

# ★ JEWISH CAPE CHRONICLE

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JUNE 2024

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We will never forget!**

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Yom Hazikaron  
& Yom Ha'atzmaut**

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partisans**



**One Thousand  
Shards of**

*Light*

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# Bonny's Beat



## Recognising refugees as valuable members of society

Reading the plaque on a wall of the Samson Centre about the work of the late Erwin Spiro (which relates to the article on reparations you can read on page 18), my thoughts turned to the way in which the world treats refugees. Let's be honest: for most people, the stereotype of a refugee is the friendly car guard who asks you for R5 for having guarded your car. But we don't usually consider that individual as someone who could play a valuable role in society, someone we could regard as our equal.

But when considering the life of someone like Erwin Spiro — a refugee who fled Nazi Germany in 1936 after having lost his position as a judge in the German legal system, simply because he was Jewish — we realise how much a society may benefit from the contribution that these people can make. After all, Spiro became a leading figure in the legal fraternity in South Africa, despite having arrived in this country as a refugee. Recognising his contribution, the University of Cape Town awarded him a Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*. That's surely a far cry from the refugee who promises to look after your car!

Another example is George Weidenfeld, an Austrian Jewish refugee who settled in the UK in the 1930s. If his surname sounds familiar, it's because he was the founder and main partner of the internationally recognised publisher, Weidenfeld & Nicolson. In recognition of his contribution to Britain, he was knighted by the Queen.

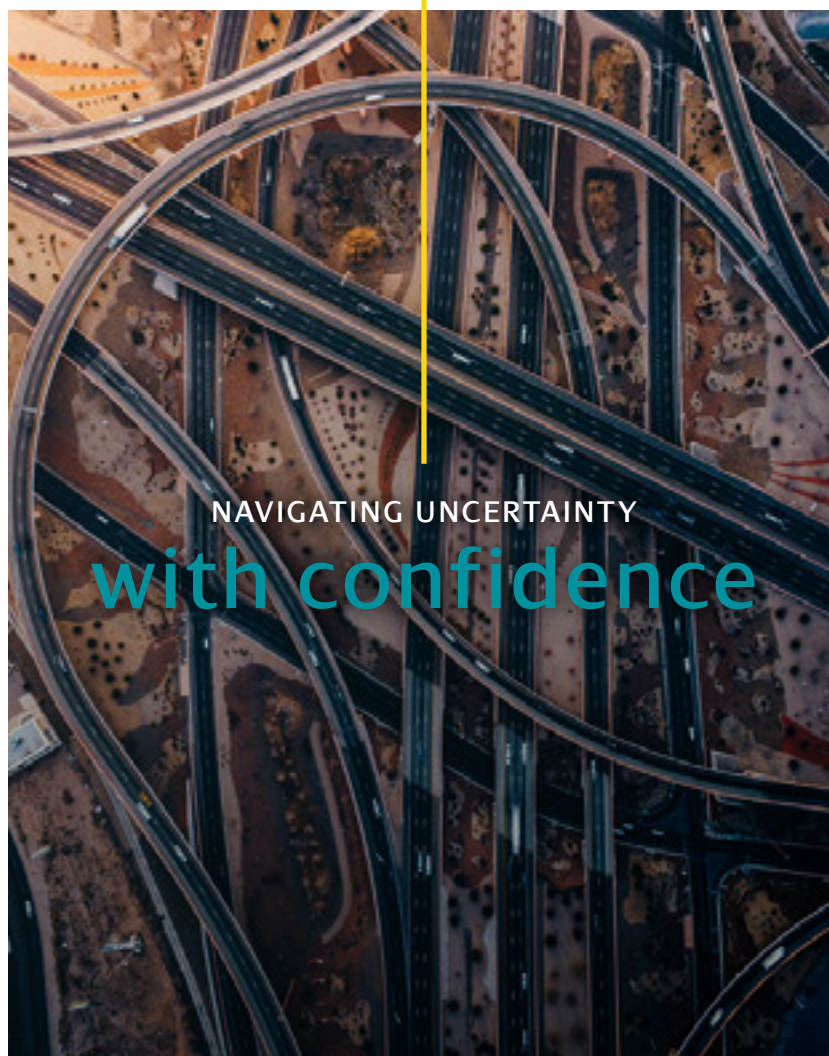
To move beyond the current approach to refugees — those people that the British government wants to get rid of by resettling them in Rwanda! — I think that we have to cease viewing these people as one huge demographic category. We have to get to know people in their individual capacities to be able to identify their potential, their existing skills and experience, and work out how to use these elements for the benefit of our world.

I have one example of this. I once employed two people to cut trees at my home, and it turned out that they were both refugees from Zimbabwe. Chatting to them, I discovered that one of them was a qualified and experienced Maths teacher but he could not take up a position at a school here because of the paperwork needed. So, here was someone whose skills are sorely needed in our school system but our officials did nothing to make that happen. A shame for us — and an even greater shame for him!

A great deal of the content in this month's issue relates to the events held during May: Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut. And, of course, the National Elections held at the end of the month.

Looking ahead, we also have a focus on Youth Day. Hear from the young people in our community by reading pages 6, 7 and 31.

Please always remember to share information with us about things happening in our community. We need your help in identifying the news to share with members of the community.



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## SHABBAT AND YOM TIMES

DATE	PORTION	CANDLE LIGHTING		
		earliest	latest	ends
1 June	24 Iyar			18:22
7 June	1 Sivan	16:42	17:26	
8 June	2 Sivan			18:21
11 June	5 Sivan	16:42	17:26	
12 June	6 Sivan	16:42	18:21	
13 June	7 Sivan			18:21
14 June	8 Sivan	16:43	17:26	
15 June	9 Sivan			18:21
21 June	15 Sivan	16:44	17:27	
22 June	16 Sivan			18:22
28 June	22 Sivan	16:46	17:29	
29 June	23 Sivan			18:25



# UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS JUNE 2024

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION	EVENT	DATE	FOR MORE INFO
Melton Midrasha	Israel Course	27 May 3 and 9 June	Email: <a href="mailto:lauren@snitcher.org">lauren@snitcher.org</a>
ORT Jet Cape Town	Business Talk – Vision Accelerator	5 June 17h30 for 18h00	RSVP: <a href="https://qkt.io/cUKzmJ">https://qkt.io/cUKzmJ</a>
Mensch	The Mensch Academy: A Learning Curriculum for Social Change – Build Your Board Strategy	6 June 15h30 – 17h30 online	Email: <a href="mailto:admin@mensch.org.za">admin@mensch.org.za</a> or visit <a href="https://qkt.io/BoardStrat">https://qkt.io/BoardStrat</a>
CJSA	Rabbi Goldstein will give a talk and take members around Muizenberg Shul	10 June 10h30	Email: <a href="mailto:director@cjsa.org.za">director@cjsa.org.za</a>
Temple Israel Green Point	Shavuot Tikkun Leil	11 June 18h00 – midnight	Email: <a href="mailto:executive-director@templeisrael.co.za">executive-director@templeisrael.co.za</a>
ORT Jet Cape Town	Entrepreneurial Training – Crafting a winning social media strategy!	11 June 09h00	RSVP: <a href="mailto:nicole@ortjetcapetown.org.za">nicole@ortjetcapetown.org.za</a>
ORT Jet Cape Town	Business Network	19 June	RSVP: <a href="mailto:nicole@ortjetcapetown.org.za">nicole@ortjetcapetown.org.za</a>
Temple Israel Wynberg	Pride Shabbat	28 June 18h15	Email: <a href="mailto:executive-director@templeisrael.co.za">executive-director@templeisrael.co.za</a>
South African Jewish Museum	Set in Stone – art exhibition	Until 30 June	

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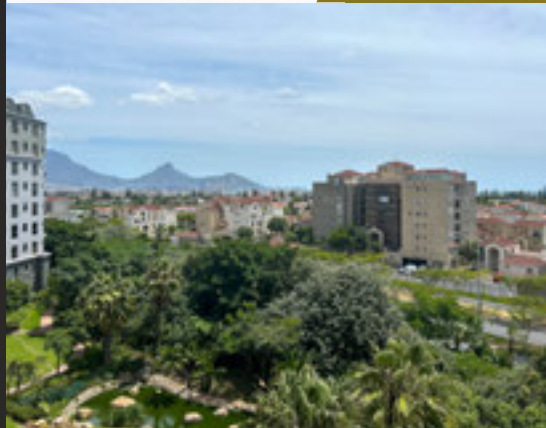
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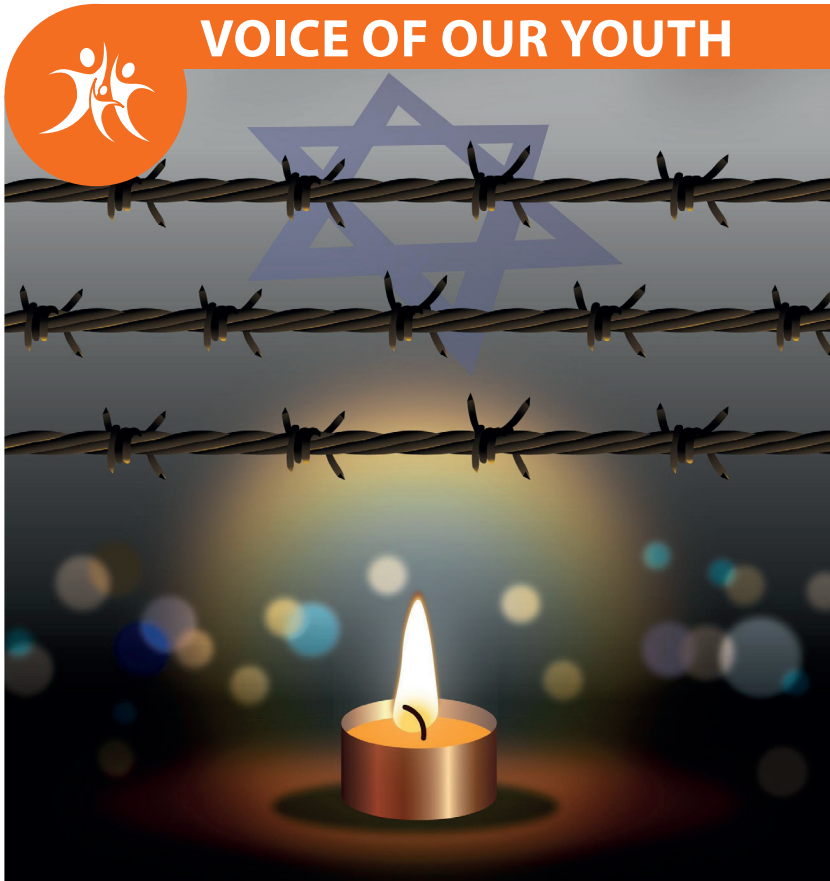


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## VOICE OF OUR YOUTH



# We will never forget!

By ETHAN WERB, Head Student, Herzlia High School Student Leadership Council 2023 – 2024



**Ethan Werb, aged 18, gave a powerful speech at this year's Yom Hashoah commemoration held on 6 May at the Jewish Cemetery in Cape Town. With a focus on completing his matric year at the moment, Ethan has not made a decision about future studies yet but he hopes to continue on his leadership journey and to further grow as a person.**

**The Cape Jewish Chronicle is happy to share Ethan's speech.**

לעולם לא נשכח

Let these words echo through the world and from generation to generation.

We Will Never Forget!

Today on the 27th of Nissan we remember. Six million of our brothers and sisters. Six million virtuous souls that were taken away from this world. Six million lives. Lives, all with a purpose, ended because they were seen as unworthy of living. Six million innocent Jews eradicated, just because they were Jewish.

לעולם לא נשכח

We will never forget!

Today, communities have gathered around the world, not just to reflect on an event from history, but to honour the resilience of the human spirit and reaffirm our commitment to never allowing such an atrocity to prevail again. As we stand united here today, and all across the world, we remind ourselves, that remembering the Holocaust, honouring the lives of the victims, and paying tribute to the survivors, is not just a duty but a necessity for all of humanity. We will listen to the testimonies, we will share the stories, we will continue to educate those around us, we will ensure that everyone knows. Knows and never forgets. We will always remember

“ We will always remember the tragedy that should never have occurred, because remembrance is the key to prevention. ”

the tragedy that should never have occurred, because remembrance is the key to prevention. Preventing any horror like this one from ever occurring again.

לעולם לא נשכח

We will never forget!

We remember Kristallnacht, the Ghettos, the Burning of Jewish Books and the Nuremberg Laws. We remember the Einsatzgruppen, the SS, the Gestapo and Mengele. We remember the Death Camps, the Gas Chambers, the Harsh Labour, and the Death Marches. We remember the persecution, the discrimination, the humiliation, the cruelty, the violence. We remember the 6 million Jewish people who have sanctified G-d's name. We remember the 1.5 million innocent children who perished at the hands of Nazism. Lives taken away from people, before they ever got to live them. We remember the mothers, the fathers, the sisters and brothers, all the families, the friends, the neighbours, and the communities. We honour the survivors. Those, who despite the unimaginable pain and trauma, continue to educate us by sharing their stories, their strength, their wisdom, their love and their spirit. We remember the righteous upstanders. חסידי אמות העולם, the Kind and courageous heroes, who amidst the brutality, risked their lives to save another, and spoke out during a time of silence. We remember the Partisans. The powerful Jewish men and women. Who despite the unthinkable dangers stood up to their oppressors and fought to defend their people and their identities.

לעולם לא נשכח

We will never forget!

For when we remember, we not only honour the memory of the millions who perished, but we also reaffirm our commitment to stand up against injustice wherever it may arise. We refuse to be silent bystanders in the face of hatred; instead, we choose to be upstanders, speaking out against intolerance and bigotry.

Moreover, by remembering the Holocaust, we educate future generations about the consequences of hatred and indifference. We teach them to embrace diversity, to cherish the rights and dignity of every

individual, and to build a world where the horrors of the past remain just that — history, never to be repeated.

Let us carry the memories of the Holocaust in our hearts, not as a burden of sorrow, but as a beacon of hope and a call to action. Let us vow to never forget, to never allow the voices of the victims to be silenced, and to strive towards a future where humanity and love triumph over hatred.

In the words of Elie Wiesel, himself a survivor of the Holocaust, “For the dead and the living, we must bear witness.” Let us bear witness today, and every day, by remembering the Holocaust and ensuring that the lessons of history are never forgotten.

We will never forget our greatest revenge. Our presence. Our Strength. Our safety. Our prosperity. Our Unity. Our Mission. *Anachnu Po*. We are here. And we are here to stay.

October 7 is another reminder that despite our persecution we will overcome whatever we face. That despite the global rise in antisemitism we are here to be the light that repels the darkness. We are here to spread kindness and love. We are here because we are the leaders. We are here because we are Am Yisrael. Three years after centuries of suffrage and persecution our beloved State of Israel was reborn. And now we know that the Jewish people will never go through another Holocaust again. This is our greatest revenge. The generations.

We as Jewish Youth have the responsibility to continue. We promise to share the stories and testimonies of the survivors because we are the survivors. We are your revenge. We are your victory. We are your legacy and we will honour that legacy with humility, courage, knowledge, love and by being proud Jews now and forever. We honour the legacy by always remembering. *L'olam Lo Nishcach*. We will never forget.

*Am Yisrael Chai*

# June is Youth Month: What are young Jewish leaders thinking?

## What a privilege it is to be young and Jewish!

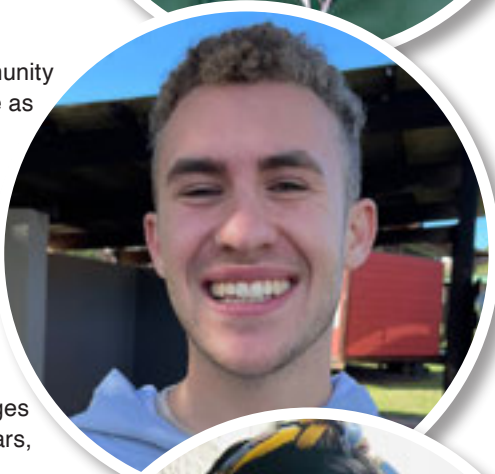
Jamie Hansen, a leader in the Netzer youth movement, converted to Judaism last year at the age of 23. He says, "This was a long spiritually empowering journey which led me to falling in love with my community and my religion."



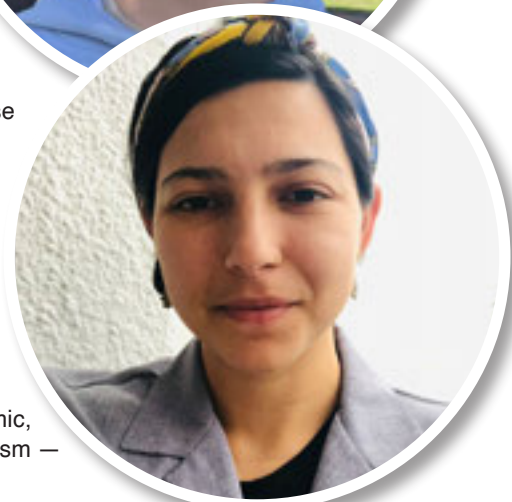
Jamie highlights the fact that he is part of a community that emphasises our role as being forces for positive change in the world.

## Exploring Jewish Identity in a post-October 7th world

SAUJS Committee Member and Habonim leader, Brad Gottschalk, acknowledges the changes in the world in recent years, saying:



"Sometimes it is hard to realise that we are in some of the darkest days in our history. My generation has never had to tread too close to historic crossroads — the beginning decades of the 21st century have mostly been stable. But then, quickly: global political instability, a rapidly uncertain South Africa, a global pandemic, and the new rise of Antisemitism — the course of my generation has certainly changed!



But I still see so much resilience, creativity and care in my age group. We're criticised for being removed from the real world — I want to challenge this! There hasn't yet been a generation so passionate about social action or climate change, and one that puts this care into practice. We have the world at our fingertips and are more connected than ever — but the cause for concern over our access to technology is the very thing which has opened the world to us.

Working with Jewish Youth in Cape Town over the last three years, I realise that we are lucky that we have spaces based in reality. Machaneh is a time capsule which offers a healthy space our kids need. The Habo Machaneh space is equally fun and engaging — there's no other space where you can go from exploring Jewish Identity in a post-October 7th world straight to midnight pranks with friends."

## Listen to our youth

Rachael Sara serves as Youth Director of the Cape Town Progressive Jewish Community. She comments:

"As someone working in community leadership spaces, I get to learn from the Rabbis and 'Elders' of the community which is really a privilege, but I also get to work with and learn from the youth in our community who are certainly more wise than we give them credit for.

As we approach Youth Day, I encourage us all to make an active effort to listen to the young people in our lives: what they are saying with their head (their words, their experiences); their hearts (their emotions); and their feet (their values and what is important to them). Perhaps we will see that they too can be our teachers and our guides in this complex and diverse community."

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## Family Announcements

### CONDOLENCES — THANK YOU

#### SIMON MICHAEL KESLER

I would like to thank the many friends, relatives and colleagues for the kind messages of condolence received on the passing of my brother Dr Simon Michael Kesler.

Special thanks to Rabbi Feldman for his understanding and support.

Rene Raff

### THANK YOU TO OUR FAMILY CARERS

#### TRAUB AND MILLER FAMILIES

Lulama Kaleni and Singathwa Nomatse have worked for us for 8 years.

In this time they have looked after both our mother and our father, from them needing occasional care to them being fully dependent and needing constant nursing care. They were with them both till the end.

Lulama and Singathwa have always shown themselves to be caring and completely trustworthy and approached their jobs with kindness, humour, and compassion, above the basic physical needs of the job description.

We have only good things to say about them both, and know that wherever they are employed they will be an asset.

Please contact us for any reference that you may need on the numbers below.

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# DOXXING

## WHAT IS DOXXING?

Doxxing is shorthand for ‘dropping docs or documents’ and is **the malicious release online of personal or identifying information** (cellphone, email, work and/or home address, photographs and even a partner or children’s details) **without that person’s permission.**

- Doxxing is **cyberbullying**. The aim of the perpetrator/s is to **intimidate, emotionally manipulate, coerce**, ruin the reputation of the targeted person or, in some extreme cases, to incite physical harm against them.
- People are targeted for various reasons including **extortion** and as a malicious means of **weaponising** an opposing political or socio-cultural viewpoint to enact a perverse form of ‘**mob justice**’ **against a perceived ‘enemy’.**
- The scariest part of doxxing is that, once your private contact details are shared on the internet electronically, **it is extremely difficult (if not impossible) to get this information removed.**

## EXAMPLES OF DOXXING AND THE CONSEQUENCES

In 2019, journalist Karima Brown won a case in the Gauteng High Court against Julius Malema of the EFF who posted her cellphone number on Twitter, resulting in her receiving extreme threats of violence.

The vehicle of Sea Point resident Peter Wagenaar was set alight after his details were posted on a Facebook community forum. Wagenaar was targeted by certain members of the group for his homeless feeding scheme during lockdown. A criminal case is pending.

Most recently, a shocking case of mass doxxing in Australia saw a pro-Palestinian collective releasing the personal information of 600 Jewish creatives. The government is fast-tracking legislation that will crack down on doxxing under the country’s Privacy Act.

### GET IN TOUCH

**If you are a victim of doxxing**  
then please send photos and evidence to  
the antisemitism

**Whats App hotline +27 79 994 5573**



## WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

The legality of doxxing is **not always clear** and South African **laws on social media are always changing**, but there is legal recourse in many instances including:

- **If there is a clear breach of the person’s right to privacy** as enshrined by the Constitution and in terms of POPIA (Protection of Personal Information Act).
- **If the information was obtained unlawfully** and in contravention of RICA (Regulation of Interception of Communications).
- **Under the Protection from Harassment Act.**
- If the doxxing **causes damages** (financial/property/emotional pain and suffering) **and/or leads to physical harm.**

## PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM DOXXING

- **Be careful** when sharing any information online including cellphone number, home address, email or personal images.
- **Think before you post (or repost).** Your actions could carry legal risks.
- **Practice good cybersecurity.** We recommend using a good anti-virus security solution, which guards you against viruses on your devices, secures and stores your passwords and private documents and encrypts the data which you send and receive online with a VPN (Virtual Private Network).
- **Check your privacy settings and update accordingly.** Separate your personal social media (which should be kept private) from your public, professional affairs.
- **Check yourself on a Google search and see what comes up.** If there’s personal information such as cell numbers or a home address, you can request its removal.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU BECOME A DOXXING VICTIM?

- It’s understandable to be concerned, even scared, if you are doxxed. Intimidation is the aim of the doxxer.
- **Report any doxxing attack to the social media platform** it has taken place on. If it includes financial doxxing, contact your financial institution immediately.
- **Screen grab everything:** make sure the date and URL is visible as well as who the doxxer is (if known).
- **Involve law enforcement** if a personal threat is made against you or a loved one. Any information pointing to your home address or financial information should be treated as a top priority by them.
- **Change your passwords and privacy settings** (if not already set to private).
- **Enlist** a friend or family member for support.





## HEALTH FOCUS

# TRANSGENERATIONAL TRAUMA among the descendants of survivors of genocide



Tracey Farber

*DR TRACEY FARBER has worked extensively with both Holocaust survivors and their children. She has conducted research among survivors and provides psychological therapy to 2nd generation survivors in her private practice in Tel Aviv. She also works with international students at Tel Aviv University, and specialises in psychotherapy relating to trauma.*

*She is the co-author of Catastrophic Grief, Trauma, and Resilience in Child Concentration Camp Survivors: A Retrospective View of Their Holocaust Experiences. (Available for borrowing from the Jacob Gitlin Library.)*

As the number of survivors of the Holocaust still with us dwindles, the focus moves to their descendants: the 2nd and 3rd generations. Although they were not directly subject to the terrors of the genocide, they are regarded as second generation survivors because of the impact that their parents' experiences had on them as they grew up.

For psychologists, the experience of the 2nd generation survivor presents an interesting field of research and clinical work. One leader in this field is South African clinical psychologist Dr Tracey Farber, who has lived in Israel for the past three years but retains strong connections with her home country.

Prompted by the commemoration of the Holocaust during May, the Cape Jewish Chronicle spoke to Tracey about the psychological impact on the descendants of survivors.

### Trauma may be passed on consciously or unconsciously

Tracey points out that, even though most parents would have been loving parents, wanting only the best for their children, the pain and trauma they suffered may have been passed on to their children, in many cases unconsciously. As she explains, "When a newborn baby is held by its parent, it will pick up the parent's mood and emotional distress, even though the parent may consciously be doing things of a loving nature. So, the children born of a person traumatised by an event like the Holocaust will carry a psychological burden from their earliest days."

There are also situations in which the 1st generation survivor consciously passes on the trauma. Either way, the child may demonstrate a psychological scar as a result of the conscious or unconscious passing on of trauma. "This is known as transgenerational trauma," Tracey says, adding that, "Psychotherapist Dina Vardi wrote a book called 'Memorial Candles' (1992) in which she explains how the second generation carry the wounds of their parents. I would add that they also have had the experience of parents who are role models of survival and resilience."

As regards more than one child born to a Holocaust survivor, Tracey points out that the transgenerational trauma may manifest differently in each child. "It's common for one child to take on the mantle of the Holocaust, and that child becomes a Holocaust activist – the one who reads whatever they can about the event, who attends functions relating to the Holocaust, who speaks out about it, and so on," she explains. And another child of the same parents may exhibit no particular interest in the Holocaust. "It's very much an individualised response, and will differ from family to family. The response of the child is influenced by the level of attachment that the child has or had with the survivor parent."

Another element of the 2nd generation experience is that the child acknowledges the tremendous resilience shown by the parent who has gone through such a terrible experience. These are people who made new lives after unbelievable suffering, and the child is a core element of that new life. For many 2nd generation survivors that pans out in them being high achievers – they are driven to reflect their parents'



St. Pierre Church near Kibuye, Rwanda, where people were murdered during the 1994 Rwandan genocide



Holocaust survivor with child

resilience by proving their successful presence within society. It's also demonstrated in their desire to make an impact because they are driven to make the world a better place.

### Current triggers that cause greater discomfort for the 2nd generation survivor

The rise in openly antisemitic acts and statements since the October 7th attacks is causing renewed anxiety among many 2nd generation survivors. As Tracey elaborates: "More than other people, the descendant of a survivor of the Holocaust sees the current events through the lens of the Holocaust because the Holocaust experience is so much a part of their being and is so personal to their lives. And, so, there is heightened trauma for these people at the moment."

Another issue affecting 2nd generation survivors is that they have to cope with a survivor parent who is ailing in old age or who has recently passed away.

### Transgenerational trauma in other communities

The experiences seen among the descendants of survivors of the

Holocaust are also evident among children of survivors of other genocides, such as the Rwandan killings of 1994.

Tracey highlights the impact of the trauma among anti-apartheid activists in our own country, explaining that, "The children of activists demonstrate numerous responses similar to 2nd generation Holocaust survivors. Knowing of their parents' experiences of being imprisoned or tortured has resulted in transgenerational trauma for many of them."

### Helping the 2nd or 3rd generation survivor to cope

As a psychologist, Tracey is obviously an advocate of therapy for 2nd generation survivors who struggle with the issues, but she does not believe that it is the answer for everyone. "Therapy is useful to assist the 2nd generation survivor to identify and understand the trauma they have experienced, growing up with a survivor parent and also to help them to understand the impact that this has on their lives. Dina Vardi says that group therapy helps the second generation to separate from the pain of their parents and develop their individual identities. These groups can allow sharing of feelings and experiences. "This helps to normalise the person's experience," Tracey explains. "The person learns that their experiences are similar to those of other people; group bonding and social support play a crucial role in helping people to cope. 'No one can face trauma alone.' (Dr Judith Herman, 1992)."



# Cape Town's Connection to Israel

ADVOCATE EDUCATE CELEBRATE

## Bereaved Israeli mother tells stories of hope



Sarit Zussman (3rd from right) with SAZF Mancom members

How does one move on with life after being struck by tragedy? It's a question many people face at the darkest moments in their lives. And, for some, life pretty much shuts down as they sink into a state of depression.

This was a question that the family of Israeli, Ben Zussman, have had to contend with in recent months. Killed in battle late last year, Ben was just 22 when the events of October 7th occurred. Fired up to defend his people and to bring the hostages back — and, in fact, as his mother says, “to fight for good against evil” — he was determined to join in military action to defend his country, even though he was due to start a course of study during October.

Ben's parents, Zvi and Sarit Zussman, took the decision to use their experience of extreme sorrow to spread messages of hope. “We decided to live. To fight — not with weapons but with words, and through telling stories,” says Ben's mother, Sarit, who visited Cape Town during May to talk at

two events organised by the SAZF Cape Council.

Sarit makes no bones about what the current conflict is about. The big picture is that this is a world war, a war of good against evil, and that it goes way beyond the Israel-Palestine conflict. And it is a war on numerous fronts, including a media war. She spoke about the need to fight against the bias demonstrated by the world's media, and to talk the truth constantly and louder and louder to counter the lies being spewed out in the media and swallowed up by so many people who accept these lies without thinking. As Sarit commented, “People who demonstrate against Israel are demonstrating their own ignorance.”

Giving the Jewish community in South Africa hope, Sarit commented that the voices of Am Yisrael have had a huge impact on Israelis. The solidarity and support of Jewish communities around the world is a crucial part of keeping Israel alive.

## 10 DAYS OF TODAH



Members from SAZF CC with our Christian Zionist friends

The Ten Days of Gratitude is an Israeli thanksgiving initiative based on and inspired by the Ten Days of Repentance in the Jewish tradition. This initiative seeks to introduce a new Israeli tradition into the Hebrew calendar, on the special days leading up to Independence Day.

The SAZF CC took on this initiative for the days between Yom Hashoah and Yom Ha'atzmaut. We were fortunate enough to have the opportunity to meet incredibly inspiring speakers from Israel,

including Sarit Zussman and Ilse Strauss. Strauss is the Bureau Chief of the Bridges for Peace News Desk, based in Jerusalem. She and her family travelled to Cape Town to share the incredible work they do as Christians supporting Israel, as well as building meaningful relationships between Jews and Christians all around the world.

We also used this opportunity to honour our special Christian Zionist friends who stand tirelessly outside Parliament every Friday in support of Israel.

## Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut

The transition from Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut is testament to the resilience of the Jewish people. We commemorate and honour our heroes – soldiers and victims of terror, who gave their lives in order for Am Yisrael to thrive.

Our Yom Hazikaron ceremony was incredibly moving, with real life testimonies from two Israeli soldiers who joined us this year. A big thank you to the youth movements for putting together such a special Tekes, and special mention must be made of Visual Creations for transforming the venue to look like you were taking a walk-through Hostage Square in Israel.

This Yom Ha'atzmaut we celebrated

76 years of the independence of our homeland and its people, with so much Simcha. We came together as a community and stood in solidarity, as we sang, prayed and rejoiced as proud Jews living in South Africa. As we continue to pray for the safe release of our hostages, now more than ever, it is important to stand together as one nation.

Yom Ha'atzmaut is one of the biggest events in our community calendar and the SAZF Cape Council is truly grateful to everyone who helped contribute to making this a huge success. Thank you to all our generous sponsors, entertainers, advertisers, and Norries Catering for the wonderful food supplied.

**Zussman is a member of an Israeli organisation called The Fourth Quarter. The organisation explains its purpose as:**

Israel has now started the 4th quarter since its founding in 1948. This is a dangerous time in the life of nations - twice before in history, the Jewish state crumbled before it reached its 100th year. Considering the divisions in Israel prior to October 7th, this seems prophetic. David Ben Gurion said this at the state's founding: “The test of Zionism will be when Israel turns 75. By then, the children born will no longer meet Holocaust survivors, nor will they know the founding generation. Our belief in the righteousness of our cause will require a renewed definition, not based on what was, but rather on what will be.”

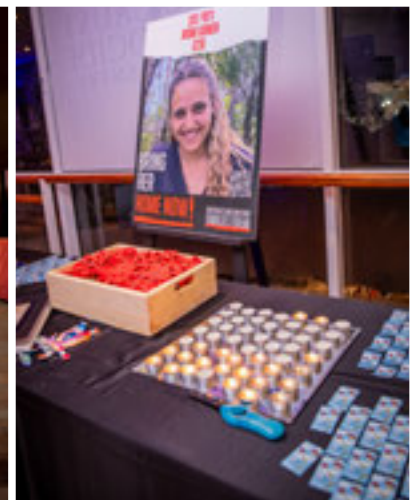


**SOUTH  
AFRICAN  
ZIONIST  
FEDERATION  
CAPE COUNCIL**

# Cape Town's Connection to Israel

**ADVOCATE EDUCATE CELEBRATE**

## Yom Ha'atzmaut and Yom Hazikaron



Find us

SA Zionist Federation – Cape Council

@sazfcapecouncil



## ARTS & CULTURE

### New documentary film highlights the role of Jewish partisans in the defeat of the Nazis during World War II

Conventional wisdom is that Jews ‘went like lambs to the slaughter’ during the Holocaust, that they put up little resistance in the face of the murderous intent of the Nazis and local collaborators throughout Europe. This was a convenient narrative for the perpetrators: an indication of their antisemitic stereotyping.

But we are now seeing increasing evidence of acts of resistance, and some are of huge significance. This is why the recently-released documentary, *Four Winters*, is so groundbreaking.

Shown to a large and enthusiastic audience at the Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre (CTHGC) recently, the movie — by the film’s Producer and Director, Julia Mintz — highlights the incredible resistance demonstrated by the 25 000 Jewish partisans who fought from the forests of Eastern Europe (largely in Poland, Belarus and Lithuania) over a period of four

years (the four winters for which the film is named). Information about this phenomenal military force was largely suppressed during the Soviet era, which is why it is crucial that the stories of these brave men and women are publicised.

Present at the movie’s launch in Cape Town, which followed showings in Johannesburg and Durban, Julia explained that, “My intention with this film — made over a 10-year period — was to make the partisans’ stories the main focus, while the expert, academic information served as a backdrop for assessing the accuracy of what these fighters were telling me more than 70 years after the actual events. As such, no Holocaust scholar appears on screen; the key interviewees are the former partisans, who were in their 80s and 90s when I interviewed and filmed them.” Here we have oral history affirmed by the academic research of the scholars.



Director, Julia Mintz, and interviewee, Mike Stoll

In addition to the real-life descriptions of the partisan fighters’ activities, the film is characterised by many never-before seen photographs and film clips from the time. “One of the surviving partisans whom we interviewed is a woman named Faye Schulman. A photographer by trade, Faye managed to recover her camera and developing chemicals, so she took photographs and developed them under blankets at night. She held onto these images throughout the War, and shared them with us for the film,” Julia says. These pictures provide unique visual insights into the war that the Jewish partisans waged — military action that was very successful, despite the conditions under which the partisans lived.

“We certainly feel proud that we could host a showing of this important film, especially now, as we start to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Centre,” comments Kuba Nowakowski, Director of the CTHGC.

To view the *Four Winters* trailer, [CLICK HERE](#).

To learn more or book an in-person screening in your community, visit [fourwintersfilm.com](http://fourwintersfilm.com) or contact [Peter@newmoondocumentary.com](mailto:Peter@newmoondocumentary.com)

### Message in a bottle

Rustenburg in the North West Province is hardly a location one would associate with Jewish history, yet its deconsecrated synagogue has raised some important questions of identity for the young Jewish artist, Joe Turpin. When the building was sold and repurposed in 2022 — yet another country town now without a Jewish community to use the synagogue — something intriguing was found behind the foundation stone: a time capsule bottle.

Inside the bottle, there were documents relating to the history of the community, and to the opening of the synagogue. The synagogue owed its existence to Philip

Wulfsohn and his brothers, who came to South Africa from Lithuania.

News of the find caught the attention of Joe, who is from Johannesburg but was then living and studying in New York. Joe had many memories of Rustenburg, in particular of the Jewish cemetery there, which he visited to see his grandfather’s grave. Philip Wulfsohn was, in fact, his great-grandfather.

The find spurred Joe on to explore his own identity through his art. As he says, “I am driven to connect with and delve into [my mother’s] family’s history and heritage. The sense of community, abandonment,



The artist, Joe Turpin

white flight, urban migration, and...the sale of the synagogue’s building...deepens the feeling of loss.”

An exhibition of Joe’s work, *Set in Stone*, is currently on at the South African Jewish Museum. The exhibition runs until 30 June.



An unusual element of the exhibition



The artist discussing a painting with visitors to the exhibition

### CHABAD CALENDARS FOR 2024 AVAILABLE

If you’d like one, please collect it from Chabad Centre of Cape Town, 20 St. Johns Road, Sea Point. Note that there are limited numbers available so they will be distributed on a ‘First come, first served’ basis.

## CONNECT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNITY

# HAS EVERYONE GONE MAD?

By DANIEL BLOCH, Executive Director, Cape SAJBD



**H**as everyone gone mad? People seem to be losing the plot and running around like headless chickens. It doesn't seem to matter what the topic is – elections, Israel-Gaza, American university campuses, who to invite to the next *bar mitzvah*, Mother's Day presents, and even squabbling over whether you want Manchester City or Arsenal to win the English Premier League. I have the answers – vote for a non corrupt political party which serves all our interests. There

will be peace in the Middle East tomorrow. Go to UCT or Stellies. Invite everyone to the *brocha*. Whatever you buy, your mother will love it, and Manchester United will win the League. If only all these answers were as simple as that – you know I am talking nonsense when I say Manchester United will win anything these days.

Some of these issues are really complicated and cannot be defined in one article. And what you may think are the simpler things like a Mother's Day present, don't kid yourself: it may be easier to solve the crisis in the Middle East! Regardless of any of these answers, it appears that everyone seems to be going nuts at the moment and I think it's important for all of us to take our foot off the pedal, look around, and reassess things in a calm and measured manner.

The war in Israel has really changed everyone's lives. There is literally nowhere we can go and nothing we can do without this coming up in conversation or

even affecting any action we take. Naturally, we all get worked up when discussing Israel, so perhaps try to change up the conversation and you will quickly see how the mood changes and also how you may become slightly calmer.

University campuses in America are on tilt and parents in Cape Town are going crazy worrying about their kids at UCT and Stellies. Sure, we have an anti-Israel element at both these campuses; however, for now, our campus life continues as normal. It's not to say that nothing can happen, but, for now we are monitoring the situation; the various universities are acutely aware of the situation and we will all manage whatever comes our way. In short, stop causing panic, let your kids go to class and allow them to focus on the upcoming exams. If any parent or student has any concerns, they are more than welcome to reach out to me.

I have people calling me about the National elections (which will be over by the time you read this).

Who should they vote for? Who are these new parties? What does the future of the Western Cape look like? Now I cannot tell you who to vote for as every party certainly has different agendas and they have their own views on Israel as well. You see how Israel suddenly comes into play – why should Israel impact the work done by whomever runs the Western Cape? I know there will be one or two people stewing when reading these words and will probably send me a private WhatsApp sharing their discontent. The reality is that you should vote for someone who will improve your life and the lives of those around you. However, if they are anti-Israel, then of course stay clear.

Don't be drawn into mad conversations with people who are negative and only want to complain. Whilst there may be loads of crazy things to discuss, try and focus on all the positives and, if you need to pray, please pray that Manchester United win the FA Cup, or at the very least, don't get thrashed by Manchester City.

### 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**



CAPE TOWN

# YOM HASHOAH VEHAGEVURAH 2024

The annual Yom Hashoah Memorial Service, held on Monday 6th May 2024, was attended by more than 600 members of our community including Holocaust survivors, 2nd/3rd/4th generation survivors, religious leaders, community leaders, political parties, consulates, school students and more. This solemn event, where we came together to honour the memory of the six million Jews who perished during the Holocaust, was held at the Pinelands Jewish Cemetery 2, featuring a diverse programme of messages, prayers, poems, and songs.

This year marked the 80th anniversary of the deportation of the 1 900 Jews from Rhodes as well as 44 000 Jews from Hungary. The keynote speaker, Isaac Habib, a second-generation survivor, provided a poignant account and testimony of his late mother, Lucia Capelluto's, survival from Rhodes. She is buried at the Pinelands Jewish Cemetery. Isaac read out the testimony, written by his mother to her mentor a few years after the Holocaust, about her deportation and survival from Auschwitz and Bergen Belsen and her eventual move to South Africa. This narrative offered a deeply personal and moving perspective on those tragic events.

Adrienne Jacobson, Chair of the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies, delivered a powerful opening address, setting the tone for remembrance and reflection. Ethan Werb, Head Student of Herzlia High, emphasised the involvement of younger generations in preserving the memory of the Holocaust and educating future generations on the consequences of hatred and indifference.

A particularly touching moment occurred when the Holocaust survivors, supported by their families, lit candles in memory of the victims.



*Aviva Sulcas lights a candle on behalf of her late mother, Santa Pelham*



*Lina Kantor, survivor*



*Survivor, Helene Joffe, lights a candle*



*102-year-old Holocaust survivor Ella Blumenthal watches on as her family assist her to light a candle*



*Holocaust survivor Henia Bryer lights a candle assisted by her family members*



*Sarina Blacher (2nd generation) lights a candle*



*A large crowd attended the Yom Hashoah Memorial Service*

This symbolic act of remembrance underscored the resilience and strength of those who endured the horrors of the Holocaust.

Israeli Ambassador Eli Belotsercovsky contributed to the ceremony through a video message, highlighting the global significance of remembering the Holocaust and its lessons for humanity.

Music played a vital role in the ceremony, with singer Dani Bitton and the Herzlia Vocal Ensemble delivering moving performances. The Gardens Shul Choir, along with Chazzan Choni G, added solemnity to the event with traditional prayers and the rousing Partisan Song.

The Chief Rabbi led prayers for both the State of Israel and the IDF, emphasising the ongoing connection between the Jewish people and their homeland, as well as the importance of never forgetting the atrocities of the past. Wreaths were laid by Current and Ex-Servicemen, adding dignity to the memorial.

## 80 years since the deportation and destruction of the Jewish community of Rhodes

The 80th anniversary of the deportation of the Jews of the idyllic Greek island of Rhodes — Rhodes to its inhabitants — occurs in July this year. This anniversary is of particular significance to the Sephardi community of Cape Town, since this small community traces its origins to the island.

The congregation dates from the 1960s: survivors of the Holocaust from Rhodes made their way to Cape Town after having settled in the Belgian Congo and Rhodesia after the War. (The Belgian Congo gained independence from Belgian rule in June 1960, and a period of civil unrest began.)

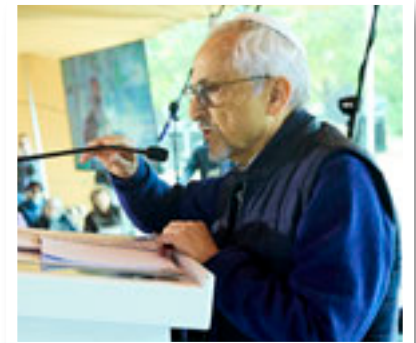
The genocide of the Jews of Rhodes was particularly brutal. Of the approximately 1 900 people deported, a mere 150 remained at the end of the War. The majority perished in Auschwitz within a very short while of having arrived there.

A small number of Rhodes Jews were saved by the Turkish consul, Selahettin Ulkumen, who identified them as having Turkish citizenship. This included Cape Town's own Lina Kantor, a young child in 1944, who continued living on the island under German occupation for the rest of the War.

Lina was one of the Cape Town survivors who lit a candle at this year's commemorative Yom Hashoah event at the Cape Town Jewish Cemetery.



*Address from Chair of the Cape SAJBD, Adrienne Jacobson*



*Isaac Habib delivers the keynote address – the testimony of his late mother Lucia Capelluto's survival from Rhodes, Auschwitz and Bergen Belsen*



*2nd generation survivors, Aviva Sulcas and Zola Shuman*



*Chazzan Choni Goldman and the Gardens Shul Choir*



*Stanley Zive recites a Ladino poem*



*Participation of the South African military*



*Dani Bitton*



*Veronica Belling recites a Yiddish poem*



# Cape SAJBD's Election Month: Promoting active citizenship through dialogue and debate

May has marked a significant month for elections across various fronts, and the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies (Cape SAJBD) has been actively engaged in fostering informed citizenship through two notable events.

Upholding its mandate to promote dialogue and understanding within the community and beyond, the Cape SAJBD arranged a webinar and a provincial election debate, both aimed at displaying the intricacies of South Africa's political landscape and encouraging civic participation.

## Wayne Sussman in conversation with Cape SAJBD's Daniel Bloch

The first event, held on the 16th of May, was a webinar featuring esteemed political analyst Wayne Sussman in conversation with Cape SAJBD's Executive Director, Daniel Bloch, as the host. Sussman, drawing upon his wealth of experience in political analysis and his deep understanding of South Africa's political framework, provided a thought-provoking analysis of the recent national elections.

Delving into the evolving dynamics of multi-party politics in the country and voting statistics, Sussman offered insights into potential election outcomes and the implications thereof. Sussman identified four trends unique to this year's National Elections. The first being the Patriotic Alliance's (PA) Gayton Mackenzie as a sizeable threat to the DA's campaign in the Western Cape. Second – "the chaos", as described by Sussman, ensuing in the KwaZulu-Natal region with former President Jacob Zuma's acceleration with the MK party. "Looking at by-election trends, the ANC is in big trouble with black voters in Gauteng," Wayne added as the third trend. The next being the "rural firewall" – the rural areas having been traditionally strong support outposts of the ANC now being more contested particularly by the PA. Sussman added that three major unknowns that will be interesting to note this year are the impact of Gayton Mackenzie, the MK party and the voter turnout on the day.

**For those who missed the webinar or wish to revisit the insightful conversation, the recording is available on the Cape SAJBD's YouTube channel. [CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)**

## Provincial election debate on eNCA

The second event, a provincial election debate, was broadcast live in partnership with eNCA, one of South Africa's most prominent news channels. Hosted by eNCA's Professor JJ Thabane, the debate featured premier-elect candidates from several key political parties, including Premier Alan Winde from the Democratic Alliance (DA), Ferlon Christians from the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), Dr Corne Mulder from Freedom Front Plus (VF Plus), and Patricia De Lille from the Good Party. It must be noted that the ANC was invited but withdrew at the last minute.

Taking place within the historic setting of the Old Synagogue at the South African Jewish Museum, the debate brought together representatives from each party, communal leaders, friends and guests of the Cape SAJBD, fostering an atmosphere of inclusivity and democratic engagement. Throughout the evening, Professor JJ Thabane posed probing questions to each premier candidate, eliciting insightful responses and providing viewers with a deeper understanding of each party's vision and policies on various topics. These topics included job creation, education, policing and the importance of addressing land distribution, and loadshedding.

Crucially, the debate also allowed for audience participation, further enhancing the democratic process by giving voice to the concerns and perspectives of citizens. What the parties did agree on was that now is time for change and that a government of national unity is

**Watch the eNCA town hall election debate recording. [CLICK HERE](#)**

needed to improve the lives of all South Africans.

Both events organised by the Cape SAJBD underscored the organisation's commitment to promoting active citizenship and fostering informed dialogue within the community. By providing platforms for discussion and debate, the Cape SAJBD not only contributes to a more politically engaged society but also reinforces the values of democracy and civic responsibility. As South Africa continues on its democratic journey, initiatives like these play a vital role in shaping the future of the nation.



*Simone Sulcas, Adam Kepkey, Premier Alan Winde and Lester Hoffman*



*Daniel Bloch, Tanja Werheit (German Consul General), Sotirios Demestihias (Greek Consul General), Dawn Nathan-Jones and Tzvi Brivik*



*Daniel Bloch and Wayne Sussman in conversation*



*Minister Patricia De Lille with representatives from the Good Party and Dawn Nathan-Jones*



*Adrienne Jacobson with Colin Leeman (UK Consul General) and Nompumelelo Khanyile*



*VF Plus representatives with the UK Consul General*



*Guests enjoy drinks and snacks*



*eNCA Panel – Dr Corne Mulder (VF Plus), Ferlon Christians (ACDP), Patricia De Lille (Good Party), Premier Alan Winde (DA) and Prof. JJ Thabane*



*Guests of the Cape SAJBD*



CONSIDER THIS

# May the Force be with you

By RABBI GREG ALEXANDER



Stormtrooper); and Rey as the Child Who does not know to ask – again explaining that this was Rey growing up unaware of her Force powers before she is discovered and trained under her teacher, Leia.

Star Wars Seder!? I know you will read this in June and wonder why Rabbi Greg is talking about Pesach, and there are two reasons for this. Firstly, I am writing it on the 5th of May and Pesach is still fresh on my taste buds and, more importantly, on my mind.

Secondly, yesterday was a “yontiv” (known to only a few Jews) that is observed all over the world. It’s the day when Star Wars fans wish each other “May the 4th be with you”. It’s a bit of nerdy sci-fi fun, but what made it more profound to me this year was reading an article written by my colleague, Rabbi Micah Streifer, entitled “The Four Children of Star Wars.”

He begins by comparing the values, plot and characters of Star Wars to those of Judaism and suggests that “Star Wars is very Jewish.” He points out that Jedi sounds like Yehudi, that Darth Vader is a model of teshuvah and that the struggle between the Dark Side and the Light is very much like that between the Yetzer ha-Ra and the Yetzer ha-Tov.

The main thrust of the article is his proposal for four Star Wars characters to represent the four children in the Haggadah. He has Princess Leia as the Wise Child; Kyo Ren as the Wicked; Finn as the Simple Child (he clarifies that this is Finn when he was still a

It doesn’t matter whether you are a Star Wars fan or not, as I am not going to debate the merits of his choices. I am going to suggest a fifth child that we need at our seders and in our lives at this time. This child is the one who is able to hold conflict and ambiguity, who wants to see the grey, not just the dark and light side. This child is needed at our seders and in our heads as we battle to find Truth in a world that has questioned all truths and proofs and rules.

I do believe that the answers to life’s greatest questions can be found. We can study, davven and meditate and come to a sense of clarity and peace eventually, but the path towards that peace might not be a simple or straight one. Whether that is South African or Israeli politics, end-of-life decisions, gender, biomedical ethics, or whether Rey, Anakin or Luke were the more powerful Jedi, what is needed is a desire to hold nuance, a curiosity to keep learning, ears that are switched on to listening and the patience to sit, sit, sit before taking decisive action.

And who would I suggest as a Star Wars character for the Child who Holds Nuance? Hillel. What, he wasn’t in the Star Wars Universe? I think Lucas Films will need to bring him in – watch this space. In the meantime, May the Force be with you.

## RABBI GUERSHON KWASNIEWSKI will be joining us from 2nd June for three months to cover Rabbi Greg’s sabbatical. Here are some interesting facts about him:



I went through almost all the positions within Jewish institutions – I was a *madrich*, *moréh*, *baal tefillah*; and I sang in choirs until I finally became a rabbi.

■ I was born in Argentina. I have worked in Brazil for 27 years.

■ I am married to Patricia. I have two children, Gabriela and Diego. We are a family that likes to travel and discover other places and cultures. In 2020, for the first and only time, we visited South Africa. We fell in love with Cape Town, its people, its nature, its beaches, its sunsets, its culture, and its entertainment centres. We also visited Temple Israel where we were lucky enough to meet Rabbi Emma, Diana Sochen and Jeanne Livingstone.

■ It will be an honour and a responsibility to be in Rabbi Greg’s shoes during his well-deserved sabbatical. I travel in hopes of doing great work with Eric, Rabbis Matitiani and Gottlieb, and making new friends.

### 6 Interesting Facts about me: Rabbi Guershon Kwasniewski

■ I am proud to be Jewish and embrace the Torah principle, which appears in the book of Leviticus 19:18 – “Love your neighbour as yourself.”

■ As a Reform rabbi, I raise and defend the values of equality, respect, democracy, peace, inclusion and interfaith dialogue.

■ I live community life intensely.

## TIMEOUT WEEKEND AWAY



Shabbat morning together



Early morning shacharit



Torah in the fresh air



Rachael Sara, Jesse Flash, Rabbi Emma and Rabbi Greg chanting Torah outdoors

**PRIDE SHABBAT**  
Friday 28 June 2024 at 18h15  
Temple Israel Wynberg  
celebrating the diversity of our Jewish community

**GUEST SPEAKER**  
*Dr Arlen Leight*  
author and retired intimacy psychotherapist



## LEGAL MATTERS

# Taking responsibility for the Holocaust: the payment of reparations

When a person commits a crime against someone else, society expects the perpetrator to compensate the wider society — for instance, by going to prison. But, what’s usually missing is compensation for the actual victim of the crime. So, if your car is stolen, for example, the thief will not provide you with a new vehicle.

This failure of society’s systems has been addressed to some extent through the reparations process for survivors of the Holocaust. In addition to the horrors lived through during the War years and the loss of close family members, hundreds of thousands of people lost their homes, their livelihoods, their businesses, valuable assets — and the opportunity to study towards a career of their choice.

This has been recognised by the German government, which has acknowledged the country’s role as the instigator of the crimes against humanity perpetrated against Europe’s Jews. And, while not all survivors of this devastating period in our history have received compensation, substantial amounts of money have been paid over, geared to improve the quality of life of the survivors and, in some instances, of their descendants.

### The impact of the legislation

Thousands of survivors of the Holocaust have received monetary compensation, including many who continue to receive pensions from the German state.

According to Cape Town’s Mary Kluk, Vice President of the World Jewish Congress, who sits on the leadership council of the Claims Conference, “The fight for compensation continues on a daily basis. In fact, the Claims Conference negotiates every year with the German government to secure additional funding. Although



Holocaust survivor  
Picture credit: <https://www.claimscon.org>

the number of survivors world-wide has dwindled dramatically because of age, this is the period of significant need for many of the survivors. Because of their age and health conditions (some of which are directly related to their wartime experiences), the Claims Conference has a stronger focus now on the cost of care for the elderly survivors than in the past.”



Auschwitz  
Picture credit: Nur Yilmaz - Pexels

### Reparations for Holocaust survivors living in Cape Town

A number of Holocaust survivors living in Cape Town received reparations payments from the German government, thanks to the assistance provided by the Board of Deputies from the 1950s onwards. Gwynne Robins, who worked for the Board in earlier times, was involved in the various initiatives to provide financial relief to survivors.

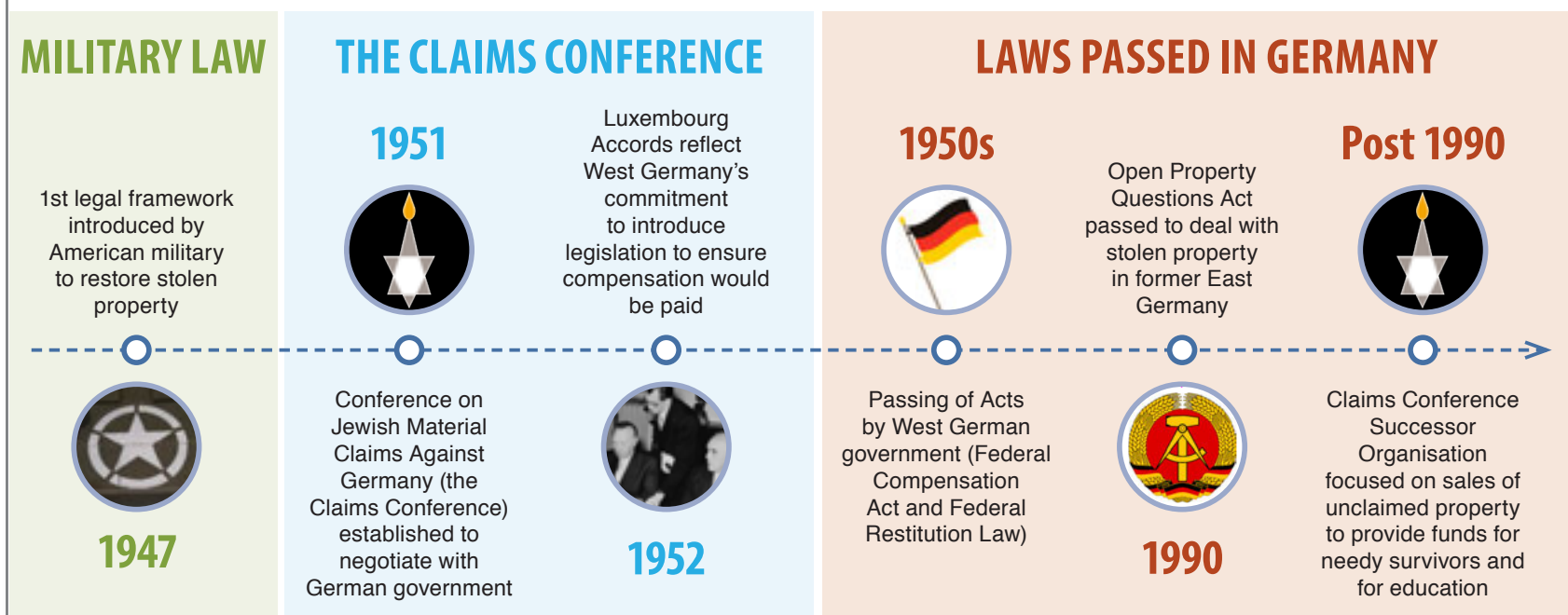
Gwynne recalls the role played by the late Dr Erwin Spiro, a German Jewish judge who settled in Cape Town in 1936 as a refugee from Nazi Germany. “He devoted himself to securing pensions for our survivors as soon as they became available,” she explains. Dr Spiro regarded his work relating to securing reparations as a moral obligation, and did not charge for the legal work he undertook on behalf of the survivors.

Each time a new category of funding became available, Gwynne would advertise it in the Cape Jewish Chronicle, so that survivors could contact her and find out about applying. Over the years and under the different compensation funds, all the applications were successful. It was, however, tragic that, in one case, a survivor from Greece passed away just two weeks before the first monies were due for payment to her.

According to Gwynne, “The money was paid in Euros and it was fairly substantial when converted to Rands. In some cases, it was sufficient to augment the individual’s living cost, although it does not compensate for the losses and suffering the people have undergone.”

## Legislative and other initiatives geared to provide reparations

### Evolution of legislative framework and institutions for the payment of reparations



# Herzlia Haggadah travels the globe



**THE HERZLIA FOUNDATION TRUST**  
SECURING JEWISH EDUCATION

Herzlia alumni were asked to send photos of themselves with their Herzlia Haggadot at their Seders, celebrating family and friends. Over 84 years, Herzlia has over 7 500 alumni scattered across the globe. The fact that so many families worldwide had a Herzlia Haggadah on their tables is testament to upholding the traditions learned at school Sedarim and passing them on to their children with pride. L'dor V'dor!



Tanya & Hagai Golan



Nicky Wolder & Shira Symons



David Cohen's Pesach Seder table in Toronto, Canada



Philip & Michele Krawitz

L – R: Gary Vogelman, Tanya & Hagai Golan, Adam & Stacy Closenberg, Lindsay Fintz, Katya & Sophia Golan, Noah & Olivia Closenberg, Mika Bacher, Amy & Ben Vogelman, Philip & Michele Krawitz, Cindy & David Bacher, Martine Vogelman



Eva Ragless & Talia Geffroy



Gary & Martine Vogelman



Noah & Olivia Closenberg



Stacy Closenberg & Lindsay Fintz



Katya & Sophia Golan



L – R: Ian Stern, Peter Goldberg, Estelle Goldberg, Tayla Goldberg & Edie Michalowsky

# ORT SA CAPE impacting lives



Charné Swartz

Intellectual stimulation and the development of social skills are crucial elements of the brain's development, and society benefits from having citizens with a quest for lifelong learning and mature social and emotional skills. The end product is a society with successful adults, able to contribute meaningfully to the economy and the country.

But, unfortunately, in South Africa, this is not fully recognised, and so many children's potential is limited by not attending a suitable learning environment in their earliest years.

According to Bev Da Costa, the CEO of ORT SA CAPE, "Our organisation is addressing this shortfall through the provision of Early Childhood Development (ECD) training, which means that

there are now more qualified and certified ECD practitioners making a contribution in the Western Cape." The need for this training has been even greater since the Department of Basic Education introduced a policy in terms of which all ECD practitioners will have to hold a qualification at NQF level 4 or higher to continue practising in the field.

The courses offered by the organisation cover key elements of childhood development: literacy, numeracy, perceptual skills, cognitive development, coding and robotics, and purposeful play.

Students on the ORT programmes are trained not only as ECD practitioners but also receive valuable soft skills. "We regularly hear from school principals that ORT students stand out for their punctuality, lesson planning and teaching methods, as well as their work ethic. This reflects the all-round life skills that forms part of our training."

Taking account of the realities of many of their student's lives, people chosen for the ORT training receive a stipend while they are learning. Charné Swartz, a graduate of the 2022-23 ORT ECD internship and learnership, explains: "I received a stipend to obtain a Level 4 Further Education and Training in Early Childhood Development Certificate. It was a quality programme that

equipped me with knowledge and skills I now use in my classroom. I highly recommend the Early Childhood Development internship and learnership with ORT."

The training of these ECD practitioners and teachers has a significantly positive impact on children's lives. Charné, now a teacher at Kensington Educare Centre, says, "I believe that I have impacted the children's lives by creating a classroom where they can feel a sense of belonging and learn through play." She comments that, "The training helped me grow my passion for education and young children, and today I am helping little minds grow."

In addition to the education and development of young children, the ORT SA CAPE's programmes serve to provide unemployed people with the chance to earn a living, either as a salaried teaching assistant or teacher, or as the owner of their own ECD facility.

One of ORT's 2022 graduates, Zintle Mhlana, opened her own ECD in Imizamo Yethu in Hout Bay this year. She explains that she "was accepted for the ORT SA CAPE training. I gained so much knowledge from this, and I had the confidence to open my own centre, called Little Scholars Academy, where I now have 14 children. I received resources from ORT which have



been very valuable for my centre. The ORT family were very kind and always willing to assist. They motivated me to achieve, and I am grateful for that."

ORT SA CAPE has offered this ECD qualification since 2015, positively impacting hundreds of lives through it.





# Cape Town's Connection to Israel

ADVOCATE EDUCATE CELEBRATE

## Giving back and standing together

By JESSICA CONNÉ



Planting vegetables

During May, Bnei Akiva, Netzer and Habonim volunteered at Langa Agrihub. With the logistical help of Mensch, chanichim and

madrichim were able to help local farmers by preparing seedbeds, laying down soil and planting vegetables. This work will benefit the community for the next six months.

It was such a special and rewarding experience to join forces as the youth of Cape Town's Jewish Community and give back!

Coming together as a community was the essence of the month as we additionally took part in the meaningful Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut community ceremonies.

*Kadimah Bnei Akiva!*

## Netzer, Mensch & Tikkun Olam!

By HANNAH JANTJIES

We started our month off in an Agrihub in Langa. A group of our *madrichimot* and *channies* came together with Habonim Dror, Bnei Akiva and Mensch to learn and do – *Nilmad V'na'aseh!*

Together, we worked alongside the mentors of the hub. They taught us a lot about the land which they share with the rest of their community.

Here the residents provide fresh produce for their families.

A popular takeaway from the experience amongst the group was learning about the diversification of environments, which creates balance in the ecosystem. Our group was that. We created the balance, we worked in the garden, laughed and learnt with passion.

*Nilmad V'na'aseh.*



Madrichimot planting spinach sprouts at Langa Agrihub

## Exploring Jewish identity and global connections

By EYTAN LABE

The Diller Teen Fellows programme has been buzzing with activity lately as we delve into workshops centred around Israel, the diaspora, and the multifaceted nature of Jewish identity in our modern world. Our engaging discussions and interactive sessions bring a deeper understanding of our roots and diverse Jewish experiences.

We're also embracing the value of *Tikkun Olam*, by selecting an organisation to support and

volunteering our time to make a positive impact in our community.

The excitement is building for our upcoming trip to Spain! We can't wait to connect with peers from 15 other communities around the globe for what promises to be an unforgettable seminar.

With each workshop and each new experience, we're strengthening our bonds, broadening our horizons, and shaping the future of Jewish leadership. Here's to the journey ahead!



Group conversations about the various demographics, history and personal relationships to Israel

## A busy month for Habo!

By BRAD GOTTSCHALK



Habo winter camp poster

Taking part in Yamim this year was especially meaningful right now. It was beautiful to come together as a community.

From sleepovers at the Bayit to April Sem on our campsite, Habo magic is in the air in the lead up to Machaneh, with this year's VP and Rosh Machaneh having also been announced.

We look forward to our Shorashim Europe Trip for our Grade 10 Emek group, and we're especially HYPED for an awesome Winter Camp. Expect hot chocolate and fire-side skits at the funnest place you can be over the winter break – our Habo campsite. Winter camp will be over 14–18 June.



**THE MENSCH ACADEMY**  
A LEARNING CURRICULUM FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

**ZOOM**

**DATE:**

Thursday 6 June

**TIME:**

3.30pm – 5.30pm

**REGISTER:**

QKT.IO/BOARDSTRAT

**EMAIL:**

admin@mensch.org.za

# BUILD YOUR BOARD STRATEGY

Join Mensch for an interactive online session to learn best practices for developing and managing a Board. In this practical, reflective, and engaging workshop you'll learn more about:

- What roles board members can and should play in their role as volunteer leaders
- How to sequence your board engagement work as your organisation grows
- How to keep people engaged



**ABOUT THE FACILITATOR**

REBECCA YOUNGERMAN works with leaders and change makers in the non-profit and philanthropic sectors. In 25 years, she has built, trained, and managed multiple boards, and volunteered on more than a dozen non-profit boards. American born and based, she holds a Masters, BA and Certificate from the American University's School of Public Affairs.



THE MENSCH ACADEMY A LEARNING CURRICULUM FOR SOCIAL CHANGE  
WWW.MENSCH.ORG.ZA

## AN EXCHANGE OF ROOTS

**M**ensch Youth Volunteer Day: Planting seeds of connection with Jewish youth and women urban farmers.

In the spirit of collaboration and *Tikkun Olam*, Mensch together with the JDC, an Israel-based leading global Jewish humanitarian organisation, proudly connected Bnei Akiva, Habonim and Netzer to volunteer, as one, at the SA Urban Food & Farming Trust (SAUFFT) Agrihub in Langa.

The Sunday began in the historic Old Shul where, against a backdrop of our Jewish roots, the farmers were proud to present the Agrihub's mission. Madrichim then shared their movement's identity as involved Jewish South Africans.

All then hopped on the coach for the trip to the small-scale farm in Langa. Split into teams, volunteers helped, and learnt how to prepare the farm beds, and plant and root the donated seedlings. These efforts saved the elderly women farmers weeks of hard work, ensuring farms are well prepared before the winter rains.

Keep an eye out to join Mensch's follow-up event at harvest time.



Let's talk... follow the Cape Jewish Chronicle on social media

news | views | interesting reads | what's happening in our vibrant community



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Please let us know by emailing your current postal address and contact details to subscriptions@ctjc.co.za

We will make sure that you receive all future print editions of the Cape Jewish Chronicle!



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## Come and Join the "Jewish Travel Guru" in Lithuania and Poland for an unforgettable experience!

Shabbat in Vilna, meet the local community, and enjoy a walking tour of the old city where the Gaon of Vilna lived. Discover the beautiful city of Kaunas (Kovna). A short flight on Sunday morning to Warsaw, visit the famous city of Lublin and then Crakow (where Jewish Klezmer music is played at concerts still to this day in this ancient city with deep Jewish roots).

Explore the roots of Zionism, the Enlightenment and Chassidism, and marvel at the enormous contribution which Jews have made to Europe and the world. Perspectives on the Holocaust. Come walk with pride in the footsteps of our forefathers and give honour to those on whose shoulders we are carried to this day!

12 to 19 September 2024

Private family tours to your family shtetl also available



For more information or to book contact Hugh Raichlin +27 83 377 1908 hugh@raichlin.co.za • https://jjerulita.com



## KEEPING ACTIVE IN WINTER

The weather has changed of late. Gone are the balmy days of summer when we are able to enjoy the outdoors on a daily basis. It's important to plan for the winter months, making sure that we have optimum health while coping with the usual cold and rainy weather that is the norm in Cape Town.

It is so easy to hibernate for the winter, but this is not conducive to optimal health or living your best life. Our weekly programme at each branch includes exercises which increase well being and release your feel good endorphins – and that certainly makes one feel better. You can remain within your comfort level by doing exercises within your capabilities.

Experts advocate 150 minutes of light exercise per week, so make

sure to allocate time for exercise even if you set up a support group to keep one another accountable, ensuring that you don't miss out. If you are well enough, there are a number of walks that can be done which can be quite invigorating. It is really important to push yourself to exercise, even when you don't feel like it. You will find that you might even enjoy it once you do it regularly.

Healthy eating can also keep the nasty winter bugs at bay. It is so important to have a selection of nutritious fruits and vegetables and most importantly to keep hydrated with regular drinking of water. There is the opportunity to make or purchase a variety of delicious ready made soups which are filling and so good for you.

The regular flu vaccine is a sure way to prevent you from getting severe flu which can result in lung complications and debilitation with long periods of feeling very unwell. It is important to speak to your GP for guidance and advice in this regard.

Members have enjoyed interacting at our Milnerton Pop Up where a variety of items were on sale by enthusiastic community members who use their talent to supplement their incomes. How lovely to spend your day in the company of friends, whilst viewing beautiful home-made items.

Our enthusiastic knitters are having a knitathon in the next few weeks. Their beautifully knitted beanies, jerseys and blankets are sought-after items.

After a couple of years break we are so pleased to be able to advertise our delicious Kiddush Wine available to enjoy for all your Shabbat and Simcha events or to give away as gifts. Wine is available to purchase at any of our branches. Please support our fundraising initiative.

We hope you have a good month ahead and enjoy celebrating Shavout and the special milchik recipes that have been passed down through generations.

Stay warm and healthy and join our programmes, both in-house and online.

Diana Sochen, Executive Director



Southern Suburbs Yiddish Class



Adele Saven and Ros Lewenson at the Milnerton Pop Up



Miriam Kleineibst and Yamina Oliver enjoying the outing to Lace Cafe



Rebbetzin Deren chatting to West Coast Members



Tzippi Brivik busy making a mosaic pot



West Coast Members enjoying Onse Huisie

## SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

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

**BIRTHS:**  
Dorothy and Leonard Sank – Granddaughter

**BAT MITZVAH:**  
Eve Weinkove – Granddaughter;  
Diana and David Sochen – Granddaughter, Kylie

**ENGAGEMENT**  
Joe and Dinah Polliack – Daughter

**MARRIAGE:**  
Shirley Greenstein – Granddaughter

**ANNIVERSARY:**  
Miriam and Ivan Atlas – 63rd

**SPECIAL BIRTHDAY:**  
Pearl Firer – 80th; Edie Busch – 90th

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:**  
Nola Davidson, Quentin Dixon, Gill Bass

**CONDOLENCES AND WISHES OF LONG LIFE TO:**  
Annette Roup on the passing of her sister, Socky Cohen  
The family of Marlene Gie  
Neville Sher – Sister

**Well wishes extended to those who have been under the weather. You have been in our thoughts:**  
Bernice Kaplan, Lilian Sheldon, Shirley Kaplan, Nat Yamey

# Welcome Home.



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Our Services

## Highlands House

Aged Residential Care for Our Community

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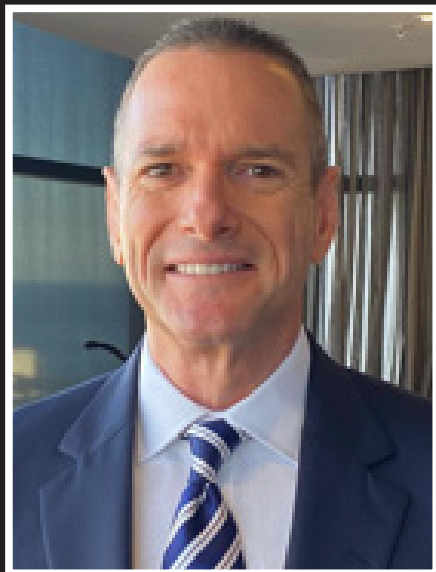
info@highlandshouse.co.za

www.highlandshouse.co.za





## VISION 2040 CARE SERVICES – new structure for welfare services for the Jewish community



PAUL BERMAN, Chairman of Care Services

“Central to our identity as Jews is the principle of Tikkun Olam – the obligation to repair the world. It is a calling deeply ingrained in our tradition, guiding us to extend a helping hand to those in need, to uplift those disadvantaged by circumstance, and to advocate for justice and compassion in all our endeavours.” These are the words of the newly appointed Chairman of Care Services, Paul Berman, who has announced the reorganisation of the various care services within our community.

Currently, the demand for care services among the Jewish community of the Western Cape is growing all the time, while at the same time we are seeing a contraction in our community’s numbers, as well as greater financial pressures. As a result, the community has to do more with what we have, eliminate duplication and pool resources to make them stretch further.

It is against this backdrop that changes have been made to the care structures in place. The seven welfare bodies in the community will now fall under the umbrella of Care Services. Care Services replaces Jewish Care Cape, and a new Care Services Board will direct the strategic leadership of this organisation.

Core to the new structure is a focus on greater efficiency. With this in mind, a shared services model has been introduced, geared to reduce costs and to deploy resources to the greatest effect. A further priority is on streamlining administrative processes and functions to allow member

organisations to focus on their core work and service delivery.

As this new structure is implemented, a key concern will be that everyone in our community in need of care will benefit from the services and that nobody slips through the net. This involves refining the mandate of each of the seven organisations so that clients are assigned to the right organisation and that the maximum impact can be achieved.

“I am immensely honoured to have been appointed as the Chairman of the Care Services Board,” says Paul Berman.

The following initial appointments have been made to implement the Care Services mandate:

- Hazel Levin: Chief Operating Officer (Hazel Levin retains her role as Executive Director of Jewish Community Services)
- Karen Borochowitz: Central Care Services Manager

This will be in conjunction with the Chairpersons of the seven care organisations, who form part of the Care Services Board.

Paul concludes: “As the newly established Care Services, we hold the fates of the vulnerable and destitute members of our community in our hands, not just in the present, but for the future. Our task is to transform the system as we know it, to ensure it can continue to care for people in need in the long term and in spite of the constraints we face. We must make the best use of the resources available to deliver a consistent standard of care and ensure no one is left out.”



SAJM

South African Jewish Museum

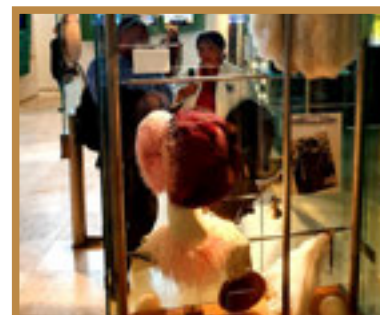
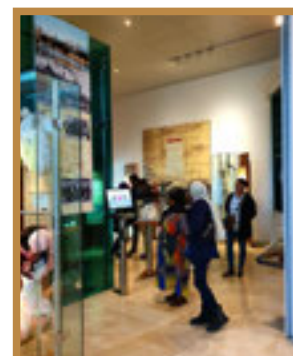
## Visit from the elders of the Messianic Khoi Kingdom to the South African Jewish Museum

We were tremendously moved and uplifted by the visit on 10 May of a group of leaders and community members of the Messianic Khoi Kingdom, together with their chief, Regent Xami Thomas. The pouring rain did not dampen the spirits of the 40-strong group, representatives of the oldest indigenous tribe in South Africa, who came from all parts of the Western Cape, including Upington.

Director of the SAJM Gavin Morris started with an introduction in the Old Shul. This was followed by a walkabout through the museum with guides available for questions and elaboration. After a tea break, the group moved to

the auditorium to be addressed by Regent Xami and several pastors. Their words were truly inspirational; they spoke about their love for the Jewish people and unwavering support for the State of Israel. Regent Xami’s feeling for Jerusalem shone through clearly as he described his recent experience there, attending the opening of the Indigenous People’s Embassy.

The morning concluded with the whole group singing ‘Am Yisrael Chai’ with joy. Our hearts are full. We very much look forward to hosting each leader’s own community for future visits, creating further opportunities to meet and work together.



# Love Letters 2 ISRAEL

By EDITOR

As we know, many Christians the world over have been showing tremendous support for Israel during the current time of crisis. These people are certainly valuable allies for both the State of Israel and for Jewish communities elsewhere feeling threatened.

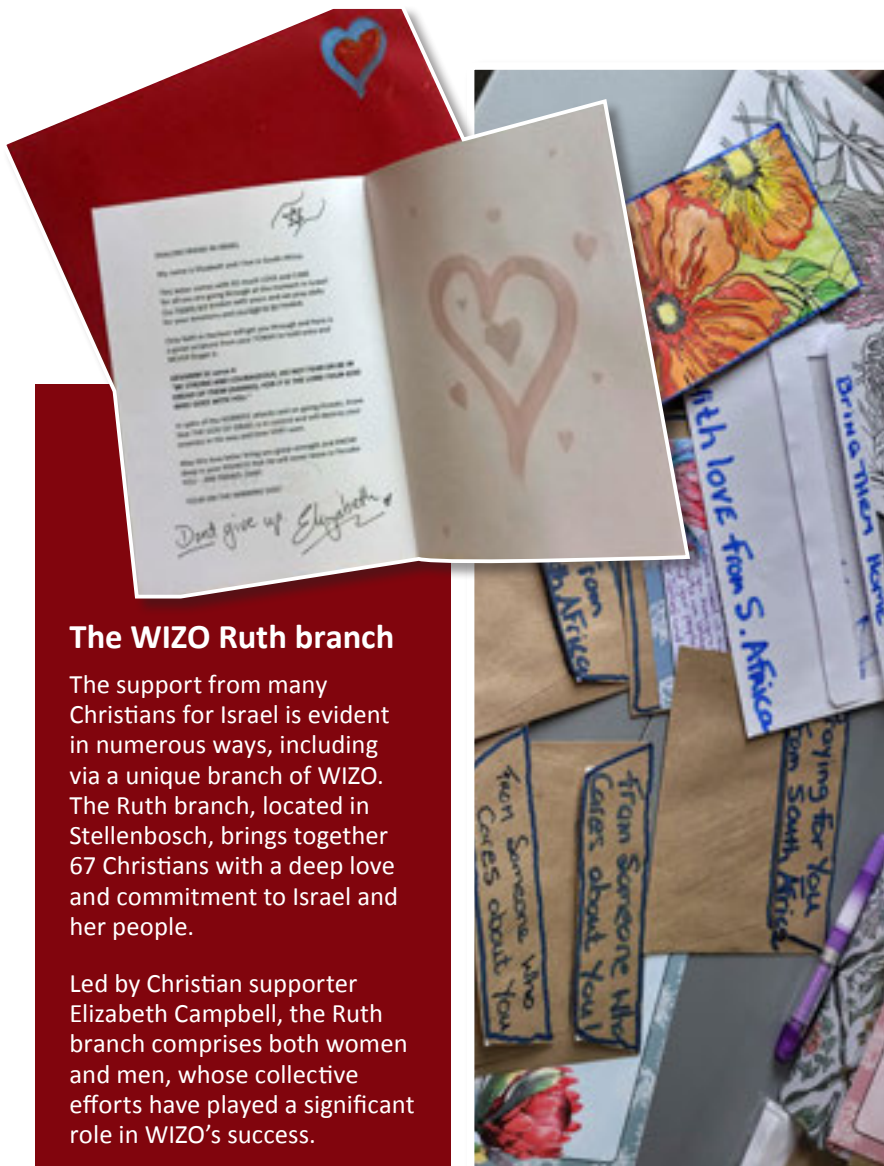
Cape Town artist and committed Christian, Elizabeth (Liz) Campbell, has always felt a strong affinity with Israel, and has been appalled by the events of October 7th and the subsequent reaction to the people of Israel. Wanting to make a positive impact, she recently embarked on a project geared to show support to Israelis. She explains that, "I and many of my pro-Israel friends were frustrated about not knowing how to help Israel. Many of us don't have the finances to send to the many different organisations helping Israel so we needed to identify another way to assist."

A member of WIZO and the Chairperson of WIZO's Ruth branch, Liz comments, "Being an artist and having many of my works printed into cards, I know

how much it means to someone who is ill or having a birthday to receive a hand-painted or written card or letter, and this is how Love Letters 2 Israel was born." The initiative has grown beyond her expectations. In fact, within the first 1½ months, around 3 000 letters and handmade cards came flooding in. The project is now expanding to former South Africans and other Christians living elsewhere, too. Liz explains that letters and cards are now also being produced among Christians in Singapore, the UK, New Zealand and the USA.

Partnering with WIZO for the distribution of the letters and cards to Israelis, Liz is also pleased that each letter is stamped with the WIZO South Africa or Cape Town logo and an email address, allowing recipients to start a conversation with their Christian supporters.

The Jewish community of Cape Town truly appreciates this heartwarming show of support, and wishes Liz well with the future of this project.



## The WIZO Ruth branch

The support from many Christians for Israel is evident in numerous ways, including via a unique branch of WIZO. The Ruth branch, located in Stellenbosch, brings together 67 Christians with a deep love and commitment to Israel and her people.

Led by Christian supporter Elizabeth Campbell, the Ruth branch comprises both women and men, whose collective efforts have played a significant role in WIZO's success.

## Golfers contribute funds for Israel and for local security for our community

Since the attacks on Israel on October 7th the Jewish Diaspora and other supporters of Israel have rallied to the cause, providing ever more assistance to Israel. Against this backdrop, one annual fundraising event took on greater poignancy this year.

The annual WIZO charity golf day, the Grant Querido Classic, took place at King David Mowbray Golf Club on 18 April. This, the 12th golf day, saw even more enthusiastic competition among the 116 golfers who came out on a beautifully sunny day.

Donne Querido, the convenor of the event, was thrilled with the success of the day, and commented, "A huge shoutout to our 116 amazing players and sponsors for their unwavering support."

The proceeds of the golf day have been allocated to two organisations: WIZO and CSO. With Israel facing unprecedented challenges, WIZO has been providing vital support to those affected by the current conflict. An Emergency Fund was established to address urgent needs. Funds are used for projects such as these:

- Ongoing education and care for the families of Sderot, especially now as these people start returning to their homes
- Strengthening and renovating bomb shelters and secure rooms across various WIZO institutions
- Expanding vital psychological support services, e.g. providing assistance to children grappling with profound anxieties exacerbated by the ongoing crisis
- Reinforcing essential crisis telephone hotline services, including consultation and advice lines for parents of young children and victims of domestic violence. These services also assist individual men seeking to break free from the cycle of violence in their lives
- Food vouchers, clothing and essential basic needs for displaced families, and tablets for school-aged children for remote learning.

While the focus of the event is to raise much-needed funds, the golfers also enjoyed a wonderful day out and had plenty of fun.



“ A huge shoutout to our 116 amazing players and sponsors for their unwavering support ”

L-R: Marc Sternberg, Aaron Sternberg, Donne Querido, Bradley Stern and Lex Stern

# A Jewish Journey in the Iberian Peninsula during May

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 eight grandchildren and is a member of Kibbutz Tzora.*

I am on a Jewish Journey with nineteen people from the United States in the Iberian Peninsula — Portugal and Spain — during this very emotional month of May. A month which includes Yom Hashoah, Yom Hazikaron — the day I am

actually sitting down to write this — and Yom Ha'atzmaut — tomorrow.

Would I have planned to do this Journey during this time after October 7th? To be totally honest, no. It is always a very emotional time for me, but I, of course, had no way of knowing what this year would bring, so here I am, about to begin a day which will include a visit to Serralves, to the Museum of Contemporary Art, as well as the Jewish Museum at the Kadoorie Synagogue, the largest synagogue built in the 20th century in the Iberian Peninsula.

Every evening, as part of my preparation for the next day, I have sent out a link to an audio piece to my group to help them prepare for the day. For the first day, a link to the Portuguese National Anthem to help understand the question: How do the Portuguese understand their narrative? Before visiting Monserrate outside Sintra, an audio recording of a Lord Byron poem. Before visiting the Gothic monastery in Batalha, a Gregorian Chant.

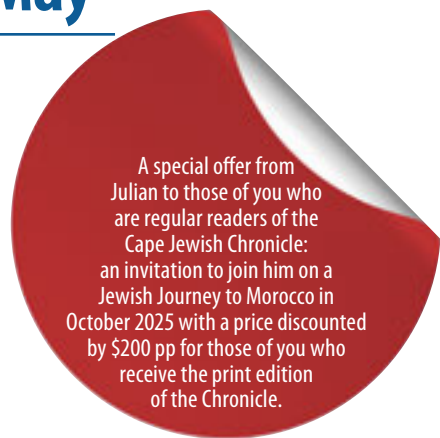
But what do I send out on the evening of the day which will end at the Holocaust Museum here where the local Jewish Community will hold its ceremony for Erev Yom Hazikaron, a day which also includes a visit to the Medieval Library in the University of Coimbra and a visit to the Underground Museum in Alianca

which ends with a wine tasting? My group is on holiday, after all. We laugh, we enjoy wine, we marvel at Medieval buildings and consider the fascinating history which surrounds us, and we journey through glorious countryside.

It does not take me long to come to a decision. I send them a link to a poignant rendition of Psalm 23 (Tehilim Kaf Gimel) sung by Avraham Fried, to a melody composed by Yossi Hershkowitz (z"l) on the day before he fell in Gaza defending the State of Israel and the Jewish People. It is hauntingly beautiful and beyond poignant, and an extraordinary memorial to an extraordinary man.

Evening comes and we travel to join the community in their observance of Yom Hazikaron. A number of surprises await us. First, zero security. Not a policeman in sight. No security at the door. We are met by a large member of the community, but all he does is ask us to turn our cell phones to quiet mode. Second, the community is almost all expatriate Israelis. (I knew about Israeli expats in Portugal, but was surprised at seeing many of them together, having a ceremony totally in Hebrew).

Even though my group did not have the ability to understand the Hebrew, I knew it was the right place to be, not only for me, but for them as well. Together, with other Jews, focused



in on Israel, painfully aware of the pain and trauma we are living with, even without understanding the speeches, or the live link to the central ceremony in Israel, at the Western Wall.

There are times, even in foreign lands, or, perhaps, especially in foreign lands, when one needs to be with family.

And this was one of them.

And this was family.

And tomorrow, we will celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut. We will drink the Israeli wine I have shlepped all the way from Israel as I knew we could only drink L'Chaim to the State of Israel with kosher wine (albeit in little plastic cups I shlepped as well). Yes, we will celebrate, as hard as it is during these times to celebrate, as we will always choose life.

So, to all of you, L'Chaim, and may we all meet on happy occasions to celebrate, as family.

## MOTHER'S DAY - bringing joy to Highlands House residents

Recognising that many of the elderly in our community have no close family here — because of emigration — three members of the community decided to make this Mother's Day a special one. Rebecca Bryer, Jane Plit and Esta Levitas decided to spoil some of the women at Highlands House, in particular those who did not go out for the day.

They approached Goldies Deli to assist with co-ordinating the sponsored Kosher cupcakes which were handed out to the thrilled residents on Sunday, 12 May.



Rebecca Bryer (back, middle) with staff and residents of Highlands House



Enjoying the cupcakes which were delivered to Highlands House on Mother's Day



**JEWISH  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES  
CAPE TOWN**



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

# Transforming Assistance into Triumph

**JCS@WORK – EMPOWERING AND LASTING UPLIFTMENT**

**LYNNE HENDRICKS**

Jewish Community Services  
**LIAT BEINART & CAROLINE KAIMOWITZ**  
Staffwise

**JCS takes great pride in our commitment to empowering our clients. We adopt a comprehensive approach, ensuring that we offer more than just temporary relief, but a lasting upliftment. Several years back, JCS initiated a transformative project aimed at providing a sustainable 'Hand-up' rather than a mere 'Handout'. This involved building strategic alliances with various organisations to achieve this goal.**

As with any new endeavor, challenges are inevitable. The onset of Covid posed a significant hurdle, hindering direct client interaction and collaboration with our partners to secure suitable job placements for our clients. However, our unwavering commitment to prevent our clients from falling through the cracks fueled our determination to overcome these barriers and witness their success.

We deeply value our collaboration with Staffwise and the many companies who have joined us in our mission to facilitate the success of our clients. The path has been fraught with difficulties; businesses are fighting to survive, and financial hardships are widespread.

Nevertheless, today we stand proud to announce that, despite the arduous journey and numerous efforts to enable our clients to earn a living, we have finally made a breakthrough in our initiative.

In total, thirty clients have engaged in the programme. Sixteen have completed an internship or 'returnship', reintegrating into the workforce. Additionally, seventeen clients have secured employment - some through the programme and others through their own initiative and resourcefulness.

Transforming assistance into triumph pays if you are prepared to practise patience. We still have a list of clients waiting to engage with the programme and find suitable

employment. We cannot do this on our own. We need the support of the community to ensure that we provide each client with the best possibility to become an independent member of our community.

How can you help?

We are looking for businesses to partner with us, to provide a space for learning and growth. During this six-month returnship programme, Staffwise manages the employer/employee relationship through a structured performance-management process, where we are able to proactively manage the hurdles, that these individuals encounter in their return to work. Thanks to a generous and ongoing donation from a family foundation, we are able to pay a training stipend to these individuals, relieving

businesses of the financial burden of employing an additional staff member.

This stipend ensures that these individuals feel some financial reward for their contributions, whilst having a safe space to address any technical and emotional shortcomings that may arise. Businesses are under no obligation to supplement this stipend, nor are they expected to provide a permanent position at the end of the six-month period, as the intention is to empower these candidates to improve their skills, confidence and CVs in order to better equip them to find work in the open job market.

Will you pledge your support to helping us transform the lives of others? Please contact Staffwise on **021 464 6764** for more information about this programme.

**“Transforming assistance into triumph pays if you are prepared to practise patience. We still have a list of clients waiting to engage with the programme and find suitable employment.”**



unsplash.com

**#JewishCommunity #JCS #Staffwise #Empowerment #Upliftment**



# Paying it forward twice over

Members of the Union of Jewish Women (UJW) in the Helderberg region (Somerset West, the Strand and Stellenbosch) came up with an innovative way to make a positive impact in their community, despite struggling with low membership numbers in recent times.

As Ingrid Edelson explains, “Some of our women volunteer at the Bargain Box Charity Shop in Somerset West. In return for our service at the Shop, the UJW was entitled to a share of the profits made by the shop.” Unable to drive their own fund-raising projects because of their small size, the group used the funds received from the Shop to make a difference to the homeless people supported by the Somerset West Family Shelter, whose goal is to reintegrate homeless adults and their children into society. Initiatives provided at the Shelter include counselling and skills training.

“Using the money we ‘earned’ for our assistance at the Charity Shop, we bought non-perishable goods and winter warmers for residents of the Family Shelter,” Ingrid says. The approximately 80 adults and 40 children housed at the Shelter welcomed the generous donation by the UJW at a handover event during May, attended by Karen Kallman, Chairperson of the UJW Cape Town.



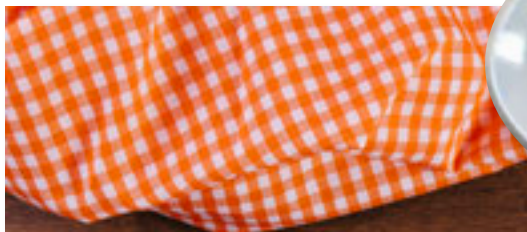
# Why we celebrate Shavuot

The Jewish festival of Shavuot, celebrated this year on 12 and 13 June, serves as the annual commemoration of the giving of the Torah by G-d to the Jewish people at Mount Sinai. It comes 49 days after the end of Pesach, a period called the Counting of the Omer.

On the first day of Shavuot, the Ten Commandments are read in synagogue; it was on Shavuot that the Jews first learned of the Commandments. On the second day, *Yizkor* is recited, and the Book of Ruth is read.

As with most Jewish festivals, special meals are eaten. Dairy foods are traditional during Shavuot, with favourites such as cheese blintzes and cheese cake gracing the Shavuot table.

It's certainly difficult to resist a cheese blintz, a traditional dish which hails from Eastern Europe. It's essentially a pancake filled with a sweet white cheese mixture. Here's a recipe you may want to try out this Shavuot:



## Recipe for Cheese Blintzes

### INGREDIENTS for the pancake:

- 1 cup flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 ¼ cup milk
- ⅓ cup water
- 1 Tbsp melted butter
- Pinch of salt

### INGREDIENTS for the filling:

- 225g cream cheese
- 200g ricotta cheese
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 Tsp fresh orange zest
- ½ Tsp vanilla essence
- ¼ Tsp cinnamon

### METHOD

Mix the pancake ingredients with a whisk until the mixture is smooth.

For the filling, combine all the ingredients in a bowl with a wooden spoon. Stir until mixed.

Heat a frying pan over medium heat. Put in a bit of oil or butter.

Pour ¼ cup of batter into the pan, or enough to coat the bottom of it evenly. Cook it for a short while until the pancake is slightly brown and the pancake feels loose from the bottom of the pan. Flip it over and allow to cook for a very short while until the other side of the pancake is cooked. Remove it from the pan, and set aside on a plate.

Repeat until you have used up all the pancake mixture. Add oil or butter to the pan as needed.

Preheat the oven – set it at a temperature of 190°C.

Assemble the blintzes. Put a pancake on a large plate, and transfer about 2 Tablespoons of the cheese filling towards the bottom of the pancake. Roll the pancake by folding the bottom over the filling, then folding the sides of the pancake towards the centre, making sure to cover the filling so that it does not spill out of the pancake. Roll the pancake from the bottom up to form a cylinder. Place the blintz in a buttered baking dish, and continue making more blintzes like this until the filling has been used up.

Pour some melted butter over the blintzes and bake for 20 minutes.

Recipe credit: [www.myjewishlearning.com](http://www.myjewishlearning.com)

# A beautiful new mosaic artwork



L-R Lovell Friedman, Tarna Klitzner, Suzanne Ackerman, Joel Merris, Kathy Ackerman Robins

The Cape Jewish Cemetery in Pinelands boasts a beautiful new addition thanks to the generosity of members of the Ackerman family. Donors Suzanne Ackerman and Kathy Ackerman Robins led a project to design, manufacture and install an attractive mosaic in the Cemetery's Tahara House, and the new mosaic was unveiled at an event on 7 May.

The dedication for the new piece of art reads:

***“In memory of Raymond David Ackerman z”l and all those who have left their mark on the mosaic that is our Cape Town Jewish Community. May their memories always be for a blessing.”***

Completed in under a year, the project was initiated during July last year. Landscape architect Tarna Klitzner and artist Lovell Friedman brought their creative thinking to the project, sharing many discussions with the Ackerman sisters and Joel Merris, Executive Director of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues (UOS) Cape Council.

According to Joel, “There was previously a tapestry that hung at the front of the Tahara House but it was no longer in good condition, having suffered from exposure to the elements over a prolonged period. It was, in fact, so badly damaged that it could not be repaired.” The solution to the issue

of what to replace the tapestry with came through the input from Tarna and Lovell, and today the Cemetery has a mosaic artwork that will bring many a Capetonian much joy.

The artist, Lovell, used some of the themes from the old tapestry in her mosaic artwork, and included symbols of plants and roots, as well the tassels in the original tapestry to reference Tzitzit.

The community of Cape Town is sincerely grateful to the drivers of this project, to the donors, and the creative team for providing us with such a beautiful addition to our Cemetery.



Detail in the mosaic



Cemetery Mosaic – plaque



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# Local youngster achieves at the highest levels internationally

By EDITOR



Achieving the highest accolades on a programme involving more than 1 million of your peers internationally is certainly no mean feat! And so 17-year-old Judd Jocum has every reason to feel extremely proud of being recognised as a Gold Level graduate in the The Duke of Edinburgh President's Awards. The Gold Level is the culmination of a three-year programme of self-development.

Established in 1956 by HRH Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh International Award is a leading non-formal education programme which creates opportunities for the development of young people aged between 14 and 24. Operating in 130 countries, Judd, a matric learner

at Herzlia High School, was one of the participants from the 18 countries in Africa.

Judd, the Deputy Head Student at Herzlia during 2024, explains that he was attracted to the programme "because of its cross-spectrum involvement. The programme forces one to become involved in a far wider range of activities than one would otherwise do. And it pushes one beyond one's comfort zone. For instance, I have previously been involved mostly in sporting activities so, having to learn to play the piano and learn a new language, took me into areas of life I would not otherwise have been exposed to."

In each of the levels, participants

are required to undertake a range of activities, all geared to develop the individual's personal skills. Ranging from gaining a deeper understanding of how every person can serve their community, to promoting endurance and commitment in all walks of life, to improving one's physical strength, to promoting the ability to interact with people from different backgrounds, the programme sharpens leadership and interpersonal skills, and it's been a very significant part of Judd's journey.

Judd will attend the awards presentation event later this year, at which he will meet the current Duke of Edinburgh.

## Celebrating World Gin Day, South African style

World Gin Day will be celebrated on 10 June this year. Musgrave Original Botanical 11 Gin 750ml, 700ml, 200ml, 50ml is kosher – look out for the Beth Din logo on the bottle.

Musgrave shared a cocktail recipe with the Chronicle for you to enjoy.

### SPEKTRE

Spektre is a classy, zesty and refreshing cocktail which is good for the soul and for the heart. The clean, aloe flavour of spekboom complements the hero notes of cardamom present

on the palate of Musgrave Original 11. Spekboom is well known for its health benefits in reducing cholesterol.

### Recipe

GLASS: coupe

#### INGREDIENTS:

- 50ml Musgrave Original 11
- 35ml cardamom and spekboom purée
- 35ml cloudy apple juice
- 10ml lime juice

METHOD: Shake and double strain

GARNISH: Spekboom sprig/cardamom flower



## BOOK TALK

### The late Paul Auster's works at the Jacob Gitlin Library

The acclaimed Jewish American author Paul Auster passed away recently. A world-renowned writer of both fiction and non-fiction, Auster's books have been translated into more than 40 languages. He was also actively involved in the promotion of free expression and human rights around the world, serving on the board of PEN America.

In remembering his contribution to literature, the Jacob Gitlin Library is promoting the Auster books it holds with a prominent display of his works. The library has these titles in its Paul Auster collection:

- The Brooklyn Follies
- Mr Vertigo
- 4321 (Four Three Two One)
- Baumgartner



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