusional and possibly ask to share whatever I am smoking. However, there is method to my madness.

The haters in South Africa and around the world are a minority. In South Africa, our community has never been more united and we are surrounded by friends from different religious and ethnic communities – all supporting both Israel and the Jews. Despite the plethora of misinformation and lies circulated by the anti-Israel movements, we are able to quash things by providing credible and reliable information to stop BDS in their tracks. The numbers coming out to protest are small in comparison with how many so-called anti-Israel supporters there are. South Africans have seen the anti-Israel movements for what they are and even our government's own anti-Israel stance and tactic of deflecting from our country's own problems is not fooling anyone.

Why do the anti-Israel movements spend every waking moment forming little protests and gathering to read poems for Palestine? Why, wherever they go, do they need to shout as

loudly as possible and disrupt everyone and everything? And why do they always use such hate-filled words like "death", "kill", "bullet" and "destroy"? It's called 'bullying' – and why do bullies do what they do? Bullies often use threats, insults, or exclusion to intimidate and harm others. Such behavior may stem from insecurity, a need for control, a sense of powerlessness, or enjoyment.

South Africa is not listening to the anti-Israel bullies and not supporting their misguided cause. This infuriates them even further. What angers them even more is that the pro-Israel supporters gather to sing songs and pray for peace, not only for Israel, but for the Palestinians too. It's said that 'Truth hurts', which is why the anti-Israel movements cannot allow any positive pro-Israel messaging to get out to the public as this would expose their own lies and their hatred.

We will continue to push back. We will continue to fight the hatred in the country and defend our rights as Jews and Zionists. These hate-filled organisations are simply another bump in the road and, like the Greeks, the Romans, the Nazis and the rest, the Hamas supporters of hate and death will follow suit. As the famous quote goes, "Good will triumph over evil."

**Executive Director of the Cape SAJBD, Daniel Bloch, spoke on Chai FM about why we as a community should stay in Cape Town whilst still remaining vigilant in the current environment.**

<https://www.chaifm.com/podcast/2024-02-12-daniel-bloch-executive-director-cape-south-african-jewish-board-of-deputies-to-what-extent-is-south-africa-becoming-an-unsafe-country-for-the-jewish-community/>



**Chag Pesach Sameach**

May your cup overflow with happiness and prosperity this Passover



**CAPE SAJBD**  
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## PESACH MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

By ADRIENNE JACOBSON



Pesach is almost upon us and the combined result of attending 45 Herzlia Seders across two generations (myself and my boys), coupled with an inbred Jewish mother radar has found me singing *Simcha Rabah, Simcha Raba, Aviv Higiya Pesach Ba...* (if you know you know) and *Vehi Sheamdah*, the Shweky version, on repeat, mainly in the shower where my family can't stop me. This has also been accompanied by sudden and intense cravings for chicken soup and gluten free kneidelach (my granny's recipe and secret weapon).

The Seder table is a powerful space and, this year, the questions we ask, the themes of slavery and oppression, of fear and exile, of community and ritual, will feel particularly painful and profound, given the fragility of the Jewish world, the ongoing captivity of our hostages and the waves of antisemitism facing Jewish communities globally.

Likewise, the Cape SAJBD Board table has been full of discussion and action around upholding our constitutional freedoms, in particular Freedom of Expression. Chapter 2 of the South African Bill of Rights clearly states that Freedom of Expression

is a right as long as it is not acting as an advocacy of hatred based on race, ethnicity, gender or religion and that constitutes incitement to cause harm. This is reinforced under the Equality Act, which redresses hate speech.

The Cape SAJBD is currently taking a series of actions through the Equality Court, against the hate speech and vile antisemitic behaviour exhibited in our current political climate. This is actually a universal issue which, if left unchallenged, provides a breeding ground for antisemitism. As South African citizens, irrespective of the current political dynamic with the ANC government, we have a strong recourse to legal structures and actions to uphold these constitutional rights and freedoms.

Every Pesach, I always find it quite remarkable that roughly 15.7 million identifying Jews in all corners of the world, simultaneously, are sitting together with their families and friends, young and old, around the Seder table, doing what we do best: discussing, commemorating, singing and eating – and we have been doing this for more than 3000 years. No wonder we are such strong lobbyists and debaters.

I was privileged recently, to experience first-hand that power of debate and Jewish connection in the international political governmental lobbying space as together with our National Chair Karen Milner, we met with members of the US Congress delegation, both Republican and Democratic Congressional members, across the US political spectrum from far left to far right, briefing them on the position of SA Jewry, especially in light of government hostility. The meeting took

place just before the delegation met with President Ramaphosa.

My personal highlight was meeting Congresswoman Kathy Manning and the rich discussion Karen and I had with her over our lobbying work with the leadership at South African universities. This comes in the context of Congresswoman Manning's involvement in the interrogation into the antisemitism at Ivy League universities and the subsequent resignation of Liz McGill, president of the University of Pennsylvania.

Here are some extracts from the letters of thanks that we received both from Kathy Manning, Congresswoman for North Carolina, as well as Liz Schroyer, President, US Global Leadership Coalition.

"I just wanted to thank you both again for joining our delegation to brief us on the history and status of the Jewish community in South Africa and Cape Town. While it was very troubling to hear, it was so enlightening and important for us to understand and learn. Your insights were significant, particularly as Representative Manning and the others prepared to meet with President Ramaphosa.

What I will just add is my heartfelt thank you for your leadership, courage and strength... You captured both the vulnerability and resilience of the community beautifully.

Please know that the entire Jewish world is behind you and is cheering you on. If there is more that we can do to support you, please let us know."

– Liz Schroyer

"When I met with the President I told him that the SA Jewish community was experiencing a 600 percent rise in antisemitism and I shared with him the examples you shared with me, from the protests with the horrifying

chants to the business boycotts. I told him the genocide claim against Israel had made matters worse. I told him your community needs his support. He responded by saying, 'Message received'.

Please keep us informed and stay strong.

With appreciation, Kathy".

– Kathy Manning

Together with our National Chair Karen Milner's erudite political depth and insight, it was an incredible experience to be in such a powerful political space, to respond to the depth and breadth of the questions posed to us, and especially to meet with two such esteemed Jewish women leaders. For me it was a profound testament to the importance of the lobbying and advocacy work that the Board is doing nationally as well as in the Cape that is so crucial right now.

May we all as individuals take this lobbying energy along with the lessons of Pesach as we read from our Haggadot at our Seder tables this year. That we may be blessed and enabled to demonstrate our freedoms of expression through meaningful engagement, and that we may be merited to work together with strength to build a world of empathy, peace and freedom, where "*meavdut le chéru*" (from slavery to freedom), is exalted; where "*mi Yagon lesimcha*" (from mourning to celebration) means our hostages are freed, safe and returned to their families; and where "*meafela leor gadol*" (from darkness to great light) brings an end to hate and evil; and may we sing a "*Shira Chadasha*" (a new song of tolerance and love). Hallelujah.

Wishing you all a Chag Pesach Sameach veKasher and a Seder table full of loved ones, song, joy and rich family traditions.

## The Board in conversation with DANIEL TAUB

The Cape SAJBD together with National SAJBD were fortunate to host Former Israeli Ambassador to the United Kingdom and international lawyer Daniel Taub at different events in Cape Town and Johannesburg on 25 and 26 February. Taub served as Israel's ambassador to the United Kingdom from 2011 to 2015 and as Director of Strategy and Planning of the Yad Hanadiv

(Rothschild) Foundation from 2015 to 2021.

In Cape Town, Daniel addressed an intimate gathering of lawyers, advocates and communal leaders and provided a fascinating account of the situation in Israel, his perspective on the ICJ case, and the current mood in Israel. Furthermore, he elucidated on a nuanced view on the 'two state solution', arguing that a state

alone for Palestinians is not necessarily a complete solution without substantial and fair governance that promotes peace. The next day, Taub addressed representatives from political parties and consul generals at a lunch discussion. Daniel waxed lyrical about the support for Israel in South Africa both from the Jewish community as well as non-Jewish stakeholders. (Read Why hate won't win! on p.12.)



Daniel Taub speaks to a Cape Town audience



## Israel Apartheid Week briefing hosted by the Cape SAJBD

The notorious Israel Apartheid Week (IAW), occurring on university campuses worldwide, unfolded throughout March. In alignment with its mission to combat antisemitism and safeguard Jewish students on campus, the Cape SAJBD, alongside the South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS), Stand With Us, and Chabad on Campus, hosted two briefing sessions for students in Cape Town and Stellenbosch.

The primary objectives of these sessions were to equip Jewish students with insights into what they might encounter on campus – such as protests, hostility, potential threats, providing guidance on how to

conduct themselves on campus and access to support services.

Executive Director Daniel Bloch delved into the history of IAW, outlined the rules of engagement on campus, and offered the do's and don'ts regarding social media and WhatsApp communication. The Board actively engages with UCT and other universities' leadership to advocate for the safety of Jewish students, making it a secure space for them.

These sessions play a crucial role in preparing students by proactively furnishing them with practical procedures and information to shield them from the rising wave of hatred on campus during this period.

In collaboration with various communal organisations, the Board released a valuable resource named The Info Dome. This resource provides factual information to dispel misconceptions and misinformation surrounding the Israel-Palestine conflict. If you would like an electronic copy, please contact [sajbd2@ctjc.co.za](mailto:sajbd2@ctjc.co.za).



Daniel Bloch addresses the students at the Stellenbosch briefing



The session held for Jewish students in Cape Town at Café Riteve



Daniel Bloch dons tefillin with the assistance of Rabbi Nissen Goldman (Chabad on Campus)

### REPORT ANTISEMITISM & HATRED

The Cape SAJBD closely monitors and investigates all acts of antisemitism in South Africa – but **we stand against all forms of hatred.**

Our 'No Place for Hate' campaign fights hatred directed against anyone to combat a culture of racism, antisemitism and prejudice in our country.

Report incidents of antisemitism and hate by sending a **Whatsapp message to the Antisemitism Hotline on 079 994 5573.**

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE!**



### COMMUNITY WELLNESS HELPLINE

If you are feeling overwhelmed, anxious and would like access to a trained counsellor, please contact our Cape SAJBD's Community Helpline to support your emotional wellbeing.

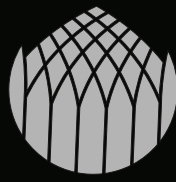
Send a WhatsApp message, voice note or call the **Emotional Wellness Helpline on 079 875 3902**



### REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Please report any suspicious activity or potential security threats specifically related to the Jewish Community or Communal facilities as well as medical emergencies to the **24-hr CSO Control Room on 086 18 911 18**





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**Monday 6 May 2024**  
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Cemetery 2**

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for more details.





# The Western Cape Jewish community welcomes you!

## **The Cape SA Jewish Board of Deputies welcomes you to the Western Cape!**

If you or your family have moved to the Western Cape in the past few years, or if you know of anyone who has joined our community, then please connect with us. We would like to assist you as best we can to ensure your transition is as smooth as possible. Find out more about this incredible community and how we can work together!

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



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please email [sajbd2@ctjc.co.za](mailto:sajbd2@ctjc.co.za)**







# Chag Pesach *Sameach*

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## SOUTH AFRICA, THE TRAPEZE ARTIST



*Stuart Kantor, an independent wealth manager, holds a BBusSci degree with Honours in Finance, a SAFEX Junior Dealer Qualification, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Financial Planning. He is a Director of Kanan Wealth, a financial planning and wealth management advisory business in Cape Town.*

### A comment on February's National Budget Speech by Stuart Kantor, Director, Kanan Wealth

In many ways, if South Africa were a person, it would be a trapeze artist, constantly navigating the thinnest of tightropes. Our nation seems to be locked in a perpetual balancing act and this year's National Budget was no different. The Budget reflected an approach of providing some measure of care for the destitute and unemployed while appeasing taxpayers and international creditors. It's still about respecting the past and honouring our future.

Thanks to Eskom, Transnet, softer global demand and muted commodity prices, this year National Treasury found itself with limited revenue to play with and an economy very much in need of support. South Africa's public debt burden has risen sharply and debt service costs – the cost of paying off interest on the debt – have meant that tax revenue allocations have not been allocated as effectively.

The good news is that Treasury has planned well for the above-mentioned factors and last year's Budget and this year's reality are in line with estimates. Bad planning and missed estimates are what cause panic, and for this we need to be proud of our well-managed

National Treasury. With Eskom and private business having adapted to a level of load shedding and with the fast-acting private sector, for this financial year, National Treasury sees faster revenue growth and a slowing of costs.

While this is good for the country's income statement, it means no respite was offered to taxpayers. Tax tables remained unchanged, but inflation means tax revenue will increase. Sin taxes (taxes on tobacco and alcohol products) increased by more than inflation.

Effort to reduce our National Debt means that the cost of living will remain high and Government spending will be limited. Ironically, the public sector wage bill will increase because of inflation, but real wages won't increase. In other words, public sector workers will receive no meaningful respite from inflation.

Treasury has also used reserves of gold and foreign currency to reduce public sector debt and we can only hope this isn't the beginning of another bad habit. Let's hope our government understands the need not to stare a gift horse in the mouth!

Housing and Policing have been made top-spending priorities with a reduction in spending for recreation and culture.

But it is important to remember that South Africa is not alone. Globally, the cost of living is affecting many families. Governments are grappling with social and geopolitical complexity. Granted, what many other countries have is a government that doesn't self-sabotage. And, other countries have national pride. But the South African Trapeze has come a long way and must now navigate a critical election. I am excited by the feedback of many analysts who have suggested that the ANC is losing many bad apples and that there is some hope for meaningful coalitions.

Sometimes, when I close my eyes and try to see the future, I see a trend where the government has quietly enabled private security, health care, energy, and logistics. It's a government that may quietly be stepping out of the way, enabling the greatest democracy that Africa has ever known.

**BE SURE TO CAST YOUR VOTE ON WEDNESDAY, 29TH OF MAY.**

## MEDICAL DOCTOR IN CAPE TOWN CITY BOWL

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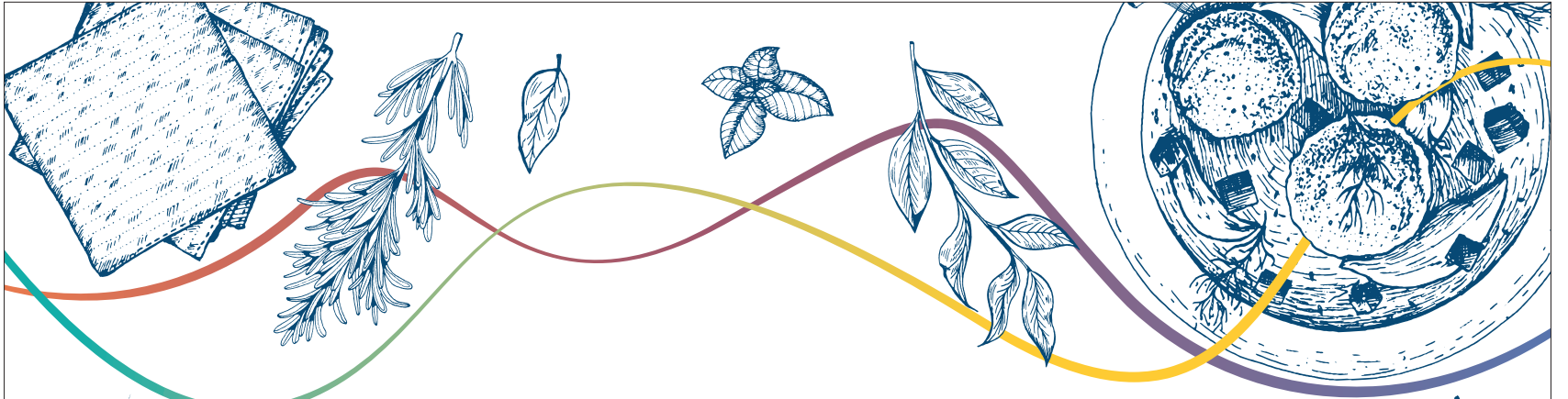
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We are excited to announce that we are taking consignments for our next medal auction!

*Wishing you a Chag Pesach Sameach*





# Chag Pesach Sameach

**Pesach is a time to celebrate our liberation from slavery and our journey towards freedom.**

It's a time to reflect on the importance of unity within our community and remember that we are all part of the same family, woven together by a shared history and traditions.

As we gather around the Seder table, we embrace the timeless story of liberation and renewal that Pesach embodies. The Seder meal, with its traditional symbolic foods and storytelling, reminds us of the hardships endured and the subsequent journey to freedom, reinforcing the belief that out of the darkest times can come great light.

It is a continuous reminder of the enduring human spirit, our unwavering faith and the power of hope in building community.

Hope is not merely the engine that propels our community, it is

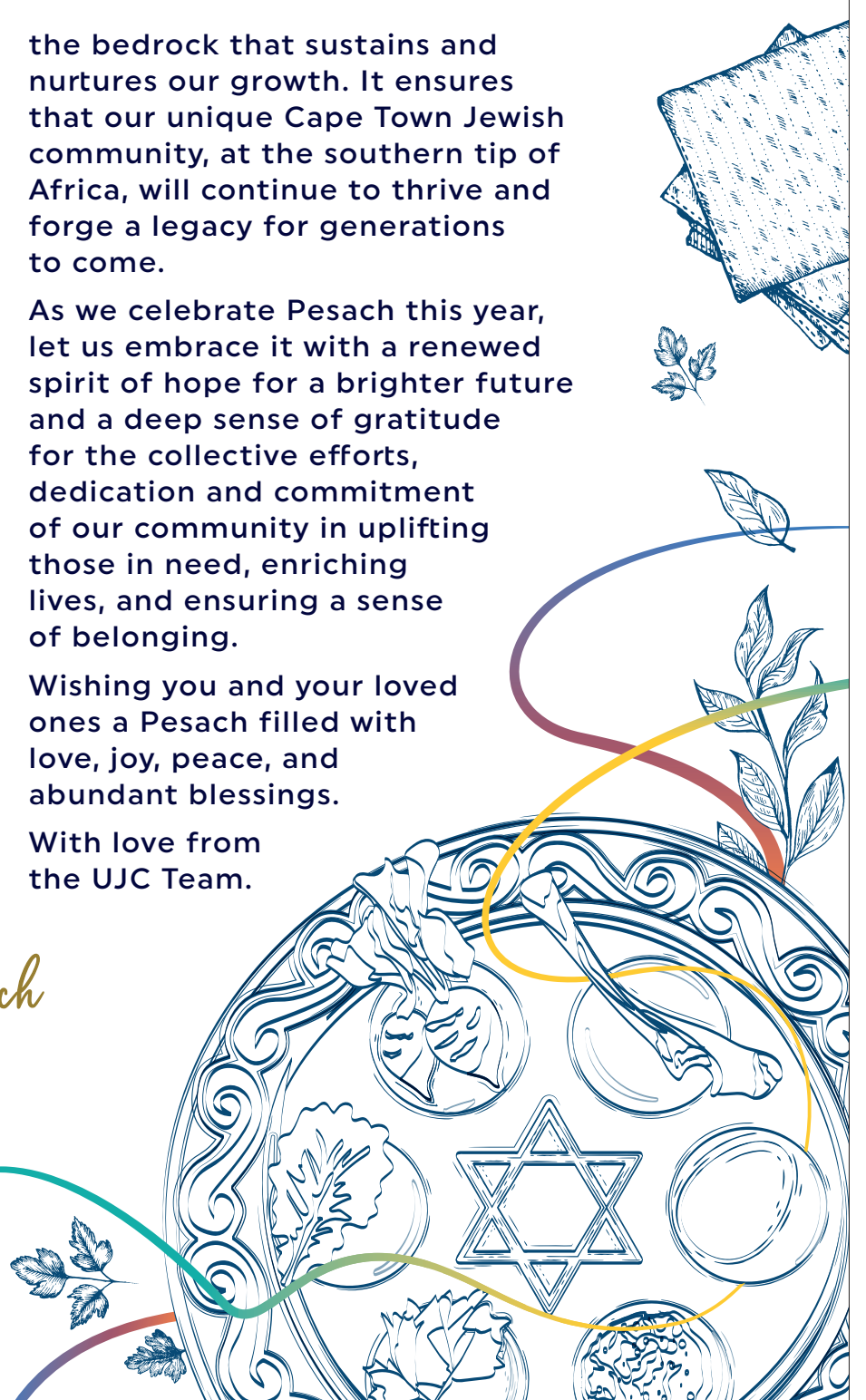
the bedrock that sustains and nurtures our growth. It ensures that our unique Cape Town Jewish community, at the southern tip of Africa, will continue to thrive and forge a legacy for generations to come.

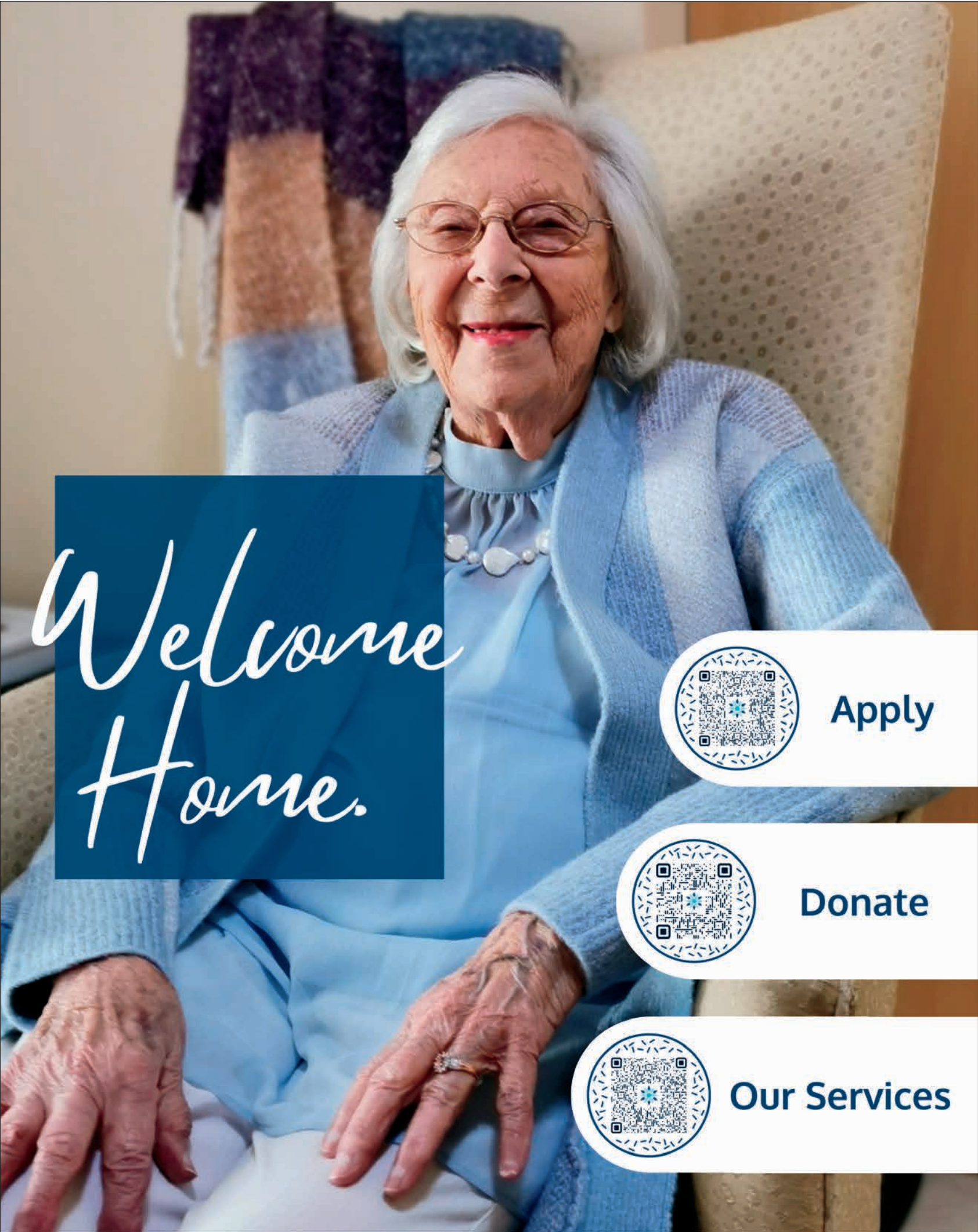
As we celebrate Pesach this year, let us embrace it with a renewed spirit of hope for a brighter future and a deep sense of gratitude for the collective efforts, dedication and commitment of our community in uplifting those in need, enriching lives, and ensuring a sense of belonging.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Pesach filled with love, joy, peace, and abundant blessings.

With love from the UJC Team.

*Chag Pesach kasher v'sameach from all of us at the*





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# Cape Town's Connection to Israel

**ADVOCATE EDUCATE CELEBRATE**

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



Friday, 8 March, marked International Women's Day. Women from the Cape Town community, along with the unwavering support of the Christian community, came together, united in solidarity to create awareness about sexual violence and women's rights. The focus was on October 7th and the 19 women still being held hostage by Hamas. When we unite and come together as women, there is nothing we cannot achieve! #bringthemhome

## HEARTLAND INITIATIVE: Strengthening ties between Israel and South Africa



Heartland Initiative's Senior Partner Gedaliah Blum meets the SAZF CC Executive

available for future collaboration.

Gedaliah commented on the meeting held with the SAZF CC: "In a productive meeting with Heather Blumenthal and the executive team of the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF) Cape Council, I witnessed their dedication to strengthening Jewish identity and building cross-cultural connections, notably with the local Christian community.

**'Together we will continue to build bridges for a vibrant and strong Israel globally'**

The SAZF CC had the privilege of hosting Gedaliah Blum, senior partner of Heartland Initiative. We facilitated a number of meetings and conversations with communal organisations, so that they had the opportunity to meet the dynamic Gedaliah Blum and hear first-hand about the work of the Heartland organisation and the opportunities

"It was clear that despite anti-Israel sentiments, the SAZF is committed to advocating for Israel and enhancing its image in South Africa through education, advocacy, and lobbying. Their inclusive efforts foster strong relationships across communities. We discussed integrating the Heartland Initiative's network and support into their efforts, aiming to amplify their impact and further their mission of fostering widespread support for Israel in a complex environment."

## THE JAFFA GATE – Restored with the generous help of South African Jewry 1969

By: DAVID KAPLAN – Editor and Chief Correspondent to the TELFED English magazines and previous chairman of TELFED

**The impact of South African Jewry is felt throughout Israel.**

of Jewish life to the Old City, in the post Six Day War period.

Like so many spots all over the country – from kindergartens, schools, dams, libraries, parks, botanical gardens, hospital wings and wards – the plaques tell the story of the South African contribution. The Jaffa Gate is another example of South African philanthropy dating back to the late 1960s, celebrating the return

Another example is the Old Yeshiva Court Museum in the Jewish Quarter, Mendel Kaplan's first philanthropic project in Israel. It shows Jewish life in the Old City during the 18th and 19th century. South African Jewish philanthropy of the sixties and seventies was inspired by the desire to make a mark on the revival of Jewish Jerusalem.



Jaffa Gate



# Cape Town's Connection to Israel

**ADVOCATE EDUCATE CELEBRATE**

## A VERY BUSY FEBRUARY for Bnei Akiva Cape Town

By JESSICA CONNÉ



Bnei Akiva Cape Town's 2024 Mishloach Manot

From pizza- and cookie-making to picnics and beach chills on Clifton, our Tochnit Sundays have surely been a highlight of the month.

We have also launched our annual Mishloach Manot packages. This year our theme is Joy!

However, as we celebrate the chag of Purim here in Cape Town, it is important to us to remember our brothers and sisters in Israel, and to extend this joy. 10% of all our proceeds will therefore be donated to the hostage families in Israel.

We are so looking forward to the meaningful and fun month ahead! Kadimah Bnei Akiva

## Our Jewish Community MIFGASH (JCM) EXPERIENCE

By EYTAN LABE



Our Fellows working on their Leadership Vision Board

In a year filled with unexpected challenges, the Diller programme continues to shine as a beacon of hope for our leaders. Despite the disruptions caused by the war, our commitment to fostering leadership, Tikkun Olam, and community remains unwavering.

The recent workshops have ranged from immersive sessions on leadership to meaningful discussions about repairing the world, and our teens have embraced every opportunity for growth. While JCM worked differently

than most years, we had the pleasure of hosting the Johannesburg cohort, making the most of a challenging time. The teens were involved in fun, bonding, and meaningful experiences. Volunteering, workshops about deepening our connections, and celebrating Purim together were just some of the highlights of the programme.

Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate our Leadership Shabbaton where we put everything we've learned into action.

## HABO'S THRIVING MONTH – from day camps to international engagement

By BRAD GOTTSCHALK

In the past month, Habo has made significant strides, launching operations in Cape Town with a successful day camp at Rush Trampoline Park.

The upcoming mini-Mach from the 15th to the 17th of March promises to be another exciting event, showcasing Habo's dynamic approach to youth development.

Expressing solidarity with hostages taken on October 7th, the Sea Point Promenade in Cape Town now bears yellow ribbons and a powerful message, "Bring them home."

In a global engagement initiative, a cohort of Maddrichim has been actively involved in Israel, visiting affected communities, engaging with politicians, and immersing themselves in the diverse experiences the country offers.

Habo continues to evolve, leaving an indelible mark on communities both locally and globally.

## New year, new team: NETZER MAZKIRUT 2024

By Netzer Mazkirut



**DANIELLA BESWICK**  
ROLE: Mazkira

I'm a 2nd-year student at UCT. I have been involved in Netzer since I was seven. I'm so excited to be giving our channies the same experience.



**SHIRLANE DAVIDS**  
ROLE: Gizbar & S'gan Cape Town

I have been a part of Netzer for nine years. I went on my Shnat gap year in 2023 with Hannah.



**HANNAH JANTJIES**  
ROLE: Rosh Cape Town & Shnat Rakezet

I have been involved with Netzer since 2012. Last year, I went on Netzer Shnat together with Shirlane – best decision ever.



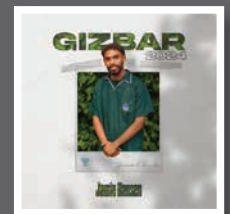
**LYLE MINNAAR**  
ROLE: Rosh Shivuk

I've been in the movement for two years. I'm ecstatic to help make the year another wonderful and enriching one for all our amazing channies.



**JOSH JANTJIES**  
ROLE: Rosh Small Centres & S'gan Shivuk.

Since my first machaneh I've felt at home with Netzer. It truly changed me for the better.



**JAMIE HANSEN**  
ROLE: Gizbar

Outside of Netzer, I work in the public health sector. This is my third year in Netzer and first as part of the Mazkirut.

# FILM CLUB

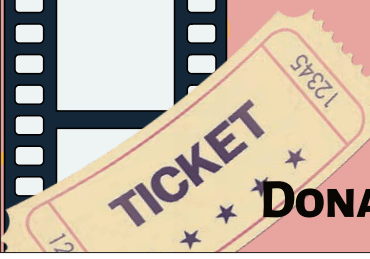


**SUNDAY 14 APRIL 2024**

<b>AT</b>	<b>6:30</b>	<b>PM</b>
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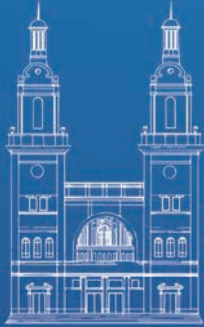


**SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL**



Gardens Shul Presents

# First Night COMMUNAL SEDER



**MONDAY, APRIL 22**

Led by Rabbi and Sarah Feldman  
and Family  
Soulful singing by Chazzan Choni G

**PRICING:**

Adult Gardens Shul Member: R495	Teens 12-17: R220
Adult Non-Member: R650	Children ages 5-11: R90
Seniors: R360	Children under 5 years: FREE

**International Guests Welcome**

Please contact the Shul office for pricing and booking

**OPTIONAL** - R540 Tzedakah to help enhance the Seder of a community member

**RSVP at the Gardens shul office:**

021 465 1405 or email [cthc@gardensshul.co.za](mailto:cthc@gardensshul.co.za)



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# JEWISH STUDENT LIFE

Powered by:  
 Chabad  
on Campus

## STELLIES WELCOME BRAAI

50 Jewish students gathered for a welcome braai to launch another year of Jewish Student Life at Stellenbosch University. Big thanks to the Sternberg and Myerson Family for always making sure our Jewish students are taken care of. And of course to Stellenbosch shul for always welcoming us and being so supportive of our Jewish Students. A special shout out to Gabi Zetler and Ian Katzeff for being the in-house Mom and Pops of our community.



Zack Brivick stands proud wrapped in Tefillin



Zack Myerson, a Stellies Jewish student leader, displays his Jewish Pride



Zack Baitz (DBN), Zack Aaron (Plett) Zianda Goldstuck (JHB), Julian Gordon (CPT), Ethan Epstein-Kaye (East London)



Yonatan Kuti-Alexander proudly dons Tefillin



Ariel Saxe, Samuel Nathan, Sabrina Brivik, Oliver Norrie, Jake Greenberg, Zack Brivik, Keryn Shochot



The Chabad House  
13 Rhodes Ave, Mowbray  
info@jewct.com | 072 363 0351 | facebook.com/jewct



## UCT WELCOME FEST



Levin (CPT), Henry Rochester (JHB), Liat Chipkin, (JHB), Gia Taitz (DBN)



Jewish students meet and greet in the Chabad tent at UCT Welcome Fest



Dan, a fresher from Joburg, wraps tefillin proudly on the rugby field

## A SPECIAL EVENING WITH A TZAHAL CHAYAL

We had the unique privilege of hearing from a very special chaya who was in town for a holiday with his family. As an avid kite surfer he chose Cape Town for its world-class wind surfing destination, Bloubaai. We got to hear his first-hand account of what's happening on the ground. He served in Aza protecting the southern communities from constant rocket fire as well as on the northern border fighting Hezbollah, eliminating rocket launchers in order to protect the northern communities. He brought us strength and hope with incredible stories of miracles – how HaShem's hand is so apparent even in the thick of war. We are so grateful to Rabbi Chezki and Chanchee Malka who hosted us at their brand new Chabad House for Tourists and Hebrew speakers In Cape Town.



## STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY: WEEKLY LUNCH 'N LEARN



We get together every Wednesday at 1pm over lunch to learn a text of Torah relevant to the week or season

## UCT: TORAH TUESDAYS™



## FIGHTING ANTISEMITISM

Daniel Bloch from the Board of Deputies spoke to Jewish students at Stellenbosch University about their rights on campus and encouraged them to report any incidents of hate, bullying or harassment.



The Chabad House  
13 Rhodes Ave, Mowbray  
info@jewct.com | 072 363 0351 | facebook.com/jewct



# United Herzlia Schools



## HERZLIA PUPILS TRAVEL to the USA for BBOY

Every year over 5 000 top Jewish teen leaders, educators, professionals and philanthropists from around the world gather for one of the largest Jewish communal annual events. A group of Herzlia pupils were selected to attend this year's B'nai B'rith Youth Organisation (BBOY) Centennial International Convention in New York. They were given the opportunity to make lifelong connections with Jewish teens from around the globe and experience inspiring speakers such as Noah Tishby and Tiffany Haddish and performances by celebs Flo Rida and Noa Kirel, winner of Eurovision. Kol Hakavod!



Herzlia pupils selected to travel to America: L – R: Sophia Kilborn, Ariella Landau, Jessica Sherman, Ariel Zetler, Amelie Bilski, Zoe Sternberg, Dovid Hack, Ava Palmer, Ally Nathan, Sebastian Fleischmann

## FUTURE LEADERS and mensches

Herzlia Highlands Primary Gr 6s loved completing the Lead4Life 'Leaders in Action' programme which amplifies Herzlia's holistic academic offering with out of the classroom adventure-learning experiences. This provides pupils an opportunity for self-expression, fun and enjoyment, personal introspection, bonding and team building!



L – R: Zac Aufrigtig, Mathew Ressel, Jordan Band, Jake Saven, Caleb Malia, Nathan Bloch, Zakai Chait, Sarah Digre, Chloe Theron, Mika Snaid. Front: Lead4Life co-ordinator

## HERZLIA MAKES A SPLASH at first Knysna Chukka Festival

Herzlia High School girls and boys U18 and U15 teams travelled to Knysna in February on a sports tour competing for the very first time in the Knysna Chukka Festival hosted by Oakhill High School. The event created three water polo 'pools' in the Knysna Quays harbour in the majestic Knysna lagoon. All the teams played their hearts out, gained experience and represented Herzlia with pride.



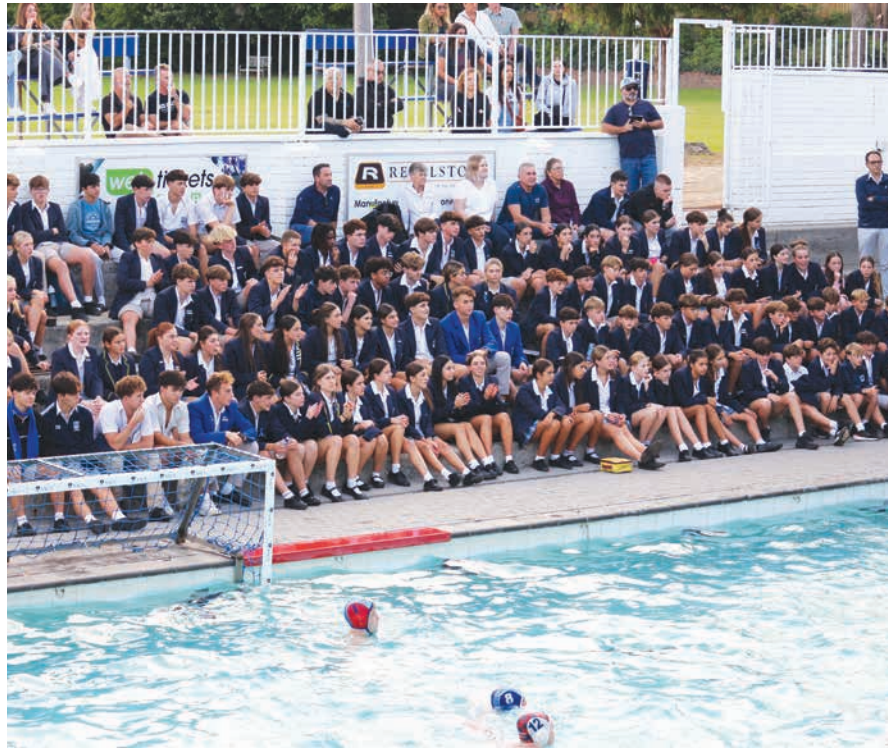
Herzlia Water Polo Girls U18: Back L – R: Saskia Gofman, Ruby Chaskalson, Aimee Hutchison, Eden Sachs, Ella Rosmarin, Danielle Munitz, Sienna Berridge. Front L – R: Megan Hurwitz, Kira Labe, Sienna Daitsh, Madison Daitsh, Danni Shochot, Jessica Carrol



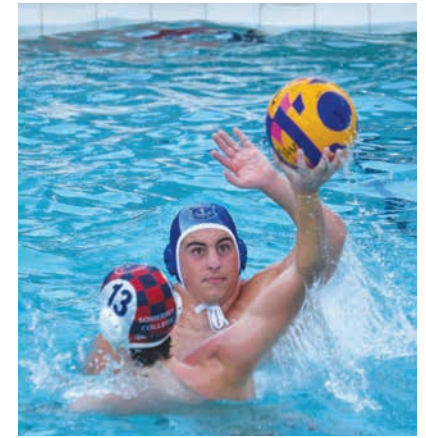
Herzlia Water Polo Boys U18: Back L – R: Ross Van Schoor (Herzlia Head of Aquatics & Boys Water Polo Coach), Joseph Lee, Ben Levy, Gabriel Spiro, Leo Miller, Sam Marks, Matt Whitesman, Judd Kilborn, Greg Brorson (Asst. Coach). Front L – R: Brooklyn Danilewitz, Ben Levy, Judd Jocum, Gabriel Palmer, Jasper Stevenson, Adam Stoller

## MAZINTER CUP FINAL is just the beginning

**K**ol Hakavod to Herzlia first team boys' water polo for making it, once again, into the prestigious annual Mazinter Cup finals against Somerset College. It was a nail-biting match and, despite giving 100%, they lost by just one point with 5-4. They're already planning next year's comeback once the new Herzlia Aquatics Centre is built and they can train in style! Water Polo is a hugely popular sport at Herzlia and it was amazing to see the ruach from a huge Herzlia supporters stand with high school and primary school pupils, teachers, parents and alumni in attendance all shouting for our team!



Herzlia supporters and community came out in full force at the Mazinter Cup final



## Grade 1s and 6s BUDDY UP!

**H**erzlia Highlands and Weizmann Primaries launched their annual Buddy Programme where Gr6 pupils pair up with Gr1 pupils to offer mentorship and support and create a positive and supportive introduction to the primary school experience. It's special to see new Herzlia mensches-in-training!



Levi Fine-Bloom and Jonah Ginsberg with Elijah Sareli and Zachary Merwitz (HP)



Ruben Levin-Vorster & Nadav Sareli (HP)



Kira Shekel & Ariel Levy (HP)

## HERZLIA U17 XI WIN Rohan Bloom Foundation trophy

**A**nother year, another thrilling win at the much-loved annual Rohan Bloom Foundation white ball day/night cricket event. Herzlia's U17 XI played against Bishops and excelled throughout the match, taking the win by 19 runs.



Herzlia U17 Cricket: Back L - R: Judd Jocum, Kai Seeff, Jed Kagan, Adam Merris, Sam Cohen, Ethan Werb, Jared Zolty, Connor Amsdorf, Aryeh Robins Kallman, Sam Cohen. Front L - R: Dovi Hack, Jordan Sussman, Jack Preston



# L'DOR VADOR

## Chag Pesach Kasher v'Sameach

**FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION**



UNITED HERZLIA SCHOOLS  
בתי"ס המאוחדים הרצליה



HERZLIA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



THE HERZLIA FOUNDATION TRUST  
SECURING JEWISH EDUCATION



# Milestone Reunion

On the 17th of December last year, the Herzlia Alumni Association hosted a combined reunion for alumni celebrating their 10, 20, 30, 40, and 50 years since matriculating.

Herzlia reunions are incredibly important as they give our alumni a space to reconnect with one another and the school. They provide an opportunity to reminisce about old times and shared memories. They also help maintain a sense of community, fostering a feeling of belonging and solidarity, and contribute to a sense of shared identity.

We look forward to hosting the matrices of 1974, 1984, 1994, 2004, and 2014 this year! If it's your milestone reunion this year, please email [oldherz@herzlia.com](mailto:oldherz@herzlia.com) to get involved.



2024 MILESTONE REUNIONS	
1974	24 November
1984	11 August
1994	01 September
2004	5 December
2014	21 November




Herzlia Alumni Association team Nicole (Michalowsky) Stern (MY 1999), Geoff Cohen (MY 1976), Leora (Israel) Hessen (MY 1992) and Lauren Sweidan



Matric year 1993: Lindy (Goott) Sack, Janine (Abrahamson) Fleischmann, Steven Arelisky, Michael Novis and Elan Theebom

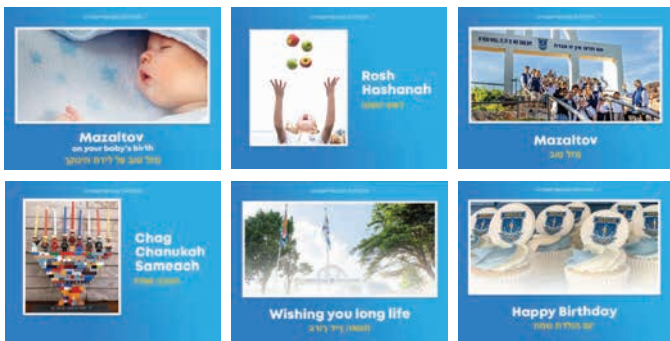


Matric year 2013: Abi Berkovitz, Asher Woolf, Saul Bloch and Chanan Suiza



## Need a meaningful gift?

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You can now send eCards for every simcha any time of day, from anywhere in the world with your donation securing Jewish education.

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Need help? Email [hft@herzlia.com](mailto:hft@herzlia.com) | Donors may be eligible to receive a Section 18A tax certificate.





Matric year 1973: Mervyn Schaffer, Robbie and Barbara (Jacobs) Friedman and Ronnie Gotkin



Adam Edelberg (MY 2013), Zach Helfrich (MY 2013) and Geoff Cohen (MY 1976)



Angela Nemov, Hilary Waters (MY1973), Shani Judes (MY 2003), and their son Michael

# Pesach Greetings



**The President, Honorary Officers, Council and staff of WIZO South Africa extend best wishes to our members and community for a Chag Pesach kasher ve'sameach**



**CHAG Pesach SAMEACH**  
from all of us at Highlands House



**WIZO CAPE TOWN**  
Women's International Zionist Organization  
*Sending warm wishes to you, your family and loved ones for a joyous and blessed Chag Pesach Sameach!*



**JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPE TOWN**  
From the Chairman, Exco Committee, Executive Director and Staff  
**Chag Pesach Kasher v'Sameach**



**CHAG PESACH KASHER V' SAMEACH 5784**  
The Pesach message: "Once we were slaves - Now we are free" takes on new meaning this year as we pray for the release of the hostages.  
[www.meltoncapetown.org](http://www.meltoncapetown.org)




**Glendale home**  
From our home to yours  
**Pesach Sameach V'Kasher**



**SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CAPE COUNCIL**  
Wishing you a Chag Pesach Sameach.



**Chag Pesach Sameach**  
May you be blessed with peace, prosperity, good health and happiness.  
From all of us at the South African Jewish Museum  
**SAJM**  
South African Jewish Museum



**THE ELIOT OSRIN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**  
Have a meaningful PESACH  
**THE ULTIMATE LEADER MUST EMBODY TWO QUALITIES: TO CARE DEEPLY & LOVE PEOPLE TO DISPLAY STRENGTH & BE BOLD**  
Investing in People who Invest in Community  
[www.osrinleadership.org](http://www.osrinleadership.org)

# POST-MATRIC STUDIES – the world is your oyster!



Recognising the increasing demand among young people in our community to study beyond our borders after matric, Cape Town Torah High (CTTH) has developed a curriculum and an approach to benchmarking that provides a Cape Town matriculant with all the elements needed to be accepted by a certified university anywhere in the world.

The school's academic programme is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), an internationally recognised accrediting association based in the United States. In addition, CTTH is registered with the Independent Schools Association of South Africa and the South African Department of Basic Education.

According to Daniella Conibear, the Principal of the school, "CTTH is an international school and, as such, we source our curriculum from a variety of course providers, most notably, the University of Nebraska High School in the United States of

America. Through this, students at our school are able to select from a wide range of courses that reflect their own interests and goals for the future. Taking into account the quality of the courses selected and the grades achieved for the courses, the outcome for many students is that they can be accepted into a tertiary institution in the USA, Europe, Israel, and other countries, too."

While the matric diploma that a student achieves at CTTH provides them with an internationally-accredited qualification, it is also suitable for admission to a South African university. As Daniella explains, "This means that the student has many options in terms of further studies: they are not limited to selecting a South African institution only."

Students study at their own pace, using a mix of online and face-to-face learning. The courses are modular based, allowing a student to complete courses within semesters rather than full years. The marks achieved


during the assessments count towards the student's Grade Point Average (GPA), which reflects the accumulated learning of the student over a number of grades. "The GPA score is a crucial element in the university application process," Daniella explains.

In addition, CTTH provides for assessment for university readiness both in South Africa (the National Benchmarking Test (NBT)) and internationally (the Scholastic Assessment Test or SAT, as it is more commonly known). SAT assessments are done at CTTH at both Grade 11 and 12 levels, and the school hosts the NBT process annually, too.

"We understand that the process

can be quite intimidating for both students and parents, and so we provide ongoing support regarding the selection of courses, grades required, and taking the various benchmarking tests," Daniella adds.

With the various elements in place, it's quite possible for a South African matriculant to study anywhere they choose to. In fact, CTTH has past students who've been accepted to study at South African tertiary institutions such as UCT, the University of Stellenbosch, Vega, AFDA, Friends of Design; at Yeshiva University in New York; and at Israel's private university IDC, as well as at the Technion in Israel.




**CTTH**  
CAPE TOWN TORAH HIGH  
INTERNATIONAL JEWISH EDUCATION  
חנוך לנער על פי דרכו

**CLASS OF 2023**

**100% INTERNATIONAL PASS**

Each Matric student was awarded their internationally recognised High School Diploma accredited by WASC.



**96TH PERCENTILE ON THE SAT**

The average score on the SAT was 1230. 11% higher than the global average.

**3 AP COURSES PER STUDENT**

Matrics completed an average of 3 AP (college level) courses last year.

**86% MATRIC HEBREW**

86% of Grade 12s took Hebrew all the way to Matric.

**SAT**

**3.6 GRADE POINT AVERAGE**


The class average GPA was 3.6 with a top GPA of 4.0. The Matrics graduated with an average of 28 credits each.



**GPA**

**86% HONOURS ROLL**

86% of the class were awarded Honours Roll for achieving an average of 85% and above on all courses.

**A+**



*Upcoming*

**COURSES**

ONLINE, IN-PERSON, DAYTIME, EVENING - WE HAVE SOMETHING SUITED FOR YOU!

- Jewish Ethics
- Biblical Women
- Israeli Literature (Revised)
- Conscious Jewish Parenting
- We Are What We Remember (Revised)
- SA Jewish History
- Eshet Chayil
- Festival Series (Chaggim - In Real Time)
- Israel Series (Updating unfolding events)

**RSVP**

lauren@snitcher.org +27828802257  
Viv Anstey, Director: vivanst@iafrica.com  
www.meltoncapetown.org





# LEGAL MATTERS

## Failing mental or physical ability: legal arrangements to note By EDITOR



*Sheri Breslaw*



*Ben-Zion Surdut*

In recent years, advances in medicine mean that many more people are living to advanced ages than previously. One consequence of this is that we are seeing more cases of dementia, including Alzheimer’s, than previously. In fact, according to Forbes, “the number of adults...living with dementia worldwide is expected to nearly triple, from an estimated 57 million in 2019 to 153 million in 2050.”

Within our own community in Cape Town, we have seen a significant increase in demand for care for people with these sorts of conditions. This need is what prompted the development of a new memory care unit at Highlands House.

In addition to the fact that the numbers are constantly increasing, we have an added dilemma in our community: many elderly folk have children living elsewhere and so family members are not always available to step in to assist the person to manage their affairs.

Thankfully, the law offers a number of solutions to these problems, but action must be taken in good time. If nothing is done, the risk is that, should a person deteriorate quickly and need, say, to move from their home into a care facility urgently, it’s likely that there will be problems. This is certainly true if a property has to be sold to raise the funds for the care home. Allocating rights in the law for someone else to act on behalf of the person takes time, so these rights should be in place before an emergency arises.

The Chronicle spoke to two local attorneys about ways to deal with these situations: Sheri Breslaw, Director at Fairbridges Wertheim Becker, and Ben-Zion Surdut, a long-standing partner at Getz Hyams and Surdut Attorneys. They shared information as a guide for how to proceed.

LEGAL SOLUTION	POWER OF ATTORNEY	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER	CURATORSHIP
<b>WHICH SOLUTION IS BEST FOR WHICH SCENARIO?</b>	<p>Person suffering mild disability of a physical or mental type. The person must be lucid at times.</p> <p>The General Power of Attorney lapses if a person becomes mentally incapacitated, or on death.</p>	<p>A person unable to control their financial or personal affairs because of severe disability, e.g. advanced dementia or Alzheimer’s.</p> <p>Appropriate for someone with limited assets, e.g. a property, some investments.</p>	<p>A person unable to control their financial or personal affairs because of severe disability, e.g. advanced dementia or Alzheimer’s, or physical incapacity.</p> <p>Appropriate for someone with extensive wealth and many assets.</p>
<b>PROCESS</b>	<p>Ailing person signs a Power of Attorney document naming a person to act on their behalf. Document is legally valid only while the person is still able to understand the authority granted.</p> <p>Power of Attorney can be cancelled at any time.</p>	<p>Application made to Master of High Court. Master will want proof of the person’s incapacity so a psychiatrist’s report is needed.</p> <p>Administrator must submit annual report to the Master.</p>	<p>Application made to High Court, supported by 2 medical reports – one from a psychiatrist, confirming that the individual is no longer able to manage their own affairs.</p> <p>2-stage process. 1st stage = an investigation regarding the necessity for appointing a Curator (Bonis). 2nd stage = court makes a final order once the necessary reports have been submitted.</p> <p>Curator must submit an annual report to the Master.</p>
<b>AUTHORITY TO SELL IMMOVABLE PROPERTY</b>	<p>A Special Power of Attorney is needed. This is different from a General Power of Attorney.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Administrator needs Master’s consent for sale of immovable property.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Curator needs Master’s consent for sale of immovable property.</p>
<b>PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUIRED</b>	<p>None required. A social worker may assist.</p>	<p>Not a requirement.</p> <p>Assistance of a social worker or attorney may be helpful.</p> <p>A psychiatrist must be consulted and must produce a report.</p>	<p>An attorney should be consulted since this is a High Court application.</p> <p>An advocate is appointed to investigate the matter and make recommendations</p> <p>A psychiatrist must be consulted and must produce a report.</p>
<b>POWER GRANTED TO 3RD PARTY</b>	<p>A trustworthy family member is best.</p> <p>Person has authority to carry out financial transactions for the ailing individual.</p>	<p>A trustworthy family member is best.</p> <p>Could also be a social worker or attorney but additional costs will then be incurred.</p> <p>Person has authority to carry out financial transactions for the ailing individual, and may make decisions regarding daily life, e.g. a move into a care facility.</p>	<p>A trustworthy family member is best.</p> <p>An attorney or accountant may be appointed, especially if there are many financial and other transactions to be done. May also be necessary if the closest family members are not in South Africa, or if there is a lack of trust among the family members.</p>
<b>CONVENIENCE OF PROCESS</b>	<p>Easy and quick process.</p>	<p>Relatively easy and quick process. Administrative order granted by Master on Master’s acceptance of documents presented.</p>	<p>Longer process because of investigations required and medical reports needed. Can take a few months to be concluded.</p>
<b>RISKS</b>	<p>Person holding Power of Attorney could abuse the power granted to them. No legal protection provided.</p>	<p>Protection of immovable property through endorsement on Title Deeds at Deeds Office.</p>	<p>Court investigates trustworthiness of person to be appointed as Curator. Appointee may be required to provide security should unnecessary expenses arise.</p>
<b>COSTS</b>	<p>Negligible</p>	<p>Significantly less costly than the appointment of a Curator.</p> <p>Costs for psychiatrist’s examination and drafting of report.</p> <p>May involve small legal fee if an attorney is consulted.</p>	<p>Large legal and medical costs may be incurred because this is a High Court application.</p>

# SEXUAL VIOLENCE SURVEY: One in four South Africans believes that rape is sometimes justifiable

Most South Africans think that rape and gender-based violence are serious issues, but a concerning minority believes that sexual violence can sometimes be justified. This is one of the findings of a sobering national survey recently released.

The Women's Action Campaign SA (WACSA) commissioned the survey to explore reasons for muted responses in South Africa to the sexual atrocities committed by Hamas militants in Israel on 7 October 2023, despite this country itself being plagued by high levels of gender-based violence (GBV).

Importantly, WACSA believes that compassion is not a binary choice. The Israel-Hamas war is complex, but it's not hard to recognise and acknowledge both the devastating loss of life in Gaza and the horror and tragedy of Hamas's brutal attack and sexual violence in Israel.

WACSA spokesperson Angie Richardson says that South Africa's ongoing silence and denial of Hamas's sexual atrocities are deeply disturbing. "The burden of proof for rape has been raised impossibly high for Israeli women."



## KEY SURVEY FINDINGS

- 1 in 2 South Africans knows someone who has been raped and/or experienced GBV.
- 97% agree that rape and GBV are profound problems.
- 90% believe that all rape victims should be supported, regardless of race, culture, religion or gender.
- 73% believe that rape is never justifiable; 25% say that it can be justified in wartime.
- 56% had not heard of Hamas and 62% did not know about Hamas's attack on Israel.
- When presented with details, 79% believe it was an unjustified act of war and terror.
- 40% believe that reports of Hamas's rapes/killings are Israeli or Western propaganda.
- 70% support prosecuting Hamas's actions as war crimes and 54% believe that South Africa's government should apply pressure to this end.

### Outright denial, distortion of facts and disbelief continue, despite clear evidence

Evidence is mounting of unfathomably savage levels of mass rape, mutilation and other sexual violence against women, children and some men in the October 7 atrocities. A detailed investigation by the Association of Rape Crisis Centres in Israel found that Hamas militants intentionally used

sadistic sexual practices to spread humiliation and terror.

The International Humanitarian Law Centre believes there is clear evidence that Hamas committed war crimes by violating fundamental norms of international humanitarian law.

Some South African political parties and commentators have denied outright the October 7 atrocities. Others claimed that Israelis brought the atrocities on themselves. The WACSA survey highlights the dangers inherent in this rhetoric.

WACSA calls on political parties, our government, civil society and human/women's rights organisations and activists to publicly condemn rape and sexual violence wherever they occur. "We are encouraged by the recent comment from Minister of International Affairs Naledi Pandor, who told parliamentarians that Hamas must be investigated for war crimes. However, we hope the South African government will pursue this with the same enthusiasm as in its ICJ case against Israel," says Richardson.

### Silence, denialism, and victim-blaming

Internationally, media note that the Israel-Hamas war is being waged by organised, well-funded lobbies, with propaganda, protests and on social media, often by ideologues speaking to audiences primed to believe them.

South Africans' understanding of October 7 is limited, but a clear majority (79%) called it an unjustified act of terror when presented with a generic paragraph on the attack. Despite this, 40% believed that reports of Hamas atrocities are Israeli or Western propaganda, while 25% believed that the victims "brought it on themselves" by being complicit in Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

Richardson stresses that rape and sexual violence can never be justified or seen as deserved. "Failing to condemn Hamas's horrific atrocities and blaming victims simply condones the use of rape and sexual violence as weapons of war.

"The survey reveals deeply unsettling attitudes and underscores the critical need for education, dialogue and accountability measures to protect all people from these horrific acts, regardless of gender, race, religion or politics."

### Accountability and prosecution must follow condemnation

WACSA believes that we should all speak out whenever people are raped, sexually assaulted and abused, wherever they are – in Ukraine, Sudan, Syria, the DRC, Mozambique, or Israel. "We're alarmed that some South Africans view rape and sexual violence as acceptable in conflict, but the survey demonstrates that, overall, they strongly condemn all violence against innocents," says Richardson.

Seventy per cent of South Africans would support prosecuting Hamas militants for war crimes at the International Criminal Court. More than half believe that government should apply maximum pressure to achieve this.

WACSA, therefore, calls on the South African government to go further than simply stating its condemnation of acts of violence of October 7. It must apply maximum pressure through international courts, the United Nations and through its close ties to Hamas leadership to ensure accountability and justice for victims and survivors and the release of all hostages still in Gaza. The majority of South Africans would support this.

**AS YOU GATHER WITH LOVED ONES TO CELEBRATE PESACH, LET CSO TAKE CARE OF YOUR SAFETY AND SECURITY SO THAT YOU CAN FOCUS ON WHAT REALLY MATTERS.**



From our state-of-the-art 24/7 control room to our experienced and dedicated security volunteers, we are committed to guarding your peace of mind, just as vigilantly as you guard the traditions of Pesach.

*Chag Sameach*  
PESACH

Send CSO Pesach greetings and together we can protect our community's way of life. Email [dani@csocape.org.za](mailto:dani@csocape.org.za) for details.



## ENJOYING SUMMER DAYS

CJSA members have enjoyed the month of February with the most wonderful programme being offered at every branch – whether it is the weekly programme of arts, crafts, bridge, kalooki, Yiddish or exercises or the numerous outside activities that were offered to everyone.

Numerous speakers have given us the opportunity to hear their stories – each of them passionate and interesting. Members in Muizenberg heard Melanie Uranovsky speak about Koleinu creating an awareness on abuse which is currently so rife throughout the world. Wynberg members enjoyed Lisa Sandler give a special account of her time as a recent volunteer in Israel giving a hands-on account of how people are coping with the current situation in Israel.

Sol Kreiner, former mayor of Cape Town regaled Sea Point members with tales of his travels whilst holding the position of Cape Town Mayor. This was followed by a delicious lunch and Milnerton members had Beryl Eichenberger in conversation with Dr Nadia Kamies chatting about being brought up as a Coloured in Cape Town with the book she has written on the subject “Off Centre and out of Focus”. Lunch was also served thereafter. Milnerton also celebrated Valentine’s Day with everyone dressing in red and white and a fabulous lunch being made by Sonia Norrie. Our final talk of the month was on Wills and Bequests in our West Coast branch. Barry Pogrud imparted his wealth of knowledge with humour and compassion to our members, answering the many questions that were put to him.

Our members really enjoy the variety of outings we offer and we took full advantage of the weather to enjoy them during February where at many of the restaurants there were beautiful outdoor areas to enjoy while savouring the various delicacies on offer. Coffee Time, Chardonnay Deli, Ons Huisie and Café Riteve were visited and the exhibition by artist Moran Kliger was enjoyed on that occasion too.

The highlights of the month were the outing on the City Sightseeing Red Bus when 70 members boarded the bus and toured the peninsula, stopping off in Hout Bay for a delicious fish and chips lunch and the Arts and Craft Exhibition hosted in Sea Point where members of all branches displayed beautiful paintings, mosaics, cards and knitwear, and so many people came through the door to enjoy the exhibition and socialise with members.

Our Goudini break is next month and bookings are closed. We look forward to this break every year. There is always the opportunity to have fun, meet new acquaintances, renew friendships and broaden the horizon when you visit any of our branches. We encourage you to take the first step as it might even change your life!

Diana Sochen, Executive Director.



Artwork of Liz Sandler



Beryl Eichenberger and Dr Nadia Kamies speaking in Milnerton



Milnerton Members enjoyed an outing to Philidelphia



Hannan and Tzippi Brivik enjoyed the Red Bus



Members enjoyed the tour of McDonalds



Karen Kallman talking to West Coast Members at Chabad West Coast



Edwina Becker, Hilda Wilk and Sol Kreiner



Southern Suburb Members enjoying the Red Bus outing



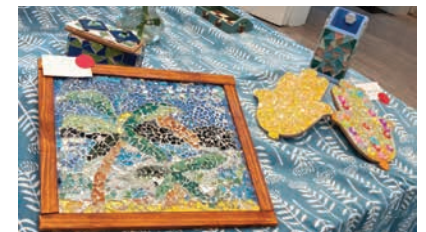
Social Worker Jamie-Lee and Sea Point members enjoying a morning on Blouberg beach front



Anna Glass displaying her art



Artist Jacob purchasing a painting from Marge Lee



Mosaic work by Tzippi Brivik & Amanda Summerfield



Red Bus outing



Southern Suburbs members in Philidelphia



Shireen and Robyn, Milnerton members enjoying the Red Bus outing



Elinor Farber displaying her art



Trevor Lomofsky's mosaic work

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

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

**ANNIVERSARY:**  
Trevor and Lilian Lomofsky – 65<sup>th</sup>

**Welcome to new members:**  
Liz Tocker, Sheba Slomowitz, Barry Katzen, Illana Polokof, Thelma Gamsu, Edwina Becker, Jill Markowitz

Well wishes to those who have been under the weather. We are holding you all in our thoughts and prayers:

Jenny Dinsdale,  
Nigel Brooker

**Condolences to the families of our members who have passed away recently:**  
Collette Levin,  
Gabi Robinson



## COHORT IV HITS THE ROAD RUNNING

The Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute's February launch of Cohort IV's Leadership Development Programme had the spirit of an in-gathering of long-lost friends, old and new! There was the anticipation of knowing the journey ahead will be positive, transformative, and challenging, for personal and professional benefit, and collective for the Jewish community.

As we head into Pesach, we acknowledge that Judaism teaches us that freedom equals responsibility, and in turn community requires responsible leadership, now and in the future. We are gratified that people in our community choose to step forward to lead. Voices from Cohort IV reflect:



"Feels like I am on a super-charged MBA course for the community. Super impressed with how well it is organised, how excellent the content is, and the quality of the presenters. The course has equipped me with valuable ideas and concepts I've already begun integrating into my personal and professional life. I'm eager to apply and contribute these newfound insights to the advancement of our community. In my opinion, EOLI's leadership course is an invaluable opportunity that everyone should have access to." **Nathan Bearman**



"EOLI has provided me with valuable insights into community leaders with remarkable passion and exceptional leadership skills, contributing significantly to the growth of our beautiful community. By examining past leaders and facilitating discussions on qualities that define effective leadership, EOLI enables me to reflect on my personal strengths and consider how I can apply skills I've acquired to contribute positively to my work environment. Furthermore, it has encouraged collaboration with fellow members of the EOLI cohort, enhancing our collective potential for impact." **Melissa Hack**



"Having been involved in volunteer work for 20 years, EOLI is helping me concretize my instinctual knowledge and understand how the various organisations in community are structured. Community leadership is nuanced and different from the private sector. EOLI is helping me bridge these two worlds. I am grateful that I have already found my fit at the SAZF, and I hope to continue to serve the community through this organisation." **Hayley Cohen**



"It is an honour and privilege to work with the EOLI team and faculty, their expertise is endless. Working within the Jewish organisations is my calling, and emersed in Cohort IV in the Leadership Development Programme, is enabling me to grow, delving deeper into self-discovery, gaining insight into the upcoming generation poised to carry the torch forward. This experience is equipping me to become a leader characterised by ethics, accountability, and zeal, preparing me for any future leadership roles." **Nicole Merdjan**

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## HEALTH FOCUS

# “I beg your pardon – I didn’t hear that.”



**Lisa Shand, Audiologist,  
Cape Hearing Aids**

It’s said that, “Old age isn’t for sissies,” and getting older certainly brings challenges. Failing hearing is one common problem that affects many older people.

The loss of hearing arises from wear and tear of the inner ear – the cochlea – over time. Regular exposure to loud noise may also result in additional damage to the cochlea.

“When one’s hearing starts going, one’s daily life and the activities we regard as normal also fail us,” says Lisa Shand, an Audiologist at Cape Hearing Aids. “This may result in social isolation and ultimately in mental decline due to a lack of stimulation. It’s important to maintain a similar quality of life to avoid the negative impact on daily life.”

There are practical things you can do to enhance your ability to hear – for instance:

- Tell people to look at you when they are speaking so that you can pick up what they are saying through the movement of their lips and because of the direction of the sound of their words.
- Arrange the furniture in your lounge so that people will be visible when you are communicating: a U-shape or semi-circle arrangement allows everyone to see one another, and that makes communication more effective. Communication is enhanced when seeing both a speaker’s mouth and their body language.
- Ensure that your lounge is well lit so that you can see all your visitors properly.
- In a restaurant setting, try to sit with your back to a wall, to avoid background noise interfering with front-facing speakers.

In addition, a hearing aid can assist to improve the quality of your life if you struggle to hear. “A wide range

of devices is available,” says Lisa. “Which one you select depends on your individual needs.”

Lisa raises these considerations when selecting a suitable hearing aid:

- The extent of the hearing loss determines how powerful the hearing aid should be.
  - The person’s hearing needs determine the level of technology required, ranging from basic to more advanced options, e.g. the more complex your listening environment (restaurants, music, theatre), the more your hearing aid should be able to automatically adapt to enhance speech in different settings.
  - Your lifestyle may influence the choice of device, e.g. someone who is regularly outdoors may need to take into account the effect of wind on their hearing.
  - The ease and convenience of using a particular device, including the amount of understanding of the technology involved, e.g. hearing aids are available in rechargeable and disposable battery-operated options.
  - The cost of the device is dependent on the above factors and which technology level would be best suited to your specific hearing loss, listening and lifestyle needs, device style preferences, as well as finances. Your Audiologist will consult your medical aid to ascertain whether hearing aid benefits are available. One can also apply for a tax credit from SARS, which is part of one’s medical expenses claim and is regarded as a tax credit for a disability.
  - Other factors to consider: the after service and care of the hearing aid in terms of the warranty period; whether devices are repaired or replaced during the service warranty; and overall maintenance of the device. Most hearing aids have an IP rating of 68, and so they are probably water resistant. Some devices are more durable than others, depending on the manufacturer – the Audiologist will know which manufacturers to recommend.
- Ultimately, loss of hearing need not result in the complete loss of social activity or a reduction in one’s quality of life. Don’t allow hearing loss to limit you. Solutions are at hand.





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# Parallel universes

JULIAN RESNICK writes from Israel



**JULIAN RESNICK** was born in Somerset West and grew up in Habonim Dror. He studied at UCT, and made Aliyah in 1976. He's conducted numerous shlichuyot and educational missions on behalf of Israel, to Jewish communities in England and the USA. He works as a guide in Israel and around the world (wherever there is a Jewish story).

He's married to Orly, and they have three children and seven grandchildren and is a member of Kibbutz Tzora.

I write these words very far from all of you, assuming that you read these words in Cape Town, possibly Johannesburg, maybe even in Toronto or Sydney.

What is equally important is that I write these words very far away from home, from Israel, in Birmingham Alabama. "Of all places!" I imagine you saying to yourselves.

My past 2½ months have included an equal amount of time back home in Israel, on my little oasis, Kibbutz Tzora, and time in South Africa and now Alabama. I have been out of the country partly for work, guiding a Jewish Journey in South Africa, talking about Israel in presentations in Cape Town and now in Birmingham (next week in West Hartford in Connecticut and a gig in Long Island, NY), and visiting my son, daughter-in-law, and four of my wonderful grandchildren all here in Birmingham because of my son and daughter-in-law's ongoing medical training.

And I need to talk about parallel universes, as this is what it feels like. I have spent some of my time with people who care desperately about Israel: the people I guided from North America in South Africa; members of the Jewish community in South Africa and here in Birmingham; allies of the Jewish communities; the petrol attendant in the filling station in Constantia; the lady at the checkout counter in Target in Birmingham. Many, many times as I move through these far off spaces, people have shown empathy with what we are experiencing in Israel.

And yet, the feeling is basically one of

being in a parallel universe. People are not living lives filled with pain; there is not an existential anxiety permeating everything; lives are lived largely in a normal way.

We, Israel, are in the news, and often in the minds of those around me, but in a different way.

Very few people turn to their computers at 5am to check whether, God forbid, a soldier has fallen in battle (and then do the further check as to whether they know him or the community he is from); few writhe in agony at the words spoken or written by a rabbi from a pre-army Yeshiva academy legitimising the killing of children in Gaza (which I read, horrified by the words on Ynet just 15 minutes ago at 5.15am); nobody is asking the question as to when tourism will begin again in Israel, when we will be able to hike in the Golan, swim in Ashkelon, watch the sunrise or sunset in many beautiful places in the north and south of our tiny country.

And the media...

For the large part the media has forgotten October 7th. So how come for us it is the crux of the past almost six months? The defining date in 21st century Jewish history, as the world focuses on the tragedy of the Palestinian people in Gaza right now (and make no mistake: it is a tragedy and, for that, as well as for the tragedy of October 7th, Hamas is responsible). Israelis murdered? Raped? Taken hostage?

For much of the world I have encountered these horrific facts have gone, and the only relevant fact is a

huge number: 30 000. The story for most of the people I encounter begins on October 10th; and here I am still trying to figure out how I cope with life after having lived through October 7th.

Many of the talks I give are titled "An insider's view". And yet, I think these past two and a half months have given me a unique perspective and the talks should be called, "An insider's view from both the inside and the outside".

The experience of being away from home during these tough days has done a number of things to me. It has caused feelings of intense guilt. (How can I be away from the pain? How can I even think of enjoying the early morning game ride in Motswari or the glorious views of The Cradle of Humankind?). It has brought on feelings of being alone in this world. (Where did all my fellow travellers disappear to?). It has made me appreciative of those who have remained as allies, often paying a price for their commitment to us (and I thank each and every one of them for this).

I return home in a week from tomorrow, to reclaim my normality (what a word to use right now), but only for two weeks, and then it will be a week in Berlin, to once again guide a group of people on a Jewish Journey, and I ask myself, what will Sachsenhausen, the concentration camp where all the senior leadership of the concentration and death camps were trained, feel like now, as opposed to the many times I visited there prior to October 7th?

Israel, Cape Town, Israel, Alabama, Israel, Berlin, Israel

## SOCCKER BOYS TAKE SILVER!

During February eight Herzlia boys visited Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates, to play their favourite sport, soccer. As members of the Legends Camps Bay Soccer School, they were selected to compete at the Manchester City Abu Dhabi Cup 2024.

Led by coaches Anees Abbas, Oko Boloti and Gary Saven, who matriculated from Herzlia in 1986, and managed by the Chairperson of the Camps Bay Football Club, Gina Isserow, another former Herzlian (Class of 1990), they spent six days in Abu Dhabi training and competing with their team.

The event attracted 165 international teams and brought together over 2 200 players. The Camps Bay contingent was the only team from South Africa.

Winning every game and conceding only one goal during the entire

tournament, the team made it to the finals. After such a strong winning spree, it was unfortunate that, after a 0-0 draw in the final, they lost on penalties, ending second in the U12 age group. The team was awarded the prestigious silver medal, a proud achievement.



Luca Saban (Gr 5, Weizmann), Maz Bass (Gr 7, High School), Mason Lewis (Gr 5, Weizmann), Jake Saven (Gr 6, Highlands), Ruben Distiller (Gr 5, Highlands), Lev Goott (Gr 6, Weizmann), Danny Cohen (Gr 5, Weizmann), Rafael Neu-Ner (Gr 6, Weizmann)



Official team photograph



The full team

# WIZO brings freedom and redemption



Shelley Trope-Friedman

Hashem led the Israelites from slavery to freedom. The Jewish people could not be truly free of the physical bondage of Egypt until they were spiritually free too. The notion of spiritual redemption is demonstrated by the idea that in every generation each individual is obliged to view themselves as though they had left Egypt and freed themselves in order to achieve their full spiritual potential.

This story is similar to those of the battered women who stay protected in the Women's International Zionist Organisation's (WIZO) homes for abused women. Here these women undergo therapies and treatments to give them the life skills needed to move forward as fully functional members of society, thereby giving them the freedom to live their lives, both physically and spiritually, to their full potential, just like those who ultimately were freed from Pharaoh.

The Seder illustrates the coexistence of past and future

redemption. The past redemption we know as the Exodus. The term "Season of our Freedom" alludes to more than just the Jews' freedom from enslavement in Egypt, but also invokes the true freedom of every Jew at all times and in all places.

From the beginning of the war, WIZO has been on the ground and at the forefront coaxing women's organisations to speak up and to stand up, and has encouraged organisations to demand the liberation of the hostages held in captivity. The phrase #metoounlessyouareajew was coined as all women's organisations were silent. None of them spoke out!

WIZO's collaborative efforts created awareness and emergency fundraising campaigns to aid those most in need by highlighting the position of women in captivity, and we continue to do so.

WIZO's current focus is on rehabilitating the south of Israel by

opening our day care centres in Sderot to bring back a semblance of normality and "freedom" so that people can return to work and to their homes, with peace of mind knowing that their children are receiving the best possible care.

Pesach teaches us about faith and to embrace and realise the true value of freedom by reflecting on the nature of bondage and the value of liberty. While this is especially difficult knowing that our hostages are still in captivity, WIZO does all it can to give freedom and liberation to the people of Israel by means of our projects for babies, youth and women, and continues with the deep hope that all the hostages will be freed and out of bondage.

As we connect with our faith, our community and the wider world this Pesach, may you and your loved ones experience joy, peace and renewal. We all continue to pray for the safe release of the hostages.

Chag Sameach!

At the time of writing – quite some time before the printing of this edition of the Cape Jewish Chronicle – Israel is still embroiled in the war and we are anticipating a pending hostage deal.

We are now fast approaching Pesach and the current struggles for freedom and justice still draw constant parallels to the story of the Exodus.

The main theme of Pesach focuses on redemption as this is when



## Volunteer RECRUITMENT TEA

Join us for tea as we update our volunteers on the latest developments at the front desk. This will also be an opportunity to ask questions and discuss any concerns you may have.

*Please bring a friend* who may be interested in joining our team of volunteers.



Wednesday 17 April, 10: 30am CTHGC, 88 Hatfield St, Gardens

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# Residents Uptake: Disability Programs and Services

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## Care services

- 41 Personal care
- 12 Family care
- 41 Inclusion and integration

## Healthcare services

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- 1 Palliative care
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- 13 Music therapy
- 28 Snoezelen therapy
- 12 UCT Internships
- 12 Mobility & Assistive devices

## Vocational services

- 9 Astra protective workshop
- 27 Glendale rehab workshop



In these troubled times, let us pray for leadership  
 “from slavery to freedom, from despair to joy, from mourning to celebration,  
 from darkness to light, from servitude to redemption.”

Chag Pesach Sameach





# PESACH 5784

By RABBI M LIEBENBERG – Claremont Wynberg Shul and Cape Town Beth Din



Someone once commented that the songs at the end of the Haggadah are perfect examples of ‘drinking music’ – simple lyrics and oft-repeated choruses. What better to sing after four glasses of wine? Can this be true?

Each of the pilgrimage festivals is associated with a book of the Holy Writings: Pesach – The Song of Songs; Shavuot – Ruth; and Sukkoth – Ecclesiastes. Two of these

were composed by King Solomon, who also penned Mishlei, Proverbs. The Midrash suggests that they were written by Solomon at different stages of his life: “Solomon wrote the Song of Songs first, then Proverbs and finally Ecclesiastes.” The Midrash explains that such is the way of the world, for “when one is young, he composes words of song, when he matures he composes parables and, when he grows old, he composes words of philosophy.”

This Midrash is describing the stages of life: youth, adulthood, and old age. Youth is full of unbridled energy, optimism and a feeling of invincibility. This is symbolised by ‘words of song’ and, in Solomon’s case, a love song. Adulthood is a far more realistic period. It is a time of consolidation, where one settles into a particular mode of living. There still exists a residue of youthful thinking, but in far lesser quantity. It is during this stage that one seeks order, commitment and stability. This is symbolised by ‘words of parables’: Proverbs contains excellent advice for all aspects of life, including

raising children, maintaining relationships, and leading a moral existence.

Old age is often associated with cynicism, realism, even pessimism. The mature person has seen it all, done it all and is very difficult to impress. He views the exuberance of youth as folly and the stability of adulthood as meaningless because, ultimately, we all end up in the same place, whether we are poor or wealthy, weak or powerful. Thus, old age is associated with Ecclesiastes, in which Solomon declares everything to be futile and in which he states, “All the rivers flow into the sea” – we cannot escape the inevitable.

Pesach is a time of new birth and youth; in Israel it must take place in Spring. The Nation of Israel left Egypt full of promise and potential. Nothing could stop them – they were invincible. Even the natural order of the world, as represented by the Red Sea, parted before them. There is no more appropriate book to read on Pesach than the Song of Songs. Its style and content

is in sync with the atmosphere of the festival.

On Pesach we must focus on the endless possibilities that life presents. We must nurture an almost naïve view of the world and what can be achieved. It is not a time for cold realism or cynicism; it is a time of youthful energy and dreams. Of course, there will be times for creating boundaries and for reflecting on the past – but Pesach is not that time.

Pesach is a time for music and tactile experience (the Seder) – not a time for the intellect or philosophy. We chant Hallel every day and, at the sederim, we recite the Song at the Sea on the seventh day and we sing songs of praise at the sederim with simple, child-like lyrics: chad gadya (‘the one kid’) and ‘who knows one’. We do this because we are children, full of vibrancy and ready to conquer the world, not because we are in a drunken stupor. Pesach is our annual opportunity to experience a second childhood – don’t waste the opportunity!

## NEW PODCAST challenges perspectives and democratises insights from SA’s best minds



Conversations with Mike Abel

At this point in history, challenging perspectives is more needed than ever. How can we connect with others, despite our differences? How can we balance strength and vulnerability, hope and realism, traditions, and tech? How do we keep moving

onwards and upwards as a society? Mike Abel, one of South Africa’s leading marketing, advertising and communications specialists, hopes to answer these questions in his new podcast, *Willing & Abel*.

Mike is founder of award-winning agency M&C Saatchi Abel, the fastest-growing advertising agency in the history of South Africa. In candid conversations with some of the nation’s top minds in business, entertainment, branding and social entrepreneurship, Mike explores the subjects of leadership, intuition, how to contribute meaningfully in this uncertain world, and who to take with you on the journey.

Why a podcast? And why now? “Comments sections on news sites and social platforms are not known for their nuance,” says Mike, a regular

columnist. “So, I started this podcast to provide a space for conversations that allow for complexity and challenge perspectives. It’s also a continuation of the ideas in my book *Willing & Abel: Lessons from a Decade in Crisis*, and my ongoing belief in embracing a spirit of radical openness and sincere generosity. I hope this podcast inspires listeners to feel optimistic despite all the reasons to despair and take action in some positive way. And know that each one of us is part of the solution.”

Mike continues: “Democratising these invaluable insights gives listeners a ‘fly on the wall’ opportunity to glean wisdom, learnings, and lessons from brilliant

and accomplished minds across sectors and industries.”

The first three episodes of *Willing & Abel* are available now on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and most other popular podcast platforms.

**Mike is founder of award-winning agency M&C Saatchi Abel. He was pivotal in creating The Street Store, the world’s first free pop-up clothing ‘store’ for those in need, which celebrates its 10th year in 2024.**

Find out more at <https://www.willingandabel.co.za/>.

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# A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND STORIES

By EDITOR

Visiting one of our readers recently, I was left wondering about how we today will leave a legacy to future generations. With so much being online (or just on one device) these days, the record of celebrations; of our homes, our food, our pets; and so on could well be lost by the time our great-grandchildren become adults. Contrast this to days gone by when photo albums adorned our bookshelves, keeping the memory of past days alive.

The reader I visited, Rona Friedman, a resident of Devils Peak in Cape Town, wanted to share the photographs that tell a story about her late father, Sam Savitz, who came to South Africa from Lithuania. Beginning with Sam at 18 years of age, we learn that he spent the first five years of adulthood in horrendous conditions while conscripted into the Russian Army.

Sam subsequently made his way to South Africa, where he joined his older brother, Mottel, who had come to the country earlier on. Mottel's daughter, Lily Savitz, became well known in music circles.

"My father left Lithuania because of antisemitism and the lack of economic opportunities," Rona recalls. "It turned out to be the best thing he could have done because of 13 siblings, only he and two others survived – the others stayed in Lithuania and perished during the Holocaust."

Sam and Mottel opened a food store in Hanover Street, District Six. They took orders for foods such as smoked fish and eggs, and they had a horse and cart to do the deliveries to their customers. At a later stage, Sam opened SS Stores in Observatory.

Rona's mother came to South Africa in 1920 as a small child. Her mother travelled here from Lithuania after her husband died in the 1918 flu epidemic. She married Rona's father in 1933 in the Muizenberg Shul, and the reception was held at the Rio Grande Hotel in Muizenberg.

*Rona Friedman reflects on her family history*

**If you've got old pictures from the past, you should record the history they tell. It's all part of our heritage.**



*Rona, aged 5, dressed as a tomato (front row, right) at the Woodstock Jewish Nursery School's Purim Party in 1939. Her sister, Myra, aged 2, is in front at the left*



*Young men conscripted into the Russian army*



*Soldiers in the Russian army. Sam Savitz is lying at front right*



*The Savitz brothers in front of their shop in District Six*



*Bicycles in Cape Town: Sam Savitz on the right*



# We overcame Pharaoh; we will overcome this too

The past few months have been a rollercoaster of emotions in Israel as we've faced unprecedented tragedy and trauma – but also an outpouring of love, generosity, courage and resilience. The overwhelming sense of pride that our community felt as they saw photos of the first two South African Olim who landed at Ben Gurion after the war broke out, greeted by sirens in Ben Gurion Airport's arrival hall, was unparalleled.

Who would make Aliyah in these uncertain times? Over 100 South Africans!

In the five months following the brutal attacks on Simchat Torah, we welcomed 100 South African Olim, resolute in their decision to make Aliyah during a war. As Osher Amanda Favel said, "I promised myself that I would be in Israel before the end of the year. Although I was a bit hesitant to come to Israel before the war happened (different cultures, a whole new way of life, etc.), the war took that anxiety away and made me want to come to Israel more than ever. Everyone overseas

suddenly seemed to be against Israel and spoke and spread lies about my beloved country – and for this reason, I felt that now, more than ever, I need to be in my country, with my people."

Now that she is settling in her new home she adds, "I can truthfully say that even though there's a war going on, I still feel safer here. I am so happy to be surrounded by other Jews and like-minded people as we all stand together and defend our beloved Israel against the world. War or no war, I'm here to stay!"

In a recent interview on Israel's Channel 12, young Olim from around the world (including Ben-Tziyon Opert from Cape Town) reflected on making Aliyah during a war. In unison, they spoke about a sense of solidarity, of belonging, and a desire to have children who will one day feel this same sense of belonging. 25 percent of our recent arrivals are between the ages of 18 and 25, and they join a remarkable nation, making their contribution to rebuilding and recovery in response to the attacks on 7 October.



Telfed CEO Dorron Kline welcomes a group of South African Olim who landed in Israel in February 2024

As always, those considering Aliyah are advised to plan and prepare in advance. And while we are dealing with uncertainty, Telfed's Pre Aliyah Advisor, Josie Lutrin, reiterates the importance of advance preparation: "Do your research and take ownership of your Aliyah." She also quips, "Change your One Time Passwords (OTPs) to email." Telfed's Employment Advisor, Yael Strausz, adds: "Learn Hebrew!" While new vocabulary may include miklat (bomb shelter) or mechabel (terrorist), it should also include giborim (heroes),

mitnadvim (volunteers) and beyachad nenatzeach (Together we will win).

When concluding the Hagadah this year, we hope the words 'Next year in Jerusalem' resonate deeply. As a nation, overcoming adversity is a part of our story, as is our biblical connection to the Land of Israel. Next year, whether you decide to make Aliyah to Jerusalem, or to other towns or cities across Israel, we have wonderful South African communities who will be delighted to welcome you. War or not, this is our home!



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*Chag Pesach Kashver Ve'Sameach  
Wishing you and your families a healthy,  
peaceful, and meaningful Pesach*



# JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPE TOWN

## JCS BY **NUMBERS** 2023 IN REVIEW

[www.jcs.org.za](http://www.jcs.org.za)  

**795**

Recipients of monthly food parcels, vouchers and Meals on Wheels (5 500 meals) distributed by the JCS Tikvah Foodbank at an average total cost of R345 000/month.

**147**

Jewish Community Services is currently assisting 147 individuals who are unemployed.

**215**

215 individuals in our community are currently struggling with mental health conditions.

**210**

210 older persons are seeking assistance from Jewish Community Services.

**530**

530 individuals are receiving financial assistance, rentals, food, medication, electricity and water. Numbers are increasing daily.

**850**

On average 850 individuals, monthly, in our community are requiring Social Services.

**196**

Jewish Community Services provides shelter and accommodation for 196 individuals.

### VISION

The vision of Jewish Community Services is to be recognised as the leading provider of innovative services and programs that address existing and emerging social service needs. To provide a full spectrum of services that promotes quality of life within the context of Jewish ethics and values. Together we can build a caring, self-sufficient community with dignity, harmony and happiness.

### MISSION

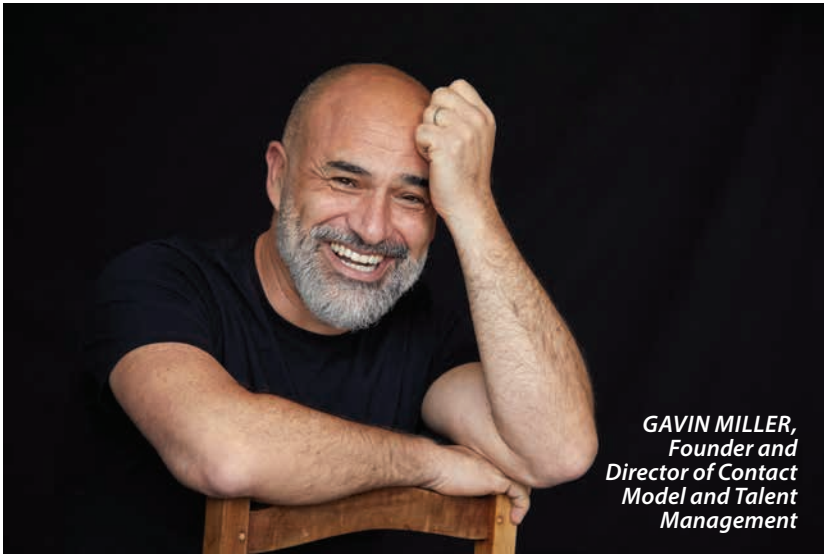
To develop, implement and coordinate social protection and poverty reduction solutions for and with the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged in the Cape Town Jewish community. To provide quality social welfare services to enable them to meet life's challenges.



# ENTREPRENEURS' HOTSPOT

## BEAUTY and TALENT – This agency offers it all

By EDITOR



**GAVIN MILLER,**  
Founder and  
Director of Contact  
Model and Talent  
Management

The world of modelling and model agencies is a highly competitive one – there are plenty of others wanting to make it in the industry both domestically and, of course, internationally. And, with the majority of the really big fashion houses located in the USA and Europe, Cape Town may seem an unlikely location for a model agency to be the agency of choice for international fashion brands and their advertising agencies. Yet, the city has in fact managed to carve a niche for itself as a destination highly attractive for modelling shoots.

The local industry is thriving. “A big part of the success I’ve achieved with my agency,” explains Gavin Miller, the founder and Director of Contact Model and Talent Management, “is the relationships I’ve nurtured and maintained over many years. These strong relationships help bring clients to me, and they are certainly the reason that my agency was able to get going after we experienced a total shutdown during the Covid pandemic. Once people were able to travel again, I contacted the people

I knew at the fashion houses and in the agencies overseas to let them know that Contact Agency was up and running, and ready to pick up where we’d left off many months beforehand.”

The pandemic was a killer in terms of the modelling industry – largely owing to travel bans and the rules against close contact – and many of the agencies did not survive. So, Gavin’s story is truly an inspiring one.

As a teenager, Gavin had one goal for the future: to follow a career in the advertising world. And armed with an advertising qualification, that’s exactly what he set out to do. He thought that his dream had come true when he landed a plum position with Ogilvy Cape Town, joining the leading advertising agency in the country. While Gavin is thankful for the opportunities this position gave him – in particular being mentored by Mike Abel (now CEO of M&C Saatchi Abel), who is known to nurture younger people in the industry – he soon found the corporate culture in an agency of this size unappealing.

A major part of Gavin’s role at Ogilvy involved working with modelling agencies. Although he knew little about this industry and would not have imagined that this was a sector he’d one day find himself in, he learned a great deal about the world of modelling and talent identification, especially from his role in identifying talent for M-Net’s Face of Africa competition. This set him up for his move into the world of model and talent management – first as the men’s director at Storm Models and ultimately by establishing his own business.

“The most important learning I’ve had from the years I’ve been active in the world of work,” he says, “is that one must always look out for opportunities and not be afraid to respond to those opportunities. This has shaped me in my own career in a number of ways, most notably in terms of the founding of my business: I hadn’t ever set out to own a modelling agency, but then I realised that I could do the same work I was doing as an employee but do it for my own benefit. I certainly wouldn’t have what I have today if I hadn’t spotted the opportunity and trusted myself to go off and make it happen.”

Again, relationships formed previously served to get Gavin’s agency off the ground. When he first started out, it was just him and a former colleague, two computers and two desks. “We obviously had to bring in some business by acquiring clients, so that’s when I started calling people I knew from my previous work, letting them know that I’d gone off on my own,” Gavin recalls. And so the business got off the ground – and it’s done well over the 11 years of its existence, despite the devastation wrought by Covid.

With the majority of Gavin’s clients being international agencies, it’s



Photography by: Contact Model Management

been crucial to keep in touch with international trends so that he is able to offer appropriate models to particular clients. In the pre-Covid period, the trend was to hire models who were very thin and grungy-looking. “That has changed quite dramatically,” he explains. “Today, business is looking for healthy-looking people, and for a wider representation of society. So, for instance, models with disabilities have a far greater chance of getting work now.”

The structure of serving international clients with local models works well. American agencies particularly like to engage firms in South Africa because the industry here is not unionised. They pay local talent very well, but it remains attractive for the American firms since the pay rates are lower than in America.

For Gavin, Cape Town offers many benefits for any firm looking to do a shoot with models. With a wide range of models available, crews offering work at international standards, and some incredible locations, this is a city with plenty to offer the modelling world.

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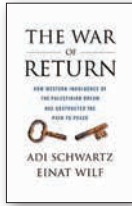
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# Savour a taste of these books from the Gitlin! CHAG PESACH SAMEACH

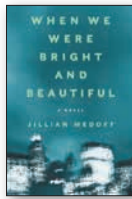
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**THE WAR OF RETURN by ADI SCHWARTZ AND EINAT WILF.** The book begins by examining Israel's War of Independence from which the refugee issue arose. The authors refute the claim of calculated ethnic cleansing by Israel upon which the Palestinian narrative is based. They argue that the Palestinians demand for a 'right to return' has no legal or moral basis and make a plea for the US, the UN, and the EU to recognise this fact.



**BESSIE by LINDA KASS.** The fictionalised story of Bess Myerson, the first Jewish winner of the Miss America contest in 1945. The author focuses on her upbringing in the Bronx and follows her story culminating in her appearance at Carnegie Hall after serving her year as Miss America. The whirlwind that surrounded her after being crowned was extraordinary as World War II had ended and a post-Holocaust Jewish world was emerging.



**WHEN WE WERE BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL by JILLIAN MEDOFF.** Cassie Quinn knows three things about life: money cannot buy happiness, family matters most, and that her younger brother Billy was not a rapist. When Billy is arrested for assaulting his ex-girlfriend, Cassie races to Manhattan to join forces with her family. As reporters converge outside their Upper East Side landmark building, Cassie vows to do all to save Billy even if it exposes her own darkest secrets.



**THE DEAD SISTER by JONATHAN DUNSKY.** Auschwitz survivor and private investigator Adam Lapid is asked to investigate the death of a young Arab woman. The case has languished in the hands of the Tel Aviv police who believe it to be an honour killing as she wanted to marry a Christian. In desperation her brother Ahmed turns to Adam even though they fought on opposite sides of the war. He must use all his skills to find this ruthless killer.



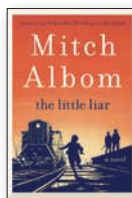
**THE BOX WITH THE SUNFLOWER CLASP by RACHEL MELLER.** When Rachel's distant aunt Lisbeth dies, she is left an intricately carved Chinese box with a sunflower clasp containing photographs and letters. This leads Rachel to discover that Lisbeth grew up in elegant Vienna but was forced to flee to Shanghai due to the threat of the Nazi invasion. Set against a background of war in the Far East, this sweeping memoir tells of the Jews of Shanghai.



**MY NAME IS BARBRA by BARBRA STREISAND.** Barbra shares her life and extraordinary career. From growing up in Brooklyn to appearing in New York nightclubs, performing in Funny Girl and succeeding in every medium over the years that followed. She recounts her early struggles to become an actress turning to singing to earn a living and direction of films. Barbra touches on friendships with stars and politicians as well as her marriage to actor James Brolin.



**SOUL MANDATE by LEW GEFFEN.** Real estate tycoon Lew Geffen has had an eventful life. After a shaky academic start, his success has led him to socialise with celebrities, including having his 60th birthday on the yacht of Nicholas Cage and selling homes to both Nelson Mandela and Gary Player. His career includes a stint in the Israeli army and being fired from his mother's estate agent company 'Aida'. A candid memoir laced with humour.



**THE LITTLE LIAR by MITCH ALBOM.** Nico, aged 11, was told by a Nazi officer when he invaded his home in Salonika that he could save his family if he convinced the Jewish residents to board trains going "east". When Nico sees them loaded into crowded boxcars doomed for Auschwitz he realises the consequences of this lie. Nico was blocked from boarding. Mitch Albom interweaves the stories of Nico, his brother Sebastian and their school friend Fanni who escaped the camps.

## BOOK TALK

### BIOGRAPHIES AND AUTOBIOGRAPHIES: two new books to look out for

Stories of people's lives continue to fascinate readers, and many Cape Town book enthusiasts will be excited about two new South African books hitting our shelves. Both focus on the tales of Jewish characters from South Africa: trade unionist and political figure, Leon Levy; and sports and music promoter, Cedric Kushner, who became a major figure in the sports and entertainment industry in the United States.

Leon Levy has written the story of his own life himself, while the account of Cedric Kushner's

career and colourful life is told by Hout Bay resident, Barry Cohen.


The South African Jewish Museum (SAJM) and the Jacob Gitlin Library have joined forces to bring these books to you, holding events with talks about both books. While the event for the Leon Levy book took place towards the end of March, the other book event is scheduled for 16 April.

Both books can be purchased from the SAJM Gift Shop and are available for borrowing from the Jacob Gitlin Library.





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### AFFILIATE CONGREGATIONS

All the Orthodox Synagogues of the Western Cape are affiliated to the UOS Cape Council. It is the liaison for the shuls and the other community organisations.



### BETH DIN

The Beth Din serves as a Jewish Court relating to Jewish matters. Litigation, Dispute Resolution and Arbitration – individual and communal; Gittin/Divorces and Marriage Application and Approvals.



### CONVERSIONS

The UOS provides and facilitates teaching and training of converts. All conversions are approved by the Beth Din.



### EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

The UOS supports various educational programmes including CTTCW, Marriage Education and Taharat Hamishpacha. The UOS has registered an independent trust, The UOS Educational Trust, to partner with its affiliates to promote Jewish and Torah education programmes.



### KASHRUT

The UOS coordinates (Kosher for Passover) supervision and manufacturing of goods produced, whether at factories or Kosher establishments. This includes food production at stores and Kosher outlets. Mashgichim are placed at all Kosher outlets and producers.



### SHECHITA

The UOS coordinates the weekly beef, sheep and chicken Shechita. The UOS also works closely with various butcheries and the meat wholesalers to source, provide and promote a wide variety of fresh Kosher meat.



### MIKVEH

The management of the Mikvah, situated at 31 Arthur's Road Sea Point, with regard to Halachic standards as well as all the general maintenance requirements and finances falls under the UOS.



### OFFICE OF THE CHIEF RABBI

This office supports the local Rabbonim. It works as the public relations office of the UOS within the Jewish community as well as in the broader South African community, both nationally and internationally.



### RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION

The UOS is the face of Orthodoxy and is the liaison between the local Rabbis on the Rabbinical Association and the various affiliates and their communities.



### UNITED CHEVRA KADISHA

The United Chevra Kadisha (UCK) handles the full procedure for the collection of deceased and preparation of all burials.



### CEMETERY MAINTENANCE BOARD

The CMB administers and coordinates the maintenance of all the Jewish cemeteries in the Cape Town area. The Cemetery Maintenance Board (CMB) liaises with the City Council with regards to all grave reservations, burial precincts as well as cemetery maintenance.



# Pesach wine making

By VICTOR BOYD



*The Wenertage production team in action: (L to R) Louis Jaffe, Freda Tucker, Phillippa Wener, Kirsten Stilianou and Lisa Stilianou*



*Adding sugar to the grapes*



*Bottles of Chateau Du Boyd ready to announce each of the plagues*

too, and Phillippa's daughter and granddaughter are equally involved in the production process for a wine named Wenertage, also using the Hermitage grape cultivar.

This is a family and a cultural tradition to be cherished – one that future generations of the Boyd and Wener families will hopefully continue!

Victor and Maxine Boyd of Sea Point have been making wine for Pesach for the past 42 years – and this year is no different.

Victor explains that his family's wine-making history dates back to the 1950s when his grandfather started producing the nectar of the gods in time for Pesach in his Muizenberg garage. The tradition continued with Victor's father, Joe, and subsequently passed on to Victor and his wife, Maxine, who also descends from a family well versed in Pesach viticulture.

Today, plastic buckets are used for the fermentation of the grapes but in previous years one had to have a wooden barrel with a tap. "The move to plastic has been fine," Victor comments "and the wine turns out perfect!"

Over the years, Victor and Maxine have learned where to source suitable grapes for their wine, which they call Chateau Du Boyd, a suitably elegant name for their quality product! "The best cultivar is called Hermitage," says Victor,

adding that he gets his grapes from a farm in Kuils River. "We need to know the sugar content of the grape so that we can calculate the ratio of grapes to sugar. It's usually done as 4kg grapes to 1kg sugar. This gives us an alcohol content of between 11 and 14%."

The grapes are de-stalked but not crushed. Left with the sugar to ferment – or 'boil' – for about 10 days, the wine subsequently lies undisturbed for about six weeks prior to bottling, providing a wine that's perfect for the Pesach seder.

For approximately 1kg of grapes, the wine-maker ends up with a 750ml bottle of wine. The Boyd's current production involves 40 kg grapes which should yield 35 bottles of wine.

Another Cape Town family who've spent recent weeks making Pesach wine are the Weners of Milnerton. Phillippa Wener and her sister-in-law, Freda Wener Tucker, have produced wine in the Wener family tradition for many decades. The tradition has been passed on to younger generations,



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## A busy quarter for the UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN

**2024** started off with a bang with many donations being made to worthy organisations. These include soft toys, school books, children's clothes, beanies, stationery and knitted blankets.

We have supported our community by hosting "Feeling Fragile" workshops facilitated by two professionals. A safe space that has brought comfort and insight to those attending.

We knitted beanies for IDF soldiers, and to date we have sent over 300 beanies to Israel.

We collected brand new children's clothing for children in Israel for Chanukah.

Our branches have also been very busy with handouts, workshops and fundraising.

The Flower Group is selling beautiful gifts all year round – gifts perfect for Shabbat, special occasions and thank yous. Available at Stonehaven every day from 8am-1.30pm. All proceeds are used to support their projects.

The Giving Bag CT made up 70 bags of clothing, shoes, toiletries, books and toys which were donated to a farm school in Joostenbergvlakte as well as an informal settlement in Wynberg. 25 bags of children's clothing, shoes, books and toys were handed over to Siyabonga from Langa for Men. Boxes of stationery and toys were donated to Westlake Primary School.

Together with The Giving Bag CT we gifted baby bags to mothers and babies in the Tygerberg Hospital Neonatal ward, as well as a small gift

to the dedicated staff for their wonderful work. Baby bags were handed out to mothers at Somerset Hospital.

Mama Flo held a day of planning, brainstorming, and bonding with their ambassadors.

Joining Bnei Akiva, we baked yummy hamantaschen for Purim.

A super morning was spent practising yoga.

A Volunteer Appreciation Event was held to thank our partners, volunteers and donors for their support in 2023.

We appreciate all the donations and support we have received so far this year and have distributed to many worthy recipients.

Chag Sameach.



Knitted beanies



# SIMCHA SNAPS

## Wedding

## Bat Mitzvah



Yakira Hack pictured here with her parents Pinchas and Melissa Hack on the occasion of her Bat Mitzvah at Café Riteve on Sunday 14 January 2024. Photographer Yolande Kretzmer Keys



Stephen Fienberg and Angela Rogan were married on 12 February at Cape Point Vineyards. Photographer Nikki van Diermen



## SHARE YOUR SIMCHA SNAP

If you have celebrated the birth of a baby, a bris, birthday, Bar Mitzvah, a Bat Mitzvah, anniversary, engagement, wedding or achievement, why not share your happy news with our local community?

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