

CAPE JEWISH CHRONICLE

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October 7th
2025 –
Sorrow to
celebration



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NOVEMBER 2025

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VOL. 42 NO. 10 | NOVEMBER 2025

When children inherit the fear: the unseen cost of conflict



BONNY FELDMAN
Editor

I recently watched *Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight*, a film that shines a light on a seldom-discussed chapter of history – the Rhodesian civil war, which ended with the democratic elections of 1980 in what is now Zimbabwe.

Told through the eyes of a seven-year-old girl, the daughter of a White farming family, it captures something often overlooked in stories of conflict: the silent suffering of children.

Through her bewilderment at her world being turned upside-down, we witness not only the brutality of war but the confusion and instability it breeds in young minds. Her world – once filled with routine and familiarity – fractures into something dangerous and unpredictable. And as I watched, I couldn't help but think about today's children caught in conflict zones, children whose lives are being shaped by fear and uncertainty before they even understand what those words mean.

That thought returned with force when I saw video clips of hostages being released from Gaza. Among the tears and celebration, one image stood out: a small child, expression blank, eyes darting between faces of joy she couldn't quite share. She seemed unsure, almost alienated by the euphoria around her. How

could she make sense of what was happening, or of the trauma that had preceded it?

We often believe that by shielding children from the harshness of the world, we are protecting them. But silence is not always protection. Even without words, children absorb the tension in a household, the fear behind their parents' eyes, the unspoken grief that hangs in the air. Their innocence makes them intuitive, not oblivious.

Psychologists studying second-generation Holocaust survivors have long observed how trauma echoes across generations. Many of these individuals grew up carrying anxieties that were never directly explained to them – the inherited weight of fear and loss. Their lives were shaped by what was left unsaid, by the emotional scars of their parents' experiences.

That legacy of unspoken pain should serve as a warning. When children grow up surrounded by unresolved fear and silence, the consequences may only reveal themselves decades later – in mistrust, anxiety, or a fractured sense of safety in the world.

As new generations of children live through war, displacement, and terror – in Israel, in Gaza, in Ukraine, and elsewhere – we must ask ourselves what emotional inheritance we are leaving them. The physical wounds of conflict may heal, but the psychological ones often last a lifetime.

Children should inherit hope, not fear. And if we are to build a more peaceful future, we must find ways to give them that – through honesty, compassion, and the courage to acknowledge the pain that shapes their world. ●

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DATE		PORTION	CANDLE LIGHTING		
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1 November	10 Cheshvan	Lech Lecha			19:50
7 November	16 Cheshvan		17:55	19:02	
8 November	17 Cheshvan	Vayera			19:58
14 November	23 Cheshvan		18:01	19:09	
15 November	24 Cheshvan	Chayei Sara			20:05
21 November	1 Kislev		18:06	19:15	
22 November	2 Kislev	Toldos			20:12
28 November	8 Kislev		18:12	19:22	
29 November	9 Kislev	Vayetzei			20:19

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Agam Berger



Youth

A New Day Will Rise – an October 7th commemoration

On October 20th, the SAZF Cape Council, together with our partners – The Jewish Agency for Israel, The Israel Centre, The Base, JNFSA, Cape SAJBD, Elevate, the Wilfred & Fay Back Charitable Trust, and Shelley Trope Friedman – hosted *A New Day Will Rise | An October 7th Commemoration*, featuring returned hostage Agam Berger.



The event sought to strike a delicate balance between commemorating the tragedy and loss of October 7th, and celebrating the profound joy of seeing all the living hostages reunited with their loved ones. Rachel Goldberg-Polin, mother of murdered hostage Hersch Goldberg-Polin, expressed it perfectly when she said:

“There is a time to sob and a time to dance, and we have to do both now.”

Her words beautifully encapsulated the essence of our gathering.

Our Cape Town community came together in great numbers, hearts filled with joy for those who have returned, and longing for those still waiting to come home.

We came to remember those taken so cruelly on that terrible day; to honour the hostage families who have carried their pain with courage; and to pay tribute to the brave men and women of the IDF who continue to defend our people and our homeland.

We came to celebrate our resilience and enduring connection to Israel, standing in solidarity as one steadfast and united Cape Town Jewish community.

We came to bear witness to the strength of the human spirit

through the presence of hostage survivor Agam Berger, her family, and her deeply moving performance that touched every heart.

We came to appreciate that we are not alone, that we are blessed with support from our Christian friends. Chris Eden, National Director of Bridges for Peace, and Vivienne Myburgh, National Director of International Christian Embassy Jerusalem, shared inspiring stories about the incredible work they are doing on the ground in Israel.

The programme included members from all our youth movements, schools, organisations, and *shuls*, who brought beautiful messages of hope and resilience. Cantor Ivor Joffe, together with members of the Marais Road Shul Choir and the Herzlia Vocal Ensemble, led us in prayer and concluded the evening in joyful celebration.

The community stood together as *Am Yisrael* – one people bound by memory, faith, and hope.

תודה ברה לכם

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VIEWS

HOPE RESTORED

Two years after the October 7th massacre, the release of the final living hostages transformed sorrow into celebration.



Rabbi Oshy Deren of Chabad West Coast

"Thank you Hashem!!

What was going to be a Memorial Service

[on Erev Simchat Torah]

has been adjusted as a moment of Thanksgiving, to thank Hashem for the return of the last of the living Hostages today - Boruch Hashem!!"

Two years ago it felt like they were trying to break our Simchas Torah.

Today we celebrate that nothing can ever take that away."



Rabbi Matthew Liebenberg, Claremont Wynberg Hebrew Congregation

"The release of all the hostages was an event of Biblical proportions.

That it should happen on

Hoshana Rabba, 'the Great Salvation', is a clear indication of God's Hand in the matter. Our mourning was turned into joy, and Simchat Torah was once again a day of unbridled celebration. Am Yisrael Chai!"



Rabbi Greg Alexander, Temple Israel:

"Two years of hoping exploded into a miracle. We have never felt that kind of energy at a Simchat

Torah – people only wanted to dance and dance some more. There was an outpouring of joy. Our bodies were echoing what our hearts were celebrating.

A congregant asked what we should do with our yellow ribbons now, and we have affirmed that we will not stop praying until the bodies of the slain hostages are returned and our prayers for a lasting peace are answered."



World Jewish Congress President, Ronald S. Lauder

"We cannot allow Hamas to exploit or evade this agreement.

The international community must finally put an end to the decades of terror and retribution that have strangled the people of Gaza. Hamas must now be disarmed, it can play no role in the future of the Palestinian people, and every last hostage must be brought home."



Chief Rabbi of South Africa, Warren Goldstein

As we give thanks to Hashem for this miracle, let us also offer our gratitude to His chosen partners in making it happen.

First and foremost, to the noble soldiers of the IDF, who have fought so bravely over these past two years, a civilian army who left their homes, jobs, and families to defend the State of Israel. And especially to those who gave their lives, and to their grieving families who carry the pain of that sacrifice, for whom there will be no moment of sweet homecoming.



Hadara Ishak, President & COO of Jewish Future Promise

"...our celebration is tempered by remembrance. We will never forget the hostages

who did not return, the atrocities they endured in captivity, or the families who continue to wait. We honor Israel's fallen and wounded soldiers, heroes whose courage, sacrifice, and resilience will forever live in the heart of the Jewish people."



David Cohen & Heather Blumenthal, Chairman & Executive Director, SAZF Cape Council

"The images from Israel - tears, embraces, prayers, and song - reflect a people united and unshackled after 738 days of national trauma. In many ways, the Jewish world has been held hostage alongside them.

The people of Gaza, and the Palestinian people more broadly, must choose the path of peace. Lasting stability will only come when they reject violence and empower those who seek coexistence."



Moshe Shear, CMO of Let's Do Something

"Finally, October the 8th!"



Cape SAJBD

"The Cape SAJBD shares in the profound joy of seeing the Israeli hostages reunited with their families - a

culmination of two years of hope and longing. While the remains of some loved ones are yet to be returned, and the families of the deceased still seek closure, these reunions remind us of the power of resilience and faith, and we look forward with hope for rebuilding and normalisation in the region. We also hope this moment encourages calmer, more balanced dialogue while bringing a renewed sense of peace to our community in Cape Town."

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ODE TO JOY

"I travel the world to tell the Jewish story. I stand in Vienna, in Berlin, in Krakow, in Budapest, in Prague, in Toledo, in Lisbon, in Marrakech – and use almost only the past tense (in all its many beautiful possibilities, past, past perfect – pluperfect to some – past continuous, but always past). Last week, as the massacres were happening, and before I got home, I stood in Ioannina with Allegra, in Veria with Eva, in Saloniki with Hella. and we talked in the past tense almost all of the time; and we wept when I recounted the story of Yehudah Poliker's return to his father's home town, Saloniki, and when I recited the names of the children killed in Be'eri, in Nahal Oz, in Sderot, in the very empty synagogue in Veria.

And I talk of where Jews "once prayed, sang, danced, had a coffee."

Where Jews (I often use the pronoun 'we' instead of the proper noun, 'Jews') were taken away, rounded up, were shot, separated. from their children.

I sometimes mention how other people stood by and did nothing, refused to believe, were incredulous. and I mention those who helped, stepped forward.

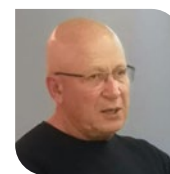
"We were murdered," I say.

"The world stood by," I say.

"We were torn from our homes," I say.

"This was one of the worst times in the history of humanity," I say.

Two years ago I wrote these words, just ten days after October 7th, the day my world changed forever. No less.



JULIAN RESNICK
writes from Israel

JULIAN RESNICK IN PERSON THIS NOVEMBER

The Cape Jewish Chronicle is thrilled to bring you Julian Resnick in person! He'll soon be visiting Cape Town from Israel, and has kindly offered us a public talk. His topic: "Thinking Back; Thinking Forward: my thoughts as I approach the 50th anniversary of the most important decision I ever made, to make Aliyah to Israel".

Date and time: Tuesday 11 November 2025, 18h30.
Send an email to editor@ctjc.co.za to let us know if you'd like to join in.

I returned home to Israel just days before the live hostages were released from Gaza from three weeks of a family visit in the United States – and now what am I going to write? Do I describe the day as one of great Joy? There was great Joy – and there was so much more. The emotions of the day were dense and complex and the word 'Joy' is insufficient to capture the moments of release of our brothers returning home. I am still trying to find words to describe the feelings on that extraordinary day. It was Joy. It was pain (the pain of what we have lost, mixed with the pain – possibly – of what we might never become – or have become).

Does this sound confused to you? Very UnIsraeli to you? Does this make you angry/sad/confused? Is it unexpected?

It is not only because we have not yet received the bodies of all our brothers and sisters for burial (and I hope that by the time this is published this last sentence will be untrue). More than anything else I believe it is because the intensity of these past two years and all we have been dealing with, cannot be washed away with a day of Joy. Yes, there were shouts of great celebration, incredible scenes of loved ones being reunited, moments of incredible Jewish Pride, the feelings of relief, of months and months of protest making some difference. And yet, every time I talk about Israel, the Jewish People, our lives in the different places we have lived in (I write this in Tangier, in Northern Morocco, in a beautiful room in the beautiful Darnour, after a day with my group of seventeen on a Moroccan Jewish Journey), the tears flow, the

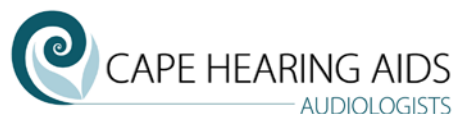
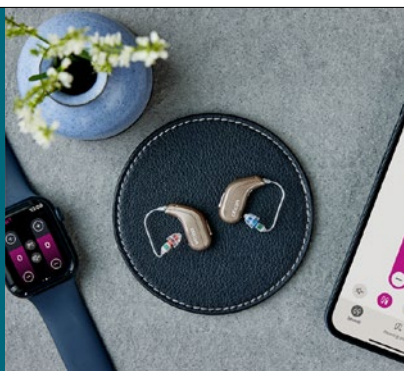
words get stuck in my throat. I talk of Tangier, Tetuán, Chefchaouen, Casablanca, Fes, Meknes, Rabat, Essaouira, Marrakech – but I am actually talking about Nir Oz, Be'eri, Kfar Aza, Sderot and the Nova Festival.

Will days of pure Joy ever be our reality again? Were there ever days of pure Joy before October 7th?

I try to remember that world, that pre-October 7th world, but my mind's playlist goes almost automatically to *Acheinu* and to *Habayta*, and I see the rabbi and the cantor singing in Central Synagogue in NYC on October 21st, 2023 with pictures of hostages flashing across the screen – and I feel the physical constriction when the photo of Ariel Bibas flashes across the screen, and I see the Roman Theater in Caesarea filled with musicians and singers urging us to come *Habayta*.

When will the Ode to Joy be mine? ●

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IEWS

Mandla Mandela's selective activism

While it could be seen by others as a positive move to pursue anti-Israel campaigns by Nelson Mandela's grandson, Mandla Mandela, it is worth noting that he leaves a cascade of problems in South Africa, which his party, the ANC, has caused and fails to address.



KENNETH KGWADI
Fellow at the Middle East Africa Research Institute (MEARI)

It is his party, which he represented as its Member of Parliament for many years, that has crippled the government at every level. It seems Mandela is deficient in either compassion or basic common sense in his approach.

His cousins, who are Nelson Mandela's granddaughters, Zaziwe Manaway and Zamaswazi Mandela, recently embarked on a life-changing journey to Israel and Gaza to witness the conflict for themselves, rather than relying on biased media reporting, which further complicates this complex conflict which has lasted for several decades. Their encounters changed their views about both Gaza and Israel. Unlike Mandla Mandela, their cousin, their views are not fixed.

THE PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE COLLAPSED IN...[MANDLA MANDELA'S] HOME PROVINCE OF THE EASTERN CAPE, BUT HE DID NOT MAKE A NOISE.

Mandla Mandela has identified the Israel-Palestine impasse as political capital to remain relevant in the international discourse. During his time as a traditional leader and politician, he was in his duty as a Member of Parliament (MP) to hold those who continued to steal public funds accountable. The public infrastructure collapsed in his home province of the Eastern Cape, but he did not make a noise.

Each year, the Eastern Cape records the highest number of deaths of children from diarrhoea and malnutrition, but Mandela and his fellow leaders from the ANC have not condemned these unnecessary deaths, which could be blamed on ineptitude,

corruption, and mismanagement. In 2008 alone, 80 children in the Ukhahlamba District Municipality died as a result of diarrhoea from unpurified water. As usual, Mandela did not utter a single word then because the lives of the people of the Eastern Cape did not matter. Or was it because such challenges do not draw media attention, less political and financial interest than the Israel-Palestine conflict?

This year, 2025, the first six months have seen some 70 children dying from malnutrition, which should be blamed on the corrupt leadership of the ANC, which continues to collapse the government in that poor province. There is a great possibility that the number of fatalities could be higher than recorded from the public facilities. In 2024, last year, the number of children who died from malnutrition in the Eastern Cape was reported to have been 107.

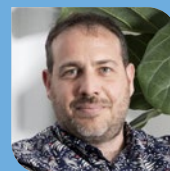
'CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME.'; THIS MEANS THAT ONE SHOULD PRIORITISE ONE'S OWN PLACE BEFORE INTERFERING IN FOREIGN PLACES.

It does not augur well that we have someone in the person of Mandla Mandela who becomes an activist when it is convenient for him but ignores other, more serious and urgent situations taking place in his backyard. It is said that "charity begins at home"; this means that one should prioritise one's own place before interfering in foreign places.

The situation is not dire only in the Eastern Cape. There are parallel investigations into the criminal justice system by the Madlanga Commission appointed by the head of cabinet, President Cyril Ramaphosa, as well as the parliamentary Ad-Hoc Committee doing the same thing. This shows that the country's intelligence is on its knees and has failed to perform its constitutional duties.

Mandla Mandela is aware that in 2024 alone, South Africa recorded 26,232 murders – a number surpassing those coming out of war zones. He could as well start his advocacy and activism here at home to stop unnecessary killings by using his influence within his party and his kingdom. South Africa has many more problems where Mandela can play a very effective role and help to transform the lives of the many, rather than grandstanding without any tangible results. ●

Ki Teitzei



YOAV KORN
writing for CBS News (Camps Bay Shul)

EDITOR'S NOTE: With November being the time of Black Friday sales, give some consideration to the wise words in this commentary.

Parashat Ki Teitzei opens with a difficult law: that of the soldier who sees *Eishet Yefat To'ar* – a beautiful captive woman. The Torah does not forbid him, but it slows him down.

She must shave her head, trim her nails, and mourn for thirty days. Only then, when the fire of desire has cooled, may he decide. And if he no longer wants her, he must set her free.

It struck me that it applies so well as a parable for one of our own modern-day battles. Each of us is a soldier in a sense, marching daily through a landscape covered in slick advertising: flashing billboards, tantalising Instagram feeds, and glamorous product placements. Here, a new suit; there, a new car. One more gadget for the home, one more luxury bag for the closet. Our eyes are captured, our hearts stirred, and our hands are itching to click on the **Add to Cart** button.

The Torah knows that desire can't be erased. Instead, it gives us a simple yet profound practice: pause. Hold off on the purchase, and ask what remains when the marketing is gone, when the thirty days of mourning have passed? Does this object, this experience, this craving still carry weight? Or was it just desire born in the heat of the moment?

In this light, the *Eishet Yefat To'ar* stands in for the vagaries of modern consumption - the things we feel we cannot live without until we discover we can. Conquest does not equate to seizing every glittering prize that passes before our eyes. Rather, it lies in mastering the pause, in remembering that dignity and restraint make us more human than indulgence ever could. ●


VIEWS
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

STRONGER TOGETHER



SIMONE SULCAS
Chairperson, Cape SAJBD

On the 3rd of October 1995, after only four hours of jury deliberation OJ Simpson was acquitted. I was stunned. As a final year law student, it went against everything I believed to be true.

Guilty people are meant to pay for their crimes, and blindfolded Lady Justice, who symbolizes the impartiality of the law, was missing in action. I learnt an important lesson – the seemingly impossible can be achieved if you have a winning team. In this case, OJ had the best lawyers money could buy – his ‘Dream Team’.

Time-hopping to October 2025, the concept of a ‘Dream Team’ still resonates with me, albeit for a different reason. When I accepted the nomination of chair, I glanced up and my eyes locked on the list of former chairpersons displayed on the wall in our board’s ‘War Room’. This distinguished list filled me with a blend of pride, gratitude and self-reflection. The baton had been passed, and I needed to draw strength and collective wisdom from the past, and I needed to do this swiftly. I did this in the only way I know how – I looked forward. I looked around the board table and focused on the 23 board members and four professional staff, our ‘Dream Team’.

“WE HAVE FOUGHT AND WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT AGAINST ANTISEMITISM AND HATE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE AND BY EVERY MEANS.”



We are fortunate enough to have a Western Cape Jewish community where people step up into leadership positions, spending their precious time giving back so selflessly to our community. Added to this, they are leaders in their professional space, with specialised skills and qualifications, and a deep passion for our community. The last two years have been particularly challenging for our community, mirroring the struggles of Jewish communities worldwide. We, as your elected leaders, have fought and will continue to fight against antisemitism and hate in every way possible and by every means. We have had our wins and our losses, but still we fight, each and every day. We advocate for you and have painstakingly built up relationships with the public and private sector, always advancing our rights as Jews to live and thrive in the broader community. The preamble to our Constitution says that, “South Africa belongs to all that live in it”. Our ‘Dream Team’ is committed to making sure that these words are our lived experience.

We are also blessed to have a plethora of affiliate organisations that do so much to enhance our Jewish life here in the Western Cape. One simply needs to page through this Chronicle to see the breadth and width of our

affiliate organisations and the fullness and richness of their offering to our community. I urge you to explore the options and find something that resonates with you, to take advantage of their services, and perhaps even volunteer if you can.

As I write this, it has been over two years since the atrocities of October 7th, and I am holding my breath and praying that the fragile peace deal between Israel and Hamas holds and that there is an end to the loss of life for all innocents. I am overcome with deep relief that our brothers and sisters have been released from a hell that I cannot begin to imagine. Our strength as a community, as *Am Yisrael*, has been tested and once again we have overcome. We do so with pride, courage and a commitment to ‘dance again’. Here on the tip of Africa, we have cried together, prayed together and galvanised in support

“I AM OVERCOME WITH DEEP RELIEF THAT OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM A HELL THAT I CANNOT BEGIN TO IMAGINE.”

of our Jewish homeland, our global Jewish community, and one another. We have been a ‘Dream Team’.

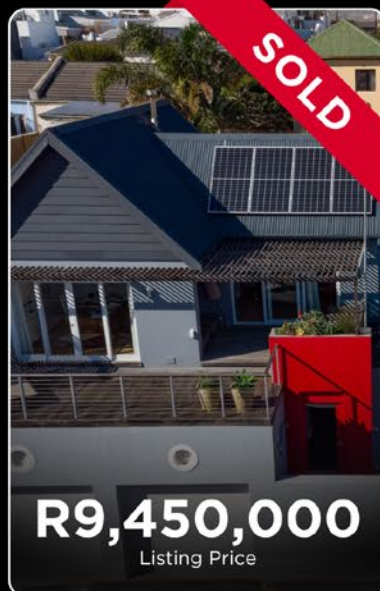
I love our community, and I want to see it flourish from within and in the broader context. I undertake to do all I can to contribute meaningfully and purposefully, always guided by our Jewish values with a healthy dose of *Ubuntu*. “I am because we are” interconnected by a golden thread that deeply values the concept of community. I, together with our ‘Dream Team’ of board members and our professional team, look forward to working with and for our community in the coming term. The OJ Simpson case may have quashed my desire to become a criminal lawyer, yet it did sow the seed of what can be achieved if you have a ‘Dream Team’. My intention is for us to be yours. ●



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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



CAPE SAJBD
Engage | Educate | Empower

**NO
PLACE
FOR HATE**

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

VIEWS

CONNECT, COLLABORATE, COMMUNITY

Celebrating our Judaism



DANIEL BLOCH
Exec. Director
Cape SAJBD

For more than two years, we have been praying and hoping for an end to the war between Israel and Hamas.

We have pleaded for the release of the hostages and fought continuously against hatred and antisemitism.

As a Jewish community, we have experienced a spectrum of emotions – anger, fear, despair, resilience – and now, finally, hope and a belief that things may very well change for the better.

The ceasefire agreement was a monumental moment that has, hopefully, brought an end to the war. Watching the twenty living hostages return to their families – seeing the hugging, the embracing, the sheer joy on those faces – must have brought a tear to us all. And, while the return of the bodies of those who were murdered can never bring the same comfort, the relief of knowing their loved ones are home and laid to rest allows their souls to move on and their memories to truly be for a blessing.

Back home in Cape Town, we watched, we wept, and we rejoiced. While Simchat Torah 2023 and even 2024 will be remembered as among the least celebrated Yom Tovim in recent memory, Simchat Torah 2025 will go down as one of the most joyous. I was fortunate to spend this Yom Tov with my family in shul. The evening and morning of Simchat Torah were absolutely incredible – the vibe, the energy, the party atmosphere

as we celebrated both the joy of the festival and the joy of our brothers and sisters finally coming home.

You could feel the intensity of prayer, the sense of relief at being able to let loose, and the passion in every song of joy and gratitude. The last time I remember such spirited celebration was at my son's barmitzvah last year. There was no holding back as we danced in the middle of shul, holding all the Sifrei Torah, waving Israeli flags, and singing Hebrew, Israeli and Jewish songs until our voices went hoarse. The following day, the celebrations spilled into the streets – men, women, and children dancing with the Sifrei Torah as cars drove past hooting in celebration, their drivers giving us thumbs-up signs. For the first time in a long time, our Jewish identity was on display for all to see – loud and proud.

On Yom Kippur, I was honoured to deliver the Yom Kippur Appeal annual address. My message focused on how our shuls are our home away from home – our safe spaces where we can be proud Jews without worrying about the stress of the outside

world. Shuls have always been the one constant in our lives, the places where we celebrate, pray, mourn, and connect with our Yiddishkeit. They are also investing in our future – upgrading buildings, hiring professional staff, and offering exciting programmes and events. Shuls have always been sanctuaries where we

can pray and express our Judaism freely.

For the past two years, I have often said that Cape Town remains one of the safest and most vibrant places for Jews to live. We have been able to showcase our identity proudly – every single day. With the ceasefire holding for now, we can only hope that real change is on the horizon, and that peace is no longer just a dream.

Let us continue living our lives as proud Jews – and encourage everyone in our community to do the same. ●



**Tune In! Our New Podcast:
ED TALKS**





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Potential Meets
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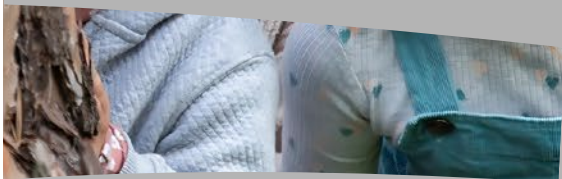


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ARTS & CULTURE

Irma Stern: an Expressionist artist *par excellence*



Irma Stern at work in her Mowbray home

Progress is being made on the road to the production of a full-length documentary about South African German-Jewish artist, Irma Stern.

The October edition of the *Cape Jewish Chronicle* carried an article about the South African artist, Irma Stern, and her iconic painting called *The Eternal Child*. This month, we continue the Irma Stern story, with an article about further progress being made on the road to the production of a full-length documentary about the South African German-Jewish artist.

In a presentation at the *Woordfees* festival of arts and culture held in Stellenbosch during October, the Executive Producer of the planned documentary, art historian Anne Graaff, spoke of the significance of the exhibition currently on in Berlin at Die Brücke Museum. She said, “The exhibition is something of a homecoming for Irma, the first time a public institution in Germany has sought her out since she was branded a Degenerate Artist under Hitler.”

Anne believes that this focus on the work of Irma Stern serves, importantly, “to bring her back into the fold of German Expressionism”. In so doing,

Stern gains greater international recognition: while she is very well-known in South African art circles, this is not the case in the country that shaped her initial career as an artist – Germany.

In terms of German Expressionism, Anne highlighted the importance of *The Eternal Child* in Stern’s development as an artist, saying, “It is a brave painting by a young and brave artist – aged just 22 – willing to depart from the then-current idea and ideal that art is supposed to sugar-frost reality, make it more ideal, more heroic, more beautiful, more ordered. The Expressionists preferred exploring a subjective and personal approach, highlighting emotion.”

THE DOCUMENTARY FILM

Strange as it may seem, no major documentary has yet been made of Irma Stern’s life and work. This is largely owing to the fact that little material had previously been identified to serve as the basis of a film. But that might change.

Through the efforts of Executive Producers Anne and Tessa Graaff and of filmmaker Sean O’Sullivan – ably supported by some very competent staff at various South African state institutions and archives in Europe and the US – wonderful material has been found. “It’s the proverbial needle in the haystack,” Sean comments, “but I hope we find sufficient material to make a full-length documentary film. We’re looking here and in Europe.”



An interview for the film

Anne highlights why the time is ripe for a documentary to be produced, citing a number of significant reasons. These include:

- There are still a few people who knew Irma Stern but, in light of their age, their recollections must be recorded sooner rather than later.
- Film and audio material deteriorates with age. It needs to be discovered and digitised.
- Stern’s work is important in terms of our South African identity and the identity of the African continent. Her paintings helped shape the history of the country,

especially the painting called *The Black Prince*. It was donated in the late 1950s to be auctioned to raise funds for the legal defence in the treason trial of Mandela and other ANC activists. This is an important tidbit of history that should be known.

- Her work continues to garner increasingly high sale prices, reflecting her ongoing popularity as an artist of renown long after her death. Her painting *Arab Priest* currently holds the record for both the nation and the artist, fetching over £3 million (\$4.7 million) at Bonhams in 2011.

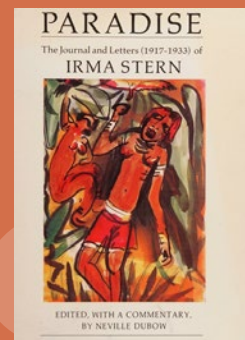
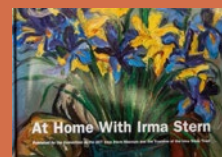
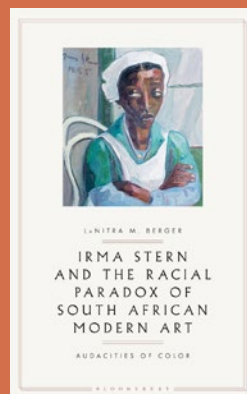
With plans now well in place for the making of the documentary, an enthusiastic audience awaits further announcements. ●

BOOKS

TREASURES OF IRMA STERN

The Jacob Gitlin Library has a large number of books about Irma Stern’s work available for members of the public to view and read. Some are pictured here.

During November, the Library will showcase the collection of books in a promotion called *Remembering Irma*. Pop around to see these wonderful treasures! ●



BNEI MITZVAH: MAZAL TOV!



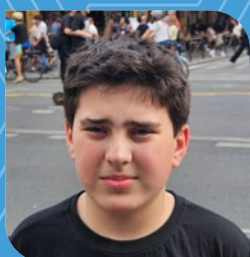
Cole Kovensky



Gabriella Flash



Zoey MacDonald



Benjamin Sher

VIEWS

CONSIDER THIS

Rabbi, shall I start kitesurfing at 85 years old?



RABBI GREG
ALEXANDER

The most frustrating thing you can tell a child is, “You are not old enough yet.” I remember hating to hear those words, and then decades later, as a teacher and parent, finding myself having to say versions of them myself.

It is obvious to us as adults that there need to be age-appropriate stages for development, but that doesn’t make it any easier for a 6-year-old.

2000 years ago, one of our sages set out a sketch of the stages of life and their accompanying ages. In the *Mishnah* in *Pirkei Avot*, we hear from Judah ben Teima that:

At five years of age, the study of Scripture; At ten, the study of

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

What do you think? There are a few that might raise eyebrows. I know that there are many ninety-year-olds out there working, driving cars, and carrying on life like they did when seventy or eighty. And the only ‘bent bodies’ might be in their weekly yoga classes! And I was blessed at our recent Seniors Tea to see the amazing Miriam Herzfeld in *shul* – at the ripe age of 102, her mind is clear, her memory perfect and her humour undiminished. If she is reading this, Miriam, until 120!

‘At sixty, old age’ is not the picture of our world today – even though retirement is still set at 65, most people work on well into their seventies or even eighties. And if you told some of the 50-somethings playing Padel that thirty was the ‘peak of strength’, they might tell you to step onto the court and prove it!

It is obvious that wellness and medicine have evolved in the past two millennia, and statistics show us that people are living longer than ever before. Stuart Kim, a Professor at Stanford University, made headlines when he said that the first person to reach the age of 200 has already been born. So, some of those numbers might need revising

upwards. The book of Psalms says, “The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength eighty years” (Ps. 90:10). This leads to the idea that after we reach the age of 70, our clock goes back to zero and we start again, with a second *b-mitzvah* at the age of 83. From the Hebrew of “At eighty, the age of strength” we often call these the *Gevurah B-Mitzvah*!

Down the other end, we still celebrate 13 as the age of responsibility for doing *mitzvot*. In Progressive congregations that is the same for all children, and our girls are called up to the *Torah* at the same age as the boys are. Eighteen is not a common age for marriage nowadays – I was nearly 30 when I stood under the *chuppah* with Rabbi Andi, and many are waiting longer to marry. And many parents would be delighted if their children were pursuing livelihoods by twenty!

Forty is traditionally the age that one can study *Kabbalah* – why then and not before? Well, the usual explanation is that one needs to be grounded with a good foundation of knowledge, a settled lifestyle with a family, and a mature way of viewing the world before one dabbles in mysticism. Having said that, there are many famous *kabbalists* who studied well before the age of 40, some not even living to that age. It is clear that different people mature at different ages and stages, and that no single guide suits every person.

That said, Judah ben Teima’s world seems not that different to ours. A couple of tweaks of numbers and it seems like not much has changed over the years. If you are thinking of bungee-jumping for your 80th or 90th birthday, don’t let *Pirkei Avot* stand in your way – *shkoyach* and pop the photos on Instagram! Just make sure to sponsor the *brochah* on *Shabbes* in celebration. ●



Sherman
Friday
14 November
Shacharit,
Tfilin Wrap
and breakfast
7.30am
Atlantic
Seaboard

Shabbat
#proudlyprogressive
Saturday
15 November
West Coast
Havdalah
Bring & Braai



Thursday
13 November
6pm
**Challah
Bake**
with Evan Coosner

**Shabbat
Service &
Dinner**
All 3 Centres



Living our values, celebrating community

At Herzlia, Jewish Life and Learning comes alive every day across our campuses. From joyful moments in the *sukkah* to family mornings filled with song and pride, our pupils experience Judaism as something lived, shared, and full of connection.



Moments of joy and *nachas* as Highlands Primary Gr 1 pupils shared songs and smiles with their grandparents – living our Jewish values together.

SPECIAL PERSONS' DAYS AT ALON ASHEL & HIGHLANDS

Pre-Primary and Grade 1 pupils proudly welcomed their grandparents and 'special people' for mornings of song, crafts and celebration. It was a touching expression of *l'dor v'dor* – from generation to generation – honouring family, friendship and Jewish belonging.

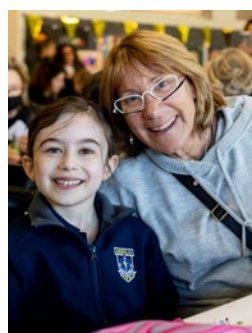


SUKKOT AT HERZLIA

Across our schools, Sukkot was celebrated with colour and creativity. Pupils built and decorated their *sukkot*, learned the *mitzvot* of the *lulav* and *etrog*, and shared festive meals with teachers and friends, bringing the festival's spirit of gratitude and hospitality to life.



Clockwise from top: Gan Aviv, Alon Ashel, Highlands, Kerem



BIRKAT HABANIM... A BLESSING ACROSS GENERATIONS

Before Yom Kippur, families gathered at Alon Ashel, Weizmann and Highlands for *Birkat Habanim*, blessing of the children for the year ahead, with quiet, heartfelt moments that capture Herzlia's warmth and heritage.



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JET
BUSINESS
Breakfast Club
MONTHLY CONNECT

The psychology of pricing

ENTREPRENEURSHIP



ANTON RESSEL
ORT Jet

Arriving at the 'right' price for your products or services can be easier than you think.

One of the most common challenges entrepreneurs face is figuring out how to price their products or services correctly. It's not surprising — while costing is a relatively exact science, pricing is shaped by psychology, perception, and context.

Your price depends on many moving parts: your target market, brand strength, product/service quality, packaging, availability, and even inflation or supply chain trends. It can feel like you need to be an accountant, marketer, and mind reader all in one!

It doesn't have to be that complicated. By following a few

core principles, you can find a pricing strategy that's fair, sustainable, and profitable. Here are some tips:

1. KNOW YOUR COSTS

This is the foundation of every pricing strategy. If you don't know what it costs to make or deliver your product or service, you're guessing — and that's risky. Understanding your full cost structure (materials, labour, overheads, time) allows you to set prices confidently, protect your margins, and spot inefficiencies early. Without this, you can't plan for growth or sustainability.

2. FOCUS ON VALUE, NOT JUST PRICE

Most customers don't always buy the cheapest option — they buy what feels worth it. In tough economic times, people still pay for convenience, trust, or quality. The key is to communicate value clearly. That could mean offering a guarantee, loyalty rewards, quick delivery, or excellent after-sales service. When customers

feel they're getting more than just a product or service, price becomes less of a deciding factor.

3. DISCOUNT WITH INTENTION

Many small businesses make the mistake of discounting too easily, especially to attract or keep customers. But discounting eats into profit fast. For example, if your gross margin is 30% and you offer a 10% discount, you'll need 50% more sales just to break even...

Instead, make discounting a two-way exchange: if you give a discount, ask for something in return — a larger order, faster payment, a longer contract, or a referral. This keeps the transaction balanced and sustainable.

4. BE READY TO DEFEND YOUR PRICE

Confident pricing comes from believing in your product or service, and knowing your worth. Be clear on what makes your

offering different, understand your competitors, and be able to articulate your unique value. When a buyer challenges your price, explain why it's fair — and don't be afraid to walk away if it's not viable. A short-term loss is better than building a reputation for being cheap.

Pricing is part numbers, part mindset. Blend sound costing with strategic thinking and self-belief, and your pricing will not only cover your costs — it will leverage the strength of your brand, attract the right customers, and drive sustainable profit. ●

Anton Ressel is a business strategist, mentor and coach with over two decades of experience in helping entrepreneurs achieve new levels of success.

ORT Jet empowers entrepreneurs through mentorship, training, networking and business talks to build stronger South African enterprises. Using a proven approach, ORT Jet supports founders on their business journey. Visit ortjetcapetown.org.za



COMMUNITY NEWS



Members of the Board of Governors with communal leaders, Rabbi Feldman and others

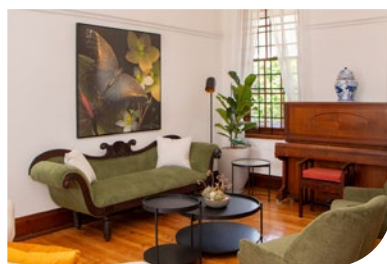
Spes Bona: A legacy of hope, restored to glory

A select group from the Cape Town Jewish community's Board of Governors and other leaders recently attended a ceremony to put up a *mezuzah* to bless a new facility prior to residents moving in.

When a *mezuzah* was affixed to the doorway of Spes Bona on a bright September morning, it marked more than the opening of a new residence. It marked the rebirth of a historic landmark, a place that has stood for over a century, and now stands renewed as a home of dignity and compassion for the aged of our community.

"For we Jews, this period between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is a time of judgement. But we can rest assured that *Hashem* will judge our community well for what has been achieved here," reflected Rabbi Osher Feldman, Chair of the Rabbinical Association of the Western Cape, as he blessed the doorway of the restored building.

Built in 1915, Spes Bona had long stood as a silent witness to generations past, once a women's residence, later a home for university students. But after more than a century, time had taken its toll. The once stately building had fallen into a state of neglect and disrepair, its



A peek inside the magnificent property

grandeur fading, its potential dormant. That is, until Jewish Community Services stepped forward, not merely to purchase a property, but to preserve a legacy and restore a purpose.

Under the leadership of Paul Berman, Chair of Care Services, and with the steadfast support of Philip Krawitz, outgoing Chair of the Board of Governors, and donors, an ambitious vision

Philip Krawitz, Hazel Levin of Jewish Community Services, Paul Berman



L to R Marco van Embden, Philip Krawitz, Paul Berman, Alan Silverman

took shape: to create a sanctuary for the aged, a place of warmth, care, and belonging, rooted in our community's timeless values of compassion and respect.

"This building stood proud once, but it had lost its way," Paul reflected. "We saw in Spes Bona a chance to give it back its soul, to restore its dignity, and to let it once again serve those who need it most."

The transformation of Spes Bona is nothing short of remarkable. What was once derelict has become magnificent once more, a seamless blend of historic grace and modern comfort.



Hazel Levin of Jewish Community Services, Paul Berman and Rabbi Feldman affix the *mezuzah*

Every inch of the building was renewed. A new roof replaced the old asbestos tiles; a new lift shaft now provides accessibility to all floors; and new electrical and plumbing systems bring the property up to the highest safety standards.

Inside, every room – 53 in total – has been refurbished, each one infused with warmth and light. Modern bathrooms, wheelchair-accessible facilities, and two fully equipped kosher kitchens (for meat and milk) ensure comfort, respect, and observance.

The gardens, once steep and unusable, have been transformed into terraced green spaces supported by gabion walls, serene, accessible areas where residents can stroll, sit, and take in the breathtaking view of Lion's Head.

A solar system with battery backup ensures that the home remains powered and sustainable, while a new clinic, administrative offices, and security systems provide safety and care.

"It's not just a building," said Hazel Levin, COO of Care Services. "It's a home, a real home, for 44 residents who until now had nowhere to go. Today, they have a place to belong, to be cared for, and to live with pride."

The unveiling ceremony highlighted the effort, dedication, and vision that made this transformation possible. An official opening event is scheduled for 9 November 2025 once all residents have moved in.

"This project is a triumph of heart and purpose," Paul Berman concluded. "In restoring Spes Bona, we did more than revive a building. We revived dignity. We revived belonging. And we reminded ourselves that the greatness of a community is measured by how it treats those who need it most. This is a gift from our generation to the next, proving that when compassion meets conviction, even the most neglected places can shine again in all their majesty. This of course would not have been possible without the extraordinary donations received, but we still have a way to go to cover the shortfall." ●



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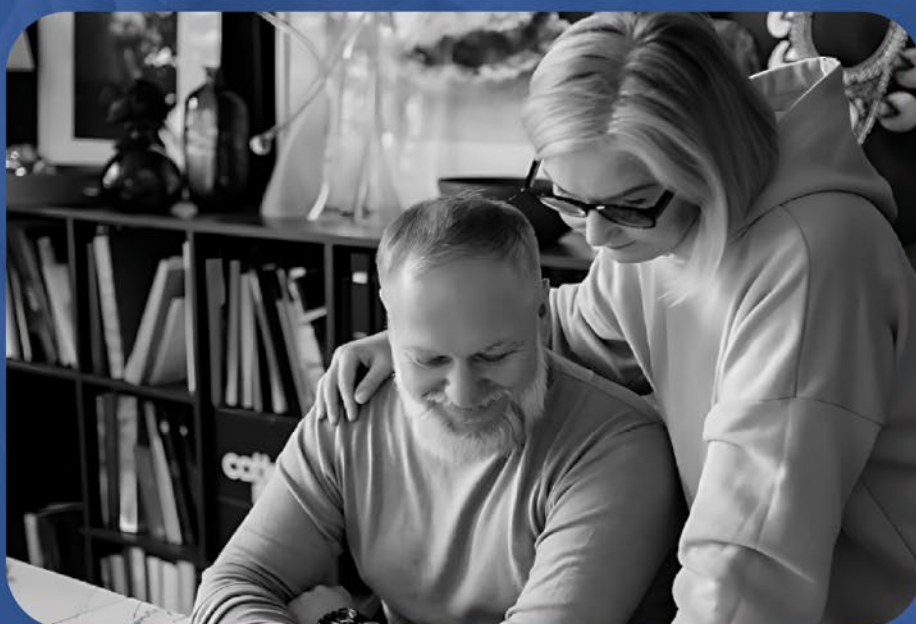
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Olive Tree House offers safety and tranquility for our children

October saw the official opening of a new care centre in the Cape Town Jewish community, geared to provide a home away from home for children in vulnerable situations.

Olive Tree House is a daycare centre located on the Herzlia High School campus and is a collaboration between Herzlia and Oranjia.

As Belinda Slavin, the Director of Oranjia, points out: "It's long been clear to us that we need to provide support measures for children and families who are struggling. Olive Tree House offers a space where stress on a family unit can be reduced, and children can come to the daycare centre and receive meals, academic support and extra-curricular enrichment such as sports activities, outings and holiday care."

For many years, Oranjia, a communal organisation established in 1911, served as a residential care home for orphans or for children living in vulnerable circumstances. The need for daycare – for children to have a secure place to go to after the school day



Below L-R: Belinda Slavin, Rodney Stein, Esta Levitas, Eleanor Miller, Dalia Katz, Ryan Epstein, Amanda Varkel, Carrie Gruzd, Nicky Pamensky, Tamara Davidson, Motti Lewis, Anthony Leader



DONORS INCLUDE ARTIST GALIA GLUCKMAN, WHO GENEROUSLY GAVE SEVERAL PIECES OF HER ARTWORK.

The facility has been in operation for a few months – and positive outcomes are already clear. "Since we opened Olive Tree House, we have grown in the number of children being referred to our centre," says Amanda Varkel, the new Chair of Oranjia.

In addition, there are clear indications that the impact on the lives of the children has been positive. As Amanda says, "Children have provided positive feedback about their time at the daycare and have commented on how they have had many exciting new experiences with the daycare managers, and children. Teachers at school have reported that many of the children have improved academically and are more engaged in school life."

Children and families requiring extra support or who may want to find out more information may contact Herzlia's SEED Department and/or JCS social workers.

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and before returning to their own homes – became evident a number of years ago, and Oranjia provided for this need but the facility available was not ideal. "Since 2018, creating a dedicated space for the daycare has been a project very close to our hearts, a long-held dream of Antony Leader and Esta Levitas that began many years earlier," explains Eleanor Miller, the outgoing Chairperson of Oranjia, who was a driving force behind the establishment of the new facility. "We had many obstacles to overcome, including not being able to find suitable premises for this – until now."

The fulfilment of the dream is Olive Tree House, which has been set up in a house on the Herzlia High School property. "The partnership between Herzlia and Oranjia has been incredible, and we're so grateful for the school's ongoing support and collaboration," commented Eleanor at the opening event, where she also acknowledged the generosity of the donors whose contributions helped turn the dream into a reality.

HEALTH

Comfort Care Chronicles: Navigating life's transitions



Consistency is the only policy

A FRAGILE BALANCE

Six months ago, I began working with a lady living with acute emphysema. When I took over her care, she was in deep crisis – her GP was fielding emergency calls three times a week, her carers were struggling to manage her anxiety and breathlessness, and her family feared they were watching her final days unfold. Hope was running thin.

My new care plan required patience, consistency, and teamwork. Over the following weeks and months, our care circle slowly found a new rhythm that worked. Her breathing steadied, her energy lifted, and her confidence began to return. Six months of careful, collective effort brought her back to a place of strength. She was stable again.

Then came the Jewish High Holidays – a time for *shul* visits, family outings, and long nights around the dinner table. We eased the care routine to make space for what matters most, and for a short while, care took a back seat. To my surprise, within three weeks, all that progress unravelled. Her symptoms worsened, sleep patterns broke down, medication times slipped, exhaustion and crisis crept back in. It felt as though six months of work had vanished overnight.

WHY ROUTINE MATTERS

It's a tough truth in care – progress is rarely permanent. Stability depends on rhythm, repetition, and predictability. For people living with chronic illness, even small disruptions can have large consequences. Care routines may seem mundane or restrictive, but they are the scaffolding that keeps everything else standing. They bring both body and mind a sense of safety.

BALANCING CARE AND LIFE

Of course, we can't live by routine alone, nor should we let care plans take over our lives completely. The goal isn't to choose one over the other, but to weave them together. A holiday meal can still include a rest break. Visitors can help prepare medications or

assist with oxygen. Sometimes, care itself can become part of the celebration – not an interruption to it.

LOOKING AHEAD

As the December holidays approach, many families will face this same balancing act. My advice: keep a few anchors of care in place, even during festive times. It's not about perfection – it's about consistency. A steady



SHELLY KORN
Care Imagineer |
Evercare

rhythm of care allows joy to last longer and recovery to hold firm when the celebrations are over. ●



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Shelagh has worked with hundreds of non-profit organisations, especially when she established Inyathelo – The South African Institute for Advancement which she led from 2002-2015. She now advises and trains non-profits, universities and philanthropies in a range of areas, particularly focusing on leadership development, governance and fundraising.

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Above:
Entertainment at the
Marais Road Sukkot
Tea by Erez Shaked,
Matthew Reid

R: Cantor Ivor Joffe
welcoming Seniors to
the Sukkot tea



Enjoying life to the full

The last few weeks have been unbelievably busy with so many incredible events and choices for our members.

Apart from the usual weekly outings which were enjoyed by all, three *shuls* hosted special events for Sukkot, and members were able to socialise and maximise the joy of the High Holy Day events.

The *shuls* started off Sukkot celebrations at Clarewyn Shul where our members enjoyed a tea in their *Sukkah*. What a treat! This event is always highly anticipated and appreciated by our members.

The day of the hostage release dawned with the whole community waiting anxiously for the return of the 20 hostages – many glued to TV to watch the miracle of the return. At the same time, Marais Road Shul hosted the annual Sukkot tea with the wonderful entertainment provided by Cantor Ivor Joffe, Erez Shaked and Matthew Reid. Everyone was on a high as we celebrated the release of the hostages whilst enjoying the beautiful concert and delicious tea provided. It was a joyous occasion with Rabbi Hecht giving a *drosha*, and Ivor and Erez adding to the morning's fun.

Members have also been hosted by Temple Israel and enjoyed a special afternoon with the well-known entertainer, Faried Swartz, and a wonderful tea prepared by the Sisterhood. Over 100 people enjoyed the Sukkot treat.

Many of us have participated in the various meaningful services at our *shuls* of choice. It is also a special time of reflection and



Top: West Coast members enjoying an outing to West Coast National Park



Above: West Coast Members with Sinai Academy learners.

remembrance, and of thinking of those who are no longer with us, and of sharing the holidays and traditions that have been celebrated for generations.

The *chaggim* are over, but now we look at the warmer weather and the possibility of being able to enjoy the outdoors and everything beautiful Cape Town has to offer.

More than ever, it is incumbent on each one of us to show up and be part of our vibrant community – at CJSA we encourage all our members to join in and enjoy a richer life, thus adding Life to Years, preventing isolation and loneliness.

Warm regards
Diana Sochen, Executive Director



Simchat
Torah Party at
Temple Israel
with Yamina
Oliver and
her carer.



Sea Point members enjoying the Simchat Torah Party at Temple Israel

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL

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

Birth: Elaine Chernotsky – Granddaughter,
Karen Borochowitz – Granddaughter,
Phoebe Chernotsky – Great-granddaughter,
Barbara Mandel – Great-grandson.

Barmitzvah: Zilla Kudo - Grandson

New Members welcomed: Julian Kinderlerer, Sheryl Schkolne, Gary Black, Darrel Kaimowitz

Our thoughts and wishes of strength are with those members who are ill or grieving.

Get Well wishes: Bess Lonstein, Lola Krafchik, Regine David, David Gamsu.

Wishes of Long Life and strength on the passing of members of CJSA or their family members to:

Avril Lee – passing of husband Malcolm

Fay Treger on the passing of her brother, Urvin
Family of Ruth Goldman.



Sea Point Seniors
enjoying a
wonderful
Sukkot
Morning at
Marais Road



Top and Above: Sea Point members enjoying the Stellenbosch Botanical Garden



ARTS & CULTURE

REVIEW

Joseph and The Technicolor Dreamcoat South Africa 2025, young, energetic, fun

Based on a review written by ROBYN COHEN of the Cape Robyn.

After its first sell-out season, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* has returned to the Theatre on the Bay in Camps Bay, and is on until 29 November.

The producers Pieter Toerien and the Luitingh Alexander Musical Theatre Academy (LAMTA), creative team and cast have created a Joseph 2025 which is very Generational Now. It is young, energetic and fun. I loved every moment.

Joseph's family are no longer farmers. They are drifters, surfers and sand board enthusiasts. For me the biblical story which inspired this musical, becomes a moving story of family, siblings and family conflicts and a happy ending which we can all sing along to Andrew Lloyd Webber's wondrous music and Tim Rice's delicious lyrics.

The aesthetic is much Afrika Burn meets surfer culture. Clothes look like upmarket thrift store finds which have been up-scaled into couture and accessorised with a dazzling rainbow of sneakers, including gold sneakers for the palace scene. Costumes and set are by award-winning Niall Griffin. He has created a gorgeous cropped dreamcoat, which gets delivered in a Snakealot box. Lovely contemporary cultural references in this production, but not over the top.

Twenty-two-year-old Dylan Janse van Rensburg plays Joseph with verve and assurance. He channels surfer dude caught up in a family behaving badly. It is a shocking case of favouritism. This is van Rensburg's first year on the professional musical theatre boards. This talented actor who graduated from LAMTA at the end of 2024 made his mark in LAMTA student productions. His versatility is remarkable. In his final year at LAMTA, he played the simmering Stanley in LAMTA's staging of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* and here in Joseph, he is singing and dancing in a much-loved musical. His theatrical and vocal smarts come through strongly in this production. I sensed a wistfulness in Joseph – even in the strutting scenes in the palace in Egypt. He is just a boy, in his jockey briefs, flummoxed by what happens to him and going with the flow as best as he can.

Lelo Ramasimong rocks it as the narrator. Great to see the Jozi dynamo on stage in Cape Town. She is fabulous and so different to other narrators that I have seen in previous productions. There is an intimacy and warmth to the character which is lovely.

Chris Jaftha channels a gangster aesthetic to his Pharaoh which I really enjoyed – the Pharaoh in strutting around in his gold lame shorts, with a hint of menace. In 2017, in an interview with Luitingh when he played Pharaoh, he noted: "Pharaoh comes onto stage for about seven minutes at the top of

Continues on cjc.org.za – click here

A NEW GENERATION OF PERFORMERS

Many of the shows staged at the Theatre on the Bay are opportunities for a new cohort of performers to participate in a professional production.

The Luitingh Alexander Musical Theatre Academy (LAMTA) at the Theatre on the Bay is a fairly new academic institution offering training in the performing arts. As with many other productions, most of the performers in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, now on at the Theatre, are recent graduates of the LAMTA programme.

This year, two Jewish students are in the First Year cohort: Feigie Shaman and Danielle Munitz.



The *Chronicle* spoke to Feigie about the course.

Enthusiastic about the course, Feigie points out that, "The training gives us incredible experience and knowledge, while also

ensuring that we're musically fit so that, when we leave one day, we're practically ready to jump into our next job on the stage."

A three-year course, students all study the same 22 subjects: from a range of dance courses, to music studies and singing, and acting classes. All of this is geared to ensure that students leave as performers skilled in 'the triple threat discipline': acting, singing, and dancing.

Feigie is particularly appreciative of the exposure that students get to industry professionals. Many of the lecturers are actively involved in the theatre industry, bringing with them a knowledge of current industry trends.

Acceptance into the course is by audition.



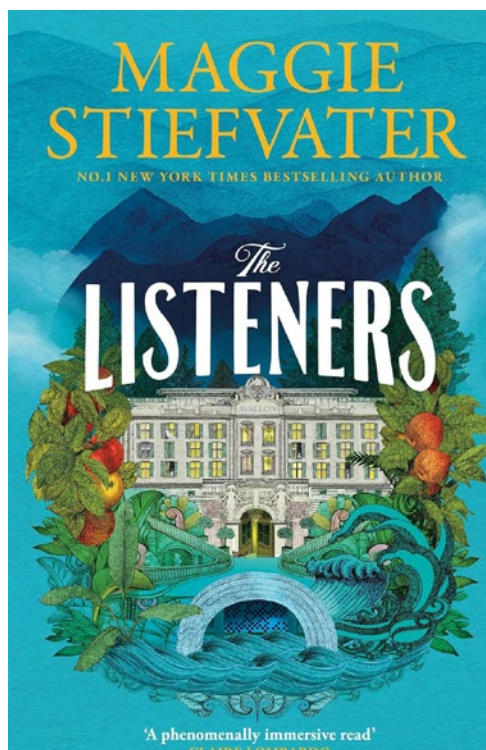
BOOKS

The Listeners

I had left *The Listeners* by Maggie Stiefvater to stew, so to speak, thinking it would be a light, frothy read – to be read in between the tense thrillers. But, oh, how wrong I was. Definitely neither of those assumptions; in fact, it brought a little known (well to me anyway) piece of wartime history to luminous light in a wonderfully constructed story.

This is Stiefvater's first adult novel and, as an artist in several mediums, and a musician, her prose reflects how she sees her environment and what lies underneath. The cover of the book says it all – intricate, mystical, to be carefully looked into. Her research took her five years, she uncovered many stories, revealing heartbreak, choices, and the chilling reality of the Nazi regime's doctrines and what return to Germany might mean.

You might then ask, "What does a remote luxury hotel in the Appalachian Mountains in West Virginia have to do with WWII?" It's 1942 after Pearl Harbour. The USA has joined the war and so there is the question of what to do with the enemy diplomats?



Reviewed
by **BERYL
EICHENBERGER**

Removed from their posts, they had to be held before being deported back to their countries. Several luxury hotels found themselves reluctantly hosting AXIS diplomatic legations. Stiefvater has created one such glamorous and regal hotel, Avallon, where high-ranking Germans, Italians and Japanese were interned under the watchful eye of the State Department's Agent Tucker Minnick and his team, hosted by the female GM June 'Hoss' Hudson.

Inherited by playboy, Edgar Gilfoyle, the hotel is peopled by loyal staff, some with their own reasons to fear these guests, but showing its best hospitality face is a given. It's luxury at its best – a century of tradition as

elegant as the service. That was something that rather irked me, these enemies of the state enjoying their status while atrocities were being committed in their country's names.

But Stiefvater has created an undercurrent of evil, not just through the characters, some whose nefarious plans and every waking move is followed surreptitiously, but through the ripple, drip, splash and torrent of the sweet waters that run under the hotel and down the mountain. Listening. Healing when it wants to be – turning when

not...it's a deliciously clever characterisation. . . The water is something June knows plenty about. A mountain girl brought up alongside the Gilfoyle family; the children her playmates; the father educating her to take over as GM; it's an interwoven story. She listens to the water as she listens to her guests and her heart. Then there's the snails, both as a glass gift and crunching underfoot in strange places. There are chilling moments which dig deep as the listening reveals plots, desperation, sadness and choices.

Stiefvater creates listeners throughout – through the walls with Agent Minnick, in the halls with innuendo, in code, with the nameless guest in 411, the injured family member. Listening becomes tangible; she surprises her readers, keeps you guessing. Her characters are multilayered, and she adds



LISTEN TO
THIS REVIEW

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this book review read
by Beryl Eichenberger

some surprising twists. All underpinned with a sort of magic that reminded me of Alice Hoffman novels. But Stiefvater has her own distinctive, addictive style. That many of the bizarre instances were taken from records is extraordinary – but desperate times call for desperate measures and, as Stiefvater notes: 'As a novelist I usually have to dramatise reality. In *The Listeners*, I found myself having to do the opposite.'

A novelist's dream and a reader's delight. ●

Maggie Stiefvater is a Jewish American novelist, artist and musician, best known for her teen fantasy novels. She has won several awards for her novels and, before turning to writing, was a portrait painter. Apart from her creative passions she also loves cars! She writes in several genres: fantasy, young adult and historical fiction. *The Listeners* is her first adult historical fiction novel.

The book is available in all good bookstores and for borrowing from the Jacob Gitlin Library.

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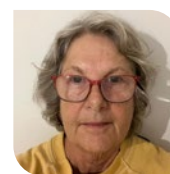
CAPE TOWN HOLOCAUST & GENOCIDE CENTRE TOUR TO POLAND

The Cape Jewish Chronicle has carried a number of articles over the past months relating to the tour to Poland organised by the Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre. Pursuing answers to the many questions about the fate of their own families during the Holocaust motivated two non-Cape Town residents to join the tour.

In this edition, we focus on the experiences of the immediate family

of Mandy Spiegel, who grew up in Johannesburg and studied at the Michaelis School of Art at the University of Cape Town. She has since lived in London for many years and regularly visits Cape Town.

Our December/January edition will focus on the story of another tour participant, an American woman with significant ties to the city of Krakow in Poland.



Mandy O'Donnell

Lindenberg, who lived in Johannesburg. Like many early refugees, Leopold's departure helped pave the way for his brother to follow.

Richard began rebuilding his life in Johannesburg, mixing with fellow German Jews and working in small trades and as a store clerk. He later became a traveling salesman and eventually owned a successful hardware import business – a testament to his determination to start anew. He retired after selling his business when he was 87.

The youngest brother, Klaus, faced a particularly disrupted childhood. As the Nazis tightened their grip on Jewish life, his schooling was repeatedly interrupted. He was sent from Germany to Belgium, and later to a school in England. Eventually, he rejoined his parents in Brussels in late 1935, where he enrolled in a government school for gardening and architecture.

Herbert and Margarethe left Germany with heavy hearts, after relinquishing their home and hard-built business. They first moved to Antwerp and then to Brussels, where they lived for several years as refugees. In 1939, (aged 58 and 51), as the threat of war loomed, they managed to secure a passage from the U.K., aboard the *SS Umtali*, bound for Lourenço Marques (now Maputo), Mozambique. Their son Klaus accompanied them.

Their arrival in Portuguese East Africa on tourist visas, in February 1939, offered safety, but little comfort. For seven long years, Herbert and Margarethe remained there as stateless refugees, unable to work freely and uncertain about their future. Their passports, like those of all Jews under Nazi decrees, bore humiliating enforced middle names – 'Israel' for Herbert and Klaus, and 'Sarah' for Margarethe. Unusually, a couple of years later, Margarethe's mother, Ella Frank,

Continues on page 32. Also see page 27.

The Spiegel family's journey from Germany to safety

Mandy O'Donnell's (née Spiegel) family's story is one typical of many Jewish families whose lives were upended by Nazi persecution, yet who rebuilt their lives in faraway lands.

Her grandparents, Herbert and Margarethe Spiegel, and their three sons – Leopold, Rolf Richard, and Klaus – lived a comfortable and assimilated life in Cologne, Germany, before the rise of Hitler changed everything.

Herbert Spiegel, who was born in Dortmund and one of 13 siblings, had been drafted into the German army during WW1, and subsequently was a respected master butcher who owned a thriving butchery named 'Spiegel' on Ehrenstrasse, one of Cologne's busy streets.

Margarethe, (née Frank) was born in Hildesheim, one of four children, with a widowed mother in her early teens. Herbert and Margarethe lived above the butcher's shop in Cologne with their three sons, a nanny, and domestic help. The family was close-knit and active in Jewish communal life. Margarethe was observant and ensured that her sons regularly attended synagogue.

By the early 1930s, the political climate in Germany had become increasingly dangerous for Jews. The Nazi boycott of Jewish businesses and the atmosphere of intimidation meant that Herbert's business could no longer survive. In 1935, he was forced to sell the butchery and family property, at a terrible loss, which was a devastating blow.

Their middle son, Richard Spiegel – Mandy's father – completed school with distinction and enrolled at the University of Cologne to study law and economics. But in 1933, the same year that Hitler came to power,



Ehrenstrasse 69, Spiegel Butchery staff (c1930). Klaus and Richard standing in outdoor clothing; Herbert at front, second from right.

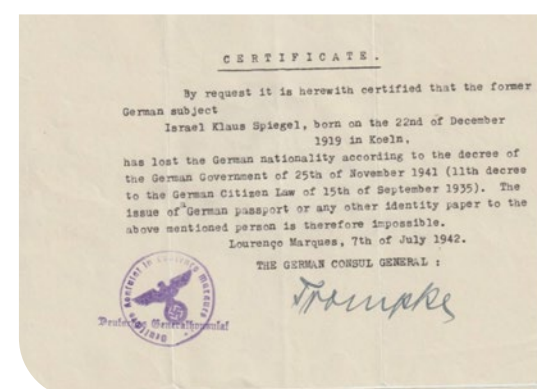


Left: Richard's passport issued in 1939 in Johannesburg, stamped J, and with the word 'Israel' inserted.

Richard was expelled from the university solely because he was Jewish. His academic ambitions abruptly ended, he found work briefly in the family butchery before being harassed and even detained by Nazi youth members. Recognising the growing danger, he fled Germany in late 1935, aged just 21.

After a few months in Europe, first in Holland and then Belgium, working various poorly paid jobs, Richard sought permanent safety by leaving Europe. By sheer chance, he managed to secure one of the last tickets to sail from Southampton to Cape Town aboard the *Dunbar Castle*, arriving in January 1936. Richard travelled directly from Cape Town to Johannesburg, where he joined his older brother, Leopold.

Leopold had left Germany in mid-1935, sponsored by his mother's cousin, Lilo



Certificate revoking German citizenship

HERITAGE

A treasure trove of wartime letters reveals the past



In addition to tracing her father's family history during World War II, Mandy O'Donnell (née Spiegel) has been researching her mother's side – the Schuitevoerder-Kopuit family. Her mother, known in South Africa, whilst at school, as Suze Shipman, and later as Suze Spiegel, was originally from Amsterdam.

FROM AMSTERDAM TO CAPE TOWN – AND BACK AGAIN

Mandy's maternal grandparents left Amsterdam for Cape Town in 1929 for her grandfather, Japie, to work in the diamond trade, as employment was scarce in Holland. They returned to the Netherlands two years later as they were missing their family and home. Fortunately, they decided to return to Cape Town in 1933, securing safety for their immediate family from the horrors that were to come. Almost all their extended relatives who remained in Europe perished during the Holocaust. The family eventually settled in Lester Road, Wynberg.

LETTERS THAT OPEN A WINDOW TO THE PAST

While Suze did tell her children many stories of her past, most of what Mandy has recently learned about her mother's family comes from a remarkable collection of letters discovered among Suze's possessions after her death in 2017.

"Before my Ma's passing, I had no idea that she had kept many letters, including her long correspondence with a surviving cousin, Sonja Kopuit. They were very close as young

Mandy Spiegel's parents, Suze and Richard

children before Suze left Amsterdam," Mandy explains. "The letters provide an incredibly vivid picture of life in Amsterdam before the war."

The letters, written between 1936 and 1949, are now being painstakingly transcribed, some needing sensitive translation into English. Mandy is reading each one and piecing together the story they tell of a family caught in the upheavals of pre-war and subsequent displacement.

A COUSIN'S COURAGE

Sonja, at 19 years, was detained by the Germans in 1941 during their occupation of the Netherlands and placed on a deportation train probably to the Westerbork transit camp – a gateway to the killing centres of Auschwitz-Birkenau and Sobibor. In a moment of extraordinary bravery, she broke a window and jumped from the moving train soon after it left the station; she then found her way onto a return train into Amsterdam.

It was a perilous journey. The Germans knew that a young woman had escaped from the transport and were searching for female escapees on trains. Fate intervened when a man nearby silently handed Sonja his train ticket, knowing inspectors were checking for a woman without one. His simple act of courage saved her life.

Sonja went into hiding in Amsterdam, and Mandy hopes the letters will shed light on this dangerous and defining period.

THE SEARCH FOR IDENTITY

Like many survivors and their descendants, questions of identity linger. "As evidenced by

WHAT MOST TOUCHED PARTICIPANTS? (REVISITED)

The October edition of the Cape Jewish Chronicle carried comments from participants on the tour to Poland that took place earlier this year. Mandy Spiegel, whose quest to find out more about her own family's Holocaust stories is featured in this edition, spoke about how much she was struck by the 'Stop the hate!' message in the town of Oświęcim in Poland.

Mandy wanted to explain this further because the comment meant more to her as a UK-based Jew than it would perhaps to our Cape Town community. "The words really struck me," Mandy explains, "because of the Stop the Hate movement in the UK. The irony for me was that the people at the Oświęcim museum called their work 'Stop the Hate', the exact same name as the NGO in the UK."

The UK NGO was founded "in response to the repeated failures of the Metropolitan Police to address anti-Semitic incidents at Palestinian Solidarity campaign marches," states the organisation's website. In essence, the UK body highlights police inconsistency and lack of action by authorities such as the police over publicly visible antisemitic behaviour. Its approach is a 'call to action for a world without racism or anti-Semitism'

"I found it interesting that, in Poland, this museum had similarly identified whom to target in the fight against racism," says Mandy. "The museum is actively involved in training members of the police and the army from different countries (not the UK) with the goal of hate prevention. The museum's location is right next to the Auschwitz death camp, where so many Jews were murdered." ●

the letters, Sonja struggled before and after the war with her Jewishness," says Mandy. "And my siblings and I have also grappled with our own sense of identity – shaped both by our family histories and by the challenges of growing up in *apartheid* South Africa." ●

Meet the new



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CAPE SAJBD COUNCIL MEMBERS

Five new members joined the Cape SAJBD from the public ballot in the 2025 biennial elections.



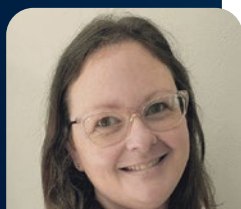
Ronnie Gotkin

Ronnie Gotkin is currently retired after having served many years at Herzlia as principal of Herzlia Highlands Primary and Director of Hebrew for the United Herzlia Schools. Currently, he is a Board member of the Cape Town Holocaust and Genocide centre, where he is also a volunteer guide. Ronnie also teaches courses focusing especially on Jewish history, and the Israeli-Arab conflict, and has recently written and taught courses on antisemitism and Zionism respectively, for the Florence Melton Adult School of Jewish Education (affiliated to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.) Ronnie believes that in these difficult times, where antisemitism and anti-Zionism have resurged, the Cape SAJBD's task in defending the Jewish community in South Africa and advocating for its interests is more challenging and vital than ever before. He is therefore delighted and honoured to have the opportunity to serve on the Cape SAJBD, where he hopes that his many years of experience in the Cape Town Jewish community will enable him to make a meaningful contribution, especially in combating antisemitism.



John Zieff

With 36 years of legal practice, attorney John Zieff brings extensive experience and sound judgment to the Cape SAJBD. Invited to join the Cape SAJBD for his legal acumen, John is motivated by a commitment to serving the community and contributing to the Board's work in addressing antisemitism. He views his involvement with the Cape SAJBD as a way to give back meaningfully, helping to ensure the legal protection and representation of Jewish life in South Africa.



Stacey Melmed

A Clinical Social Worker with a Postgraduate Diploma in Psychotherapy, Stacey Melmed has devoted her professional life to working with individuals, families and community, much of it within the Jewish community over the past decade. She holds a special interest in working with seniors. Stacey is a graduate of the Eliot Osrin Leadership Institute. She brings a reflective, people-centered approach to her role on the Board. Stacey joined the Cape SAJBD to make a meaningful difference, foster dialogue, and strengthen relationships across organisations and individuals in our community. Her focus is on listening, collaboration, and promoting unity within diversity – ensuring every member of the community feels they belong.



Zachary Helfrich

Zachary Helfrich is an attorney specialising in litigation and dispute resolution at Bagraims Attorneys in Cape Town, where he applies his legal expertise to complex civil and commercial matters. A Herzlia alumnus, Zachary's communal involvement includes serving as vice-chairperson of One-To-One Day, serving on the shul council of Temple Israel Wynberg, and now as a new member of the Cape SAJBD council. Passionate about justice and Jewish continuity, he joined the Cape SAJBD out of concern for the rise in antisemitism and a desire to see more young people take active responsibility. Through his term, Zachary hopes to help reduce antisemitism through education and strategic litigation.



Elanit Judes

With over two decades of leadership in the corporate events industry, Elanit Judes is the co-founder of Sisters Act, a creative agency known for delivering bespoke, brand-building experiences. Alongside her professional achievements, she is deeply immersed in community life — serving as Campaign Manager for the Care Services Campaign, Head of the Herzlia Highlands PTA, a member of WIZO, The Gardens Shul, and the SAZF, and a volunteer with the JCS Food Bank and Elevate. Joining the Cape SAJBD marks a natural next step in her commitment to shaping and strengthening Jewish life. Elanit hopes to enhance communication, collaboration, and unity across the community, ensuring the Cape SAJBD remains relevant, forward-thinking, and proudly representative of Jewish identity and support for Israel.

#Stronger together



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

How a parent's push brought huge business success



Cape Town's Paul Simon recently shared his entrepreneurial story with a group of Cape Town entrepreneurs at the ORT Jet Business Breakfast, the first of this series.

Monthly intimate networking breakfast events that create genuine connections and provide authentic insights. Each month brings a different format, from raw fireside chats to interactive workshops.

It was thanks to his father's demands that the young Paul Simon got involved in a business that became hugely successful – a business known as Young Designers Emporium.

Paul told the audience that he had completed a qualification in fashion marketing, but did not initially look for work. He enjoyed partying and spending time with friends, and did not feel the pressure to begin a career. But, after some time, his father laid down the law and told him that he had to start working. Chatting to some of his friends from his Cape Technikon class, he suggested that some of them design clothing and that they put items into a store that he would establish on Greenmarket Square. This was a desperate measure to get his father off his back, and to pretend to his father that he had a plan for a business.

Paul struggled to find suitable premises and, since he had no background in business, prospective landlords were reluctant to offer him shop space. Consequently, the first Young Designers Emporium was set up in premises not ideal for a retail outlet: a space down a flight of stairs with no window at ground level. Despite this, the business became very successful – much to Paul's surprise!

Subsequently, Paul opened more branches of YDE, using funds from within the business to set up the new stores. The business was eventually bought out by the Truworths Group.

Since then, Paul has been involved in a number of other entrepreneurial endeavours, some successful and others less so.

Paul shared some business insights with the audience. Interestingly, he does not believe that all people have the



potential to become successful entrepreneurs. He believes that a particular personality type is more suited to becoming a successful entrepreneur. "This is something one is born with," Paul believes.

He also advises budding entrepreneurs to stop a project if they're not thoroughly enjoying what they are doing. "If you're not enjoying it, it's not going to work," he cautions.

A further bit of advice is about the importance of location for a business that does not have an online presence only. It's something Paul knows a great deal about: his first venture was in a good location (near Greenmarket Square in Cape Town) but it was not located at street level, which was a disadvantage.



ORT Jet empowers entrepreneurs through mentorship, training, networking and interactive business talks to build stronger South African enterprises. Using a proven approach, ORT Jet supports founders on their journey to growth and success. Visit ortjetcapetown.org.za

In closing, Paul mentioned that his difficult relationship with his father – largely the product of his father's concern about Paul's earlier years when he did not seem to be looking to build a career – has been resolved. "I'm thrilled that my dad has been able to see the successes I've achieved," he comments. ●



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COMMUNITY NEWS



HERZLIA FASHION SHOW BREAKS RECORDS!

Herzlia High School hosted its annual Fashion Show from 19 Oct – 21 Oct 2025. Hours and hours of preparation and practices paid off with the most spectacular event. Grade 10s and 11s showcased 17 brands with aplomb.

For the first time, the matric Class of 2026 walked the catwalk with the Class of 2036 – the delightful grade 1s from Highlands Primary and Weizmann Primary strutting with confidence and huge smiles.

Some of the newcomer brands showcased this year include *Woolworths*, *The Fix*, *KlùK CGDT* and *Drifters*. Along with long-time loyal Herzlia supporting brands *Kaap Diem*, *Miss Port*, *SKA* and *Annie's Wardrobe*.

This was Herzlia's biggest fashion show yet: 135 children, three shows, over 1 000 audience members, 17 clothing brands and 240 outfits.

Kol Hakavod Herzlia! ●

FOOTPRINTS

A Selection of Films on the Holocaust – 25, 26 & 27 November 2025

The Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre is proud to present *Footprints*, a curated selection of films exploring the Holocaust, with special attention to the history and experiences of Polish Jews. This programme accompanies the exhibition *Sweet Home Sweet. A Story of Survival, Memory*, presented at the CTHGC, with Footprints screenings taking place on the 25, 26 and 27 November 2025. The programme will be led by our special guest *Ada Kopec-Pawlikowska* from the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, Poland.



TREASURE | 25 NOVEMBER, 6PM

Dir. Julia von Heinz, Germany, France, Poland, USA, 2024, 112'
Treasure follows a father-daughter road trip through post-socialist Poland, exploring family, identity, and the past. Ruth (Lena Dunham) accompanies her father, Holocaust survivor Edek (Stephen Fry), as he returns to the places tied to his most painful memories, including Auschwitz-Birkenau. Blending humour, emotion, and historical reflection, the film, based on Lily Brett's autobiographical novel, celebrates the power of reconnecting with one's roots.



WHERE ARE YOU GOING | 26 NOVEMBER, 6PM

Dir. Jasmine Kainy, Israel, 2023, 71'
Halina Birenbaum, a Holocaust survivor and acclaimed author, embarks on her annual journey to Poland, this time accompanied by her son, Yakov Gilad. Through this journey, Yakov comes to understand the lifelong trauma haunting his mother and discovers new insights into Jewish-Polish relations and the treatment of survivors. Halina's vivid recollections span her experiences in the Warsaw Ghetto, Majdanek, Auschwitz, and Ravensbrück, and reflect a life of resilience and enduring love for Poland.



RENIA SPIEGEL'S DIARY | 26 NOVEMBER, 7:30PM

Dir. Milosz Kozioł, Tomasz Glodek, Poland, 2024, 30'
The diary of Renia Spiegel (1924–1942), written in Przemyśl from January 1939 to July 1942, offers an extraordinary testimony of the last years of this young, talented woman. Preserved and later published through the efforts of her family, Renia's diary has inspired a series of short films that combine animation and live-action to present her story to a wider audience. Each episode highlights historical context alongside universal themes such as empathy, human rights, and tolerance.



BEDROCK | 27 NOVEMBER, 6PM

Dir. Kinga Michalska, Canada, 2025, 102'
Bedrock is a psychological journey across today's Poland that weaves together stories of Poles living on Holocaust sites. Through a series of intimate encounters, this poetic film looks at the unsettling contradictions people learn to live with.

Join us for this moving cinematic journey alongside the exhibition *Sweet Home Sweet. A Story of Survival, Memory, and Returns*.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Highlighting four extraordinary women

In October, the Union of Jewish Women (UJW) hosted its biennial Women of Courage fundraising event – a morning that brought together four extraordinary women whose courage, resilience, and honesty moved the audience deeply.

The speakers – Thobeka Yose, Teresa Mordoh, Abigail Smith, and Professor Carol-Ann Benn – each shared personal journeys marked by pain, perseverance, and hope. Their stories reminded us of the power of women's voices to inspire change and healing.

child or family faces such tragedy alone.

Abigail Smith, a survivor of human trafficking and kidnapping, recounted her harrowing experiences as both a child and young adult. Her strength and determination to overcome years of trauma have driven her to support others who face similar abuse and exploitation, turning her survival into a mission of advocacy and empowerment.

Thobeka Yose, author of *In Silence My Heart Speaks*, shared her moving story of trauma, love, loss and, ultimately, forgiveness. She spoke candidly about her painful childhood, the early loss of her husband, and the challenges of single parenting while supporting her child through a journey of identity and self-discovery.

Teresa Mordoh told the heart-wrenching story of her son's suicide following abuse by a teacher at a very young age. From unimaginable loss, she channelled her pain into purpose, founding STOPS, an organisation dedicated to child protection and creating safer schools. Through education, advocacy, and 24/7 live support services, STOPS works to ensure that no

Finally, Professor Carol-Ann Benn, a renowned surgeon and breast-disease specialist, spoke passionately about the right to accessible and dignified healthcare. She reminded us that every patient has the right to ask questions, seek a second opinion, and fully understand what is happening within their own body.

The UJW's Women of Courage event continues to be a space for truth-telling, healing, and hope – celebrating women who not only survive adversity but transform it into strength for themselves and others. ●

Pictured from top: Thobeka Yose, Teresa Mordoh, Abigail Smith, and Professor Carol-Ann Benn



Care Services

CARING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Care Services is the umbrella body of our Jewish community welfare organisations: **Astra, Cape Jewish Seniors Association, Glendale, Highlands House, Jewish Community Services, Nechama and Oranjia.**

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Continued from page 26 – 'The Spiegel family's journey from Germany to safety'



Herbert Spiegel, Margarete Spiegel and grandchildren Mandy, Andrew and Timothy, 1954 Johannesburg

aged 78, managed to escape Germany and join them in Lourenço Marques before travelling by cargo boat to the USA, where she went to live with her son Edgar, (Margarethe's brother), in Chicago.

Klaus, aged 19, suffered deeply after arriving in Mozambique. He was legally prevented from finding meaningful employment, also unable to join his brothers in South Africa due to the Aliens Act; he battled depression and despair. Eventually, in 1944, he managed to

leave for the British Mandate of Palestine.

Herbert and Margarethe were finally able to join their son Richard in Johannesburg in 1946. Sponsored by him, they became residents of South Africa, where they spent their remaining years surrounded by family and gained stability, which they had lost in Europe.

The wider Spiegel and Frank families were not all as fortunate. Two of Margarethe's siblings (on the Frank side) managed to travel to Chicago in the USA. Mandy is still searching for answers about the third Frank sibling and his family, who did not leave Germany.

One of Richard's cousins on the Spiegel side went to the British Mandate of Palestine; one sister also reached the USA; and one of Herbert's older brothers went to Argentina. Relatives who remained in Germany probably did not survive the Holocaust. Richard did not easily talk about his past, which was not uncommon for his generation and their traumatic experiences growing up in Nazi Germany.

Of Herbert's many siblings, little is known about their fate and that of their children and possible grandchildren. Their names represent the Spiegel family probably extinguished by Nazi brutality. There is still some investigation to be undertaken to find the truth. ●

BOOKS

WORLD POLIO DAY

Highlighting the importance of the vaccine against polio, *The Cape Jewish Chronicle* and PJ Library collaborated on a book giveaway for children. Cali Hersch, aged 4, received a copy of *The Polio Pioneer: Dr. Jonas Salk and the Polio Vaccine*, after her mom, Alexis Hersch, entered the competition for the book. ●



ARTS & CULTURE

ADDICTED TO ART

Capetonian Bridget Heneck is passionate about many things – travel and art in particular.

And her experience of both these has resulted in the creation of a unique style and technique that she employs in her art. She applies her multi-disciplinary background to bring distinctive, innovative elements into her work. As she says, “Art is my sanity. I’m addicted, but it’s a healthy addiction!”

Born in Cape Town, Bridget grew up in Sea Point. She earned a BA in Fine Art, majoring in Jewellery Design, at Stellenbosch University. She went on to become a lecturer at the Ruth Prowse Art School in Cape Town and taught jewellery-making in the United States at the New Jersey School for Visual Arts. Her numerous awards for jewellery design include recognition from The American Gold Council and De Beers.

The Heneck family moved to the United States, where they lived for 20 years, before returning to Cape Town in 2006. There, Bridget focused on decorative and mural painting and, on her return to Cape Town, she developed a passion for working on the pottery wheel, training with renowned ceramicist Anthony Shapiro. Currently working from her own studio in Constantia and Kommetjie, she creatively integrates jewellery designs with ceramics to produce one-of-a-kind pieces.

Bridget’s expansive work in various media has been exhibited at art shows and galleries in South Africa and abroad. Her pottery and



Taking The Plunge (detail)

paintings grace homes and galleries around the world.

Her work reflects a strong focus on the natural world. “I am inspired by Africa’s light, vast open expanses, and abundance of



Painting in the Okavango Delta

biodiverse plants and animals,” she explains. This is reflected in her precise representation in botanical drawings, wildlife, and cold wax and oil paintings, and the decorative elements that enhance her ceramic pieces. A distinctive feature of her technique more recently is her experimentation with the mixing of cold wax and oil paints. “The wax creates depth and texture, and speeds up the drying time. I texture the surface with many different things. Scratching into it. Painting and drawing over it with oil pastels,” she comments.

According to Bridget, “My purpose is to inspire others to become more intensely aware of the natural world around them. Through my work, I hope to open people’s eyes and sweep them up into the beauty and fragility of our endangered species while bringing a sense of peace into their lives.”

Having participated in numerous group exhibitions over the past few years, the Cape Gallery will now host her first solo exhibition. Entitled ‘Sensation’, this exhibition, focusing on her life experiences, opens on 2 November at 11am and runs until 21 November. Readers of the Cape Jewish Chronicle are encouraged to attend the opening. ●

November 2025 Community Events

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION	EVENT	DATE	FOR MORE INFO
Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre	Film: Letters from Brno	Tuesday 4 November 18h00	RSVP: admin@holocaust.org.za
Cape Jewish Chronicle	Julian Resnick Talk: Making Aliyah	Tuesday 11 November 18h30	Register here
Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre	Premiere: I Never Said Goodbye – Holocaust Survivor Helene Joffe	Wednesday 12 November 18h00	RSVP: admin@holocaust.org.za
Union of Jewish Women	Housekeepers Appreciation Tea	Thursday 13 November	RSVP: projects@ujwcape.co.za
Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre	Film: Anna Frank	Tuesday 18 November 18h00	RSVP: admin@holocaust.org.za
Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre	Film Festival	Tuesday – Thursday 25/26/27 November	RSVP: admin@holocaust.org.za
ORT SA Cape Jet	Jet Business Breakfast Club - Speed Networking	Wednesday 26 November 12h00-14h00	RSVP: jet@ortsacape.org.za

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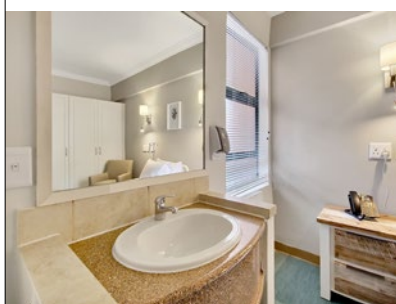
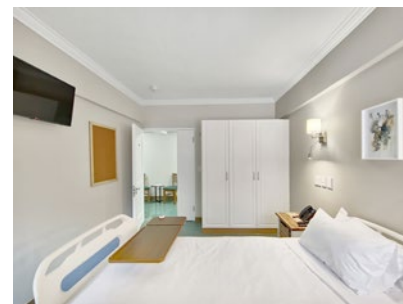
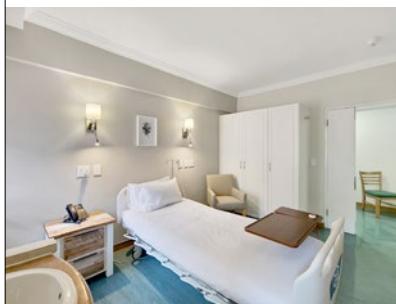
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