

**russelkaplan** rka  
auctioneers



Mont Blanc Freidrich II  
The Great Fountain pen  
**SOLD R36,000**



Wopko Jensma, Beast with Six Arms  
**SOLD R50,000**



Victorian ebonised, amboyna and  
glit-metal mounted Credenza  
**SOLD R42,000**

Rosenthal Versace  
Medusa blau vase  
**SOLD R11,000**



**Art, antiques, objets d'art,  
furniture, and jewellery  
wanted for forthcoming auctions**

For more information 011 789 7422 • [rka@global.co.za](mailto:rka@global.co.za) • [www.rkauctioneers.co.za](http://www.rkauctioneers.co.za)  
Bram Fischer Centre, Lower Ground, 95 Bram Fischer Drive Cnr George Street, Ferndale, 2194

# south african Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

■ Volume 25 – Number 22 ■ 24 June 2021 ■ 14 Tamuz 5781

[www.sajr.co.za](http://www.sajr.co.za)

## Afrika Tikkun receives multi-million-dollar grant from Amazon-ex

MIRAH LANGER

**A**frika Tikkun, has been given a multi-million-dollar boost by MacKenzie Scott, the ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. The South African social upliftment organisation is one of only three Jewish-founded groups selected worldwide by the philanthropist to help.

"This fantastic windfall will enable us to achieve a lot more," Afrika Tikkun's group chief executive, Marc Lubner, told the *SA Jewish Report*. "We feel incredibly gifted, and we're hoping that with this money, we'll be able to have an impact on a greater number of community-based organisations. We hope to motivate other community-based organisations to follow similar sorts of programmes to our cradle-to-career model."

Founded in 1994 by the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris and philanthropist and businessman Dr Bertie Lubner, Afrika Tikkun originally aimed to help repair some of the damage done by the apartheid regime.

Today, it uplifts young people living in underprivileged circumstances through a holistic model that attends to nutritional, health, and social needs, as well as personal, academic, and practical skills training. It tracks their well-being as they grow up, providing everything from early childhood development to work-readiness programmes.

In a post on the website *Medium*, in which Scott announced her donations, including to Afrika Tikkun, she expressed the hope that the public's attention would shift from her and her wealth towards the work recipients are doing. "People struggling against inequities deserve centre stage in stories about change they are creating," she said.

Lubner said that Scott's team first became aware of Afrika Tikkun after he participated in research being conducted by Bridgespan, a non-profit consulting firm, about the impact of foreign donors on African charities. "The team leader from Bridgespan liked our model,



A happy recipient of Afrika Tikkun's love at its Diepsloot centre

and said that he wanted to introduce me to a team of individuals who represented a philanthropist, although he didn't give me any names."

A few months ago, Lubner then began discussions with the team about what the organisation would be able to achieve if its budget was boosted significantly. "They bought into our vision that we could have a material impact on a lot more youth. We have been working for a number of years to scale up the Tikkun model to other township communities."

Lubner said Afrika Tikkun had also recently signed an agreement with Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu for collaborative engagement. The non-profit hopes to reach more than one million young people with its programmes in the next five years, with this goal now in reach thanks to Scott's injection of capital and confidence.

Scott, aged 51, was born in San Francisco and is a Princeton graduate, having studied fiction under writer

Toni Morrison. The literary icon once described Scott as "one of the best students I've ever had in my creative-writing classes".

Scott went on to write two novels, one which received an American Book Award. She was with Bezos for 25 years during which Amazon was started in their garage as an online bookstore. She was involved in the company's founding. When she and Bezos divorced in 2019, she received 4% of Amazon shares as part of her \$38 billion (R542.5 billion) settlement.

Shortly after her divorce, Scott signed the Giving Pledge, a project spearheaded by Warren Buffett and Bill and Melinda Gates, in which some of the world's wealthiest people promise to give back the majority of their riches for the betterment of society. In her original Giving Pledge letter, Scott, declared that her "approach to philanthropy will continue to be thoughtful. It will take time and effort and care. But I won't wait. And I will keep at it until the safe is empty."

Recently, it emerged that Scott had remarried Dan Jewett, a science teacher who at one point worked at the same school attended by her and Bezos's four children.

While Jewett has now joined Scott in signing the Giving Pledge, Bezos – ranked by Forbes as the richest man in the world – hasn't. In their latest disbursements, in which Afrika Tikkun was included, Scott and Jewett gave away about \$2.7 billion (38.5 billion) to 286 organisations. In total, Scott and Jewett have given away about \$8.6 billion (R122.8 billion) to 786 recipients thus far.

In the latest round of giving, the other South African organisations alongside Afrika Tikkun which were recipients included mothers2mothers, the Triangle Project, Ubuntu Pathways, and the African Leadership Group, which hosts an academy in Johannesburg. In terms of Jewish connections, Afrika Tikkun, was one of three Jewish-founded non-profits

gifted, with the other two based in America. The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) helps and advocates for refugees and asylum seekers from around the world, while Repair the World mobilises Jewish people to promote social justice and offer acts of service towards the betterment of society as a whole.

There are no known Jewish connections to Scott or Jewett, who haven't made any religious affiliations public. Lubner said he asked if there was any Jewish link in the decision to grant them the award, but no specific feedback was given on this factor.

In the *Medium* post about her latest donation, Scott does mention that one of her focus areas is organisations "bridging divides through interfaith support and collaboration".

When informed about their selection, Lubner was told that the team liked the fact that the

Continued on page 2>>

**SHULS MAY BE CLOSED AGAIN  
BUT OUR SANDRINGHAM GARDENS**

*miracle minyan*

**IS ALWAYS OPEN**

**We are honoured to assist you with Kaddish in memory of your loved ones, baby namings, and prayers for speedy recoveries.**

**Visit [www.jhbchev.co.za](http://www.jhbchev.co.za)**



**ChevrahKadisha**



## Appliance Repairs on Site

Fridges, Dishwashers,  
Washing Machines, Stoves  
Tumble Dryers & more

Call Jason  
082 401 8239 / 076 210 6532

FREE QUOTATIONS

## GARAGE WANTED TO RENT

Lock up garage/s wanted  
to rent to store classic  
car/s in the Illovo,  
Inanda or Atholl area.

Please tel Murray on  
082 777 7552

**WE ARE  
HIRING**

**ORT SA** **ORT Jet**

**Junior Marketing Manager**

to handle the social media, marketing and observation aspects of ORT SA and ORT Jet.

- Website development/management
- Develop and management of social media strategies/campaigns
- Digital Marketing analytics
- Creating articles and publishing material for media

**SKILLS REQUIRED:**

- Relevant Degree/Diploma/Experience minimum of 5 years
- Experience in creating social media and marketing campaigns
- Creativity and good communication skills – very high level of writing skill required
- Presentation skills
- Working Knowledge of WordPress, and social media platforms such as Twitter, LinkedIn, FB, Instagram etc essential

Location: Johannesburg

Please email: [recruitment@ort.co.za](mailto:recruitment@ort.co.za) or [info@ort.co.za](mailto:info@ort.co.za) for more information & application form.

## Handyman Stan

We do all types of handyman work  
Big or small we do it all

We can offer you tiling, plumbing, carpentry, kitchen and bathroom renovations. Electrical, alarms, CCTV cameras, burglar proofing, electric fences, household maintenance & painting.

Small renovations, driveway cleaning, refuse removal, pool pumps, dry walling, automated gates and doors, palisade fencing, security gates and bars.

Contact: 082 772 6855  
[Thebuildingboys@gmail.com](mailto:Thebuildingboys@gmail.com)

## FRANK SOLOMON HEARING CENTRE

Have a love at first sound experience.

**Phonak Audéo™ Marvel**  
A new all-in-one solution that improves your hearing in everyday life and even in the noisiest environments.

- Experience exceptional sound performance
- Connect seamlessly to Bluetooth® devices
- Rechargeable so you'll always stay connected
- Remote Support for the ultimate in convenience

- Affordable for Pensioners
  - 2-Year Warranty
  - No Follow-Up Charges
  - Latest Technology
  - Small and Discreet
  - Extensive Wireless Communication Portfolio Available
  - Supplements for Tinnitus
- Treatment approved by the American ENT Association

We are COVID-19 compliant



**AFFORDABLE RANGE  
FOR PENSIONERS**

**CONTACT US TODAY:**  
**(011) 849-6256**  
**082 953 4628**

**Fairmount  
6 George Ave,  
Sandringham**

Additional branches in  
Benoni and Germiston

## VEHICLES WANTED



Any make, any model, any condition  
Accident damaged vehicles and non-runners also wanted

**Arnold Orkin 082 823 7826**  
AUTO AFRICA

## 2 SA JEWISH REPORT

# Be your own president, and lockdown your life to level 5

OPINION

DR DANIEL ISRAEL



If you struggled to imagine what was going on in Wuhan in March 2020 as I did at the time, June Gauteng 2021 is your opportunity to vicariously relive that situation. An unexplored virus. Disproportionate loss and grief. Draconian – and now not so draconian – measures of hospital isolation of the seriously ill and those home bound with infection.

The 16 months that have passed since the Wuhan fiasco, the initial knee-jerk lockdown, and the economic devastation has disempowered our authorities from implementing harsh enough measures at this sensitive time in Gauteng.

Let me share a few insights as to how rampant COVID-19 is in Gauteng at the moment. My own family medicine practice has diagnosed an excess of 20 cases a day this past week. Each patient requires a careful explanation about appropriate medication, warning signs of deterioration and, most importantly, contact tracing in a desperate attempt to curtail further spread.

Every day, our doctors admit at least one or two patients who simply aren't coping at home. However, admission is no longer a golden bullet. Patients are often admitted via casualty, where they wait five or six hours for the availability of a normal bed. The fortunate patients who receive direct admission from home to a ward are the select few who manage to access limited hospital resources. However, being one

in a hundred patients admitted with COVID-19 at a hospital like Netcare Linksfield Hospital is far

from ideal. Provincial statistics are showing that 20% to 25% of admitted patients require critical-care beds. These beds are full.

Surely these problems affect only "other" people? I will let you decide. Last week, I admitted a 37-year-old man who isn't overweight and has no comorbidities. He has now spent a week in a top facility, his oxygenation progressing from nasal oxygen, to a high-flow system, to non-invasive CPAP (constant positive airway pressure), to a full ventilator. His prognosis is guarded. Like yours, my Facebook feed is flooded with people sharing their pain about loved ones succumbing to this virus at an untimely stage in their lives.

**We need to be smarter than our government, and pull in the reigns over this surge, which is projected to peak in two to three weeks.**

I'm not a pessimist, and I do see various solutions. However, in the eye of a storm, we don't go sunbathing. We have to be our own president and lock down our social lives to level 5.

I'm not concerned about risk and exposure in parks, zoos, or beaches. I'm not significantly concerned about the risk from disciplined visits to controlled institutions, with formal interactions, such as bank appointments, doctor appointments, cautious visits to quiet shops, and the like. At these monitored times, masks are worn, hands are cleaned, and distances

are kept.

I'm deeply concerned about all of us who exercise the nth degree of caution in the examples above and then have our siblings over for a Sunday afternoon lunch because "they're definitely also being as safe as we are". This is how the vast majority of COVID-19 patients in my practice have become infected.

I'm the first proponent of relaxing restrictions wherever possible. We are all discouraged by this lockdown existence that has owned us for longer than we can clearly remember. My commitment is to encourage people to live normally as much as possible, but at the appropriate times. However, now isn't that time. We need to be smarter than our government, and pull in the reigns over this surge, which is projected to peak in two to three weeks. We certainly understand that in the longer term, children need human interaction and businesses need to operate. But, more importantly, patients requiring oxygen need supplies now.

President Cyril Ramaphosa, please notch up our province similarly, just for a short time, and urgently open our vaccine rollout to younger, healthier individuals who are also at risk. Empty vaccine halls don't save lives. Big business in South Africa is ready to be given the license to procure vaccines in parallel.

Finally, let me remind you that waves end, vaccines work, and COVID-19 will certainly pass. Keep your head up. Be your own president.

• Dr Daniel Israel is a family practitioner in Johannesburg.

## Afrika Tikkun receives multi-million-dollar grant from Amazon-ex

>>Continued from page 1

organisation had originally been founded by his father and the late chief rabbi. "They liked that there was long-term continuity from a management point of view. They also liked our values and that we had the ability to expand to a broader reach across communities."

The donation will be used to extend Afrika Tikkun's programmes to a number of new sites across the country, including into KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. It will also be used to collate digital resources and roll out teacher training for these platforms. An inclusion programme for handicapped children will be expanded, as will the organisation's agricultural entrepreneurship project.

Scott's donations have been noted for their extensive range. She gives to small grassroots initiatives and large establishments. The organisations selected offer a diversity of purpose, extending from charities and educational bodies, to dance, theatre, and music centres, museums, as well as numerous rights and advocacy groups. Also striking has been the autonomy with which the grants are given, without requiring extensive details of their usage ahead.

Indeed, Lubner said that one of the prerequisites is that it's a one-time grant without further direct contact with her unless she so wishes.

In a previous post on *Medium*, Scott explained her reasoning, saying,

"Since we believe that teams with experience on the front lines of challenges will know best how to put the money to good use, we encourage them to spend it however they choose. It empowers receivers by making them feel valued and by unlocking their best solutions. Generosity is generative. Sharing makes more."

### Shabbat times this week

Starts	Ends	
17:08	18:00	Johannesburg
17:28	18:23	Cape Town
16:48	17:41	Durban
17:08	18:02	Bloemfontein
16:59	17:55	Port Elizabeth
16:52	17:47	East London

### Torah Thought

## Use your eyes to see good

There was once a noted Torah scholar who prided himself in his acute ability to correct other people's mistakes. He had an eagle-eye for errors, and was always quick to point them out. When he passed away, the heavenly court asked him what he had excelled at during his lifetime. The gentleman proudly replied that he had been quite a scholar.

"In that case," the welcoming angel decided, "You should give us all a *shiur* so that we can appreciate your abilities."

"I have a better idea," the scholar retorted.

"Please tell me, who would you consider the brightest individual in heaven?"

"That would be G-d Himself," the angel responded.

"In that case," our misguided intellectual suggested, "let's ask G-d to give a *shiur*, and I will point out whatever He gets wrong!"

As a child, the Lubavitcher Rebbe once asked his father why G-d gave us each two eyes. His father explained that the right or benevolent eye is for looking at other people; the left, or critical eye is for looking at

ourselves.

Chabadniks have been well-trained by our Rebbe to look for the positive in every person. Someone once challenged the Rebbe over the Talmud's assertion that even a sinful Jew is full of good deeds. Surely, if someone is a sinner, they have no *mitzvos*. The Rebbe gently suggested that the question should be the other way around, "If every Jew is described as 'full of good deeds', how dare we call any Jew a sinner?"

Balaam, the antisemitic prophet of this week's Torah portion, took the opposite view. He dedicated his life to finding and highlighting the negative. He was an expert at exposing people's flaws and weaknesses. He prided himself that he could detect that one daily nanosecond when G-d could become angry.

Balaam, we are taught, was blind in one eye. He was incapable of seeing goodness, and could only detect rot. He only had the left, critical eye. He was the polar opposite of Abraham, who tried to find goodness in the scoundrels of Sodom.

But, even Balaam turned at the end.

When he observed the Jewish encampment in the desert, it changed his perspective. He saw how the tent formations were designed so that no family could see into its neighbour's tent. The Jewish camp was laid out to prevent people from seeing each other's dirty laundry.

This had such a profound effect on Balaam, he offered one of the most powerful blessings ever given to the Jewish people. His penetrating words are now part of our daily prayers.

Modern media loves to smear anyone, especially Israel. Society plays judge and jury, writing people off even before the facts emerge. Even in our own communities, unsubstantiated rumours snowball from school parking lot gossip to the Shabbos table's main course.

G-d gave us two eyes. Unlike Balaam, we can and should seek the good in everyone. After all, G-d looks for the positive in those who find good in others.

**Rabbi Ari Shishler,  
Chabad of Strathavon  
Jewish Life Centre**



south african  
**Jewish Report**  
The source of quality content, news and insights

Editor Peta Krost Maunders – [editor@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:editor@sajewishreport.co.za) • Sub-editor Julie Leibowitz  
Journalists Nicola Miltz • Tali Feinberg • Mirah Langer • Photographer Ilan Ossendryver  
Editorial co-ordinator Martine Bass – [editorial@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:editorial@sajewishreport.co.za)

Proofreader Kim Hatchuel Advertising Britt Landsman: 082 292 9520 – [britt@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:britt@sajewishreport.co.za) • New business development manager

Laura Kaufman [laura@sajewishreport.co.za](mailto:laura@sajewishreport.co.za) • Design and layout Bryan Maron/Design Bandits – [bryan@designbandits.co.za](mailto:bryan@designbandits.co.za) • Distribution Sandy Furman

Subscriptions Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860 525 200 • Board of Directors Howard Sackstein (Chairperson), Dina Diamond, Herschel Jawitz, Shaun Matisonn, Benji Porter. • Advertisements and editorial copy do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff and board of directors. Tel: 011 430 1980.

abc  
Audit Bureau of Circulations  
of South Africa  
transparency you can see



# Netcare chief calls for stricter lockdown measures in Gauteng

NICOLA MILTZ

“It’s horrific out there,” said Dr Richard Friedland, the chief executive officer of Netcare, the country’s largest private hospital group, as rising COVID-19 infections continue to have Gauteng in a chokehold.

Friedland has called for urgent stricter lockdown measures in the province.

Earlier this week, he called for Gauteng to be placed under Level 5 lockdown. At the time of going to press on Wednesday, he said it was “critical” for people to self-regulate.

“I was hoping for a Level 5 lockdown in Gauteng. In its absence, I’m calling for much stricter and more strenuous lockdown measures. Schools should be closed, people should avoid all gatherings, and do online shopping where possible,” he told the *SA Jewish Report*.

“The bottom line is, it’s horrific out there. We are seeing a massive surge and significant volumes, which are threatening hospitals across the province.

“Some would argue it’s too late for harsher lockdown measures, and that the horse has already bolted. I’m saying there’s still time to prevent people from requiring hospitalisation,” he said.

Understanding the severe implications that lockdown measures have on the economy, he said, “Every soul, every life is precious, we have to do whatever we can to prevent further loss of life.”

According to forecasts, the Western Cape could face the same Gauteng wave in three to four weeks.

The Chevrah Kadisha is experiencing a significant increase in the number of deaths in the community.

Top health professionals have called for much stricter lockdown measures, while others have called for the vaccine rollout to pick up speed dramatically. Deputy Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla said this week that registration for those 50 and older will open up on the Electronic Vaccination Data System in the coming days.

This is a vast unfolding tragedy as endless stories of hope and despair engulf the province during the devastating third wave.

Saul Tomson, the chief executive of the Chevrah Kadisha, said it was still premature to compare the numbers of deaths per wave because the province was still in the midst of the wave.

“We are extremely concerned given the high death rate, and the effects we are seeing on the community,” Tomson said. “It is too early to make statistical deductions on the third wave, but once again we have multiple teams working around the clock.”

He said the cemetery staff are working with incredible commitment and sensitivity. “Despite the intense pressure we need to ensure we continue to deal with every situation with kindness, compassion and professionalism.”

Professor Lucille Blumberg of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases has called for the vaccine rollout to move “much faster”.

“The vaccination sites are working efficiently, we have the capacity, we just need to move them out much quicker,” she said,

“Vaccines save lives, livelihoods, and will protect our health system,” she urged this week.

The healthcare system is fast becoming overwhelmed, and hospitals are struggling to cope as critical drugs and oxygen supplies are threatened with diminishing supply, say several doctors.

“What stands out for me is the sheer numbers of those affected and the spread in our community. We are drowning,” said Uriel



Dr Carron Zinman examining a patient, who couldn’t be taken off oxygen, in the back of an ambulance

Rosen, the operations manager and head of the Wellness Programme at Hatzolah.

At the time of going to press, the Hatzolah Wellness Programme had registered 329 new cases so far this week. There are 837 active cases, and 76 patients are on home oxygen.

The statistics show that 20% of active cases involve people under 20 years old; 22.5% of cases involve those between the ages of 20

to 40; 29% of cases involve those between the ages of 40 to 60; and 28% of cases involve those 60 years and older.

“We had 100 new cases on Tuesday alone,” said Hatzolah paramedic Yudi Singer.

He said the biggest frustration was trying to get severely ill patients admitted to hospital.

“There is a shortage of beds, and there is just so much we can do. It’s so hard when we have tried everything and we know the

patient urgently requires hospitalisation and specialised care,” he said.

“These are very trying and challenging times. It’s tough on our teams, they are seeing death and seeing the health system taking strain. It’s heartbreaking for paramedics to see their patient’s name on the Chevrah Kadisha list after they have formed a special relationship with them and their family,” he said.

The Hatzolah team somehow makes sure each patient requiring hospitalisation is admitted, said Rosen. “Even if it means paramedics have to wait up to four hours with a patient in an ambulance outside the hospital.

“We’re in crisis mode, the hospitals are full, and patients are really sick.

We are tired, but we are pushing through. Every volunteer, responder, and dispatcher is 100% committed to saving lives and making a difference. It’s all hands on deck.”

He said the virus was spreading far quicker within the family, with entire families affected.

Worryingly, he said some patients continued to deteriorate towards the end of

their isolation period. “This isn’t evidence based, but we are seeing patients deteriorate later, sometimes from day 10.

“It’s comforting to know we are actively saving lives. We are picking things up early, which can and does significantly change an outcome,” he said.

Dr Carron Zinman of Netcare Linksfield Hospital said at the weekend she was literally examining patients who couldn’t be taken off oxygen in the back of ambulances.

“All beds at one stage were occupied in casualty. On Sunday alone, my partner and I saw 131 patients. Ambulances were parked outside with very sick patients needing oxygen.

“On Tuesday morning, we received 67 patients, 60 of whom had COVID-19. By 10:00, six of them had been intubated. I never dreamt of anything like this. In every wave I think we’ve seen the worst, then it surprises me,” she said.

“The moments that stand out for me is when a patient is about to be intubated. Seeing them make what could be their last phone call to their loved one is gut wrenching.”

There are multiple stories of pain and suffering. One patient was seen talking to his undertaker making his own funeral arrangements because he didn’t want to burden his family following his death.

One woman contracted COVID-19 during her pregnancy, and managed to deliver her baby successfully by C-section. “She was doing well, and then she arrested and later died. They spent 45 minutes trying to resuscitate her. It’s been 16 months fighting for people’s lives. For some nurses, this was the last straw,” she said.

Equally there’s jubilation when a very sick patient is successfully resuscitated and later discharged, Zinman said. Patients who have been vaccinated are also recovering faster. “We celebrate the victories,” she said.

Blumberg recognised the extraordinary service and support for the community by general practitioners, physicians, and especially Hatzolah, which she said had “established a remarkable programme”.

JAWITZ

PROPERTIES

INVEST IN PROPERTY IN ISRAEL  
FROM R5 MILLION  
Contact Herschel Jawitz in strict confidence  
082 571 1829 | [herschel@jawitz.co.za](mailto:herschel@jawitz.co.za)

REAL LIFE

Real Estate.

FOR SALE

**GLENHAZEL | R 2 299 000**  
Set in a quiet cul de sac on the Glenhazel border stands this pristine “Ranch style” family home. Comprising of 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms (mes), 4 reception rooms leading on to super covered patio & “Garden of Eden” with gorgeous pool setting. Large well fitted eat-in kitchen. Pesach kitchen. Outside workshop/ work from home/gym room or flatlet potential with own entrance. Borehole & irrigation system. Double staff accommodation & bathroom. Excellent security. Double lock-up garage, off street parking.  
🏠 4 🚗 3 Web Ref: RL77928  
Joel Harris 082 926 0287  
Lauren Shalpid 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

**GLENHAZEL | R 2 495 000**  
4 Bedroom house set in gated secure road. A north facing home offering 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (mes), spacious lounge, dining room and huge separate playroom and built-in bar. The patio leads onto pretty garden and beautiful pool setting. Staff accommodation. Triple car port. Fantastic off street parking. Secure. Genuine seller wants offers.  
🏠 4 🚗 2 Web Ref: RL77968  
Joel Harris 082 926 0287  
Lauren Shalpid 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

**WAVERLEY | R 3 200 000**  
A peaceful, private, perfect choice! Beautifully maintained simplex featuring open plan dining/lounge, family/TV lounge, galley-style kitchen, master suite, 2 additional beds plus baths, staff/4th bed & bath, direct access double garage & good security.  
🏠 3 🚗 3 Web Ref: RL77966  
Chrissie Hammer: 082 568 0440

NEW RELEASE

**MORNINGSIDE | R 2 700 000**  
Your Castle In The Sky! Positioned In The Ultimate Location- Situated in the heart of Sandton's Financial & Business Hub yet offering a great lifestyle opportunity. Luxurious 1 bed, 1 1/2 Bath (main en suite) multi -purpose Designer Apartment, replete with Open Plan lounge, dining room, kitchenette & guest loo. This apartment ticks all the boxes! Sandton Skye offers 1 underground parking, excellent security, exclusive restaurant, gym, rim flow pool and executive conference rooms with full wifi throughout. Why Rent When You Can Own? It's Your Move! Taking Offers!  
🏠 1 🚗 1.5 Web Ref: RL78060  
Sandra Luntz: 083 679 1247



# Branded Digital multifocal lenses

\*until 30 June 2021



R1499

a pair of lenses

T: 011 440 9001 • 063 915 0722  
eyecare@theopticalstudio.co.za  
Midways Mall • 280 Corlett Drive

## 4 SA JEWISH REPORT

# Embattled rabbi takes Beth Din to court

TALI FEINBERG

**W**hen former East London Rabbi Chanoch Galperin was accused of forging the will of a community member, he took his case to the Beth Din. But as his various legal battles continue, he has now taken the Beth Din to court, asking that the High Court force it to adjudicate his case.

The East London Chevrah Kadisha (ELCK) has accused Rabbi Galperin of forging the will of East London community member, the late Israel Bayer, in order to benefit from it. The ELCK was originally a beneficiary, but this was changed to the rabbi in a will that is being disputed in

court. The rabbi has since admitted that his wife drew up the disputed will, which would automatically disqualify him from benefitting from it. Notwithstanding the disqualification, Galperin is asking for an order that the court declare him competent to receive the benefit in terms of the disputed will.

The rabbi was fired by the East London Hebrew Congregation (ELHC) after a disciplinary hearing, but he is also disputing this, which is the case he wants the Beth Din to adjudicate upon. However, the ELHC refuses to go before the Beth Din because of, inter alia, what it says were irregularities in proceedings when the Beth Din adjudicated the matter of the disputed will.

The Beth Din says it cannot force the ELHC to appear before it, and has therefore have given its permission (known as a *heter arkaos*) for the rabbi to take his case to the secular courts. However, the rabbi's latest application asks that the court order the Beth Din to determine that dispute.

In this application, Galperin alleges in an affidavit deposed to on his behalf by his attorney, Brin Brody, that, "The Beth Din's decision ... wasn't properly or correctly taken and was fatally flawed. The Beth Din hasn't exercised their powers reasonably ... the Beth Din's reasoning indicates a number of reviewable grounds, being: that the decision is demonstrably wrong, that they failed to apply their mind to the application for rulings, in particular the failure to apply their mind to those clauses ... which give the Beth Din exclusive jurisdiction over disputes."

It's further alleged on the rabbi's behalf by Brody that, "I respectfully submit that the Beth Din has given undue weight to irrelevant considerations, namely, the congregation's refusal to co-operate with the processes of the Beth Din, in ventilating and finalising the disputes. What I have said indicates further, in all probability, a refusal or neglect by the Beth Din to consider the applicant's [the rabbi's] applications for rulings."

Surprisingly, the Beth Din doesn't seem perturbed by this. "The Johannesburg Beth Din remains opposed to any legal disputes between Jewish persons and/or bodies being adjudicated upon in the secular courts," says Steven Weinberg, representing the Beth Din.

"The Beth Din cannot and will not adjudicate upon matters unless both parties have subjected themselves to the Beth Din's jurisdiction. In circumstances such as this, the Beth Din accordingly had no alternative but to grant Rabbi Galperin permission to pursue all of his claims against the ELCK in the secular courts," says Weinberg. "Rabbi Galperin has brought an application against the United Orthodox Synagogues and the Beth Din to review and set aside their refusal to determine the disputes without both parties being present. The Beth Din has indicated that it won't become involved in any of the court proceedings and will abide any decision which the court will make."

"The Beth Din's refusal to hear the dispute between Rabbi Galperin and the East London community wasn't a ruling," says Weinberg. "Rather, it was an indication that unless both parties submit to the Beth Din's jurisdiction, the Beth Din isn't able to entertain the dispute. If the High Court agrees with Rabbi Galperin, then the High Court will refuse to entertain the dispute and it will have to be referred back to the Beth Din. Seen in this light, the Beth Din cannot criticise Rabbi Galperin for bringing the application to the High Court."

But the advocate acting on behalf of the ELCK and ELHC, Stanley Pincus SC, says, "Rabbi

Galperin firstly refuses to accept the Beth Din's decision that it cannot determine the labour dispute. Secondly, he refuses to adhere to the *heter arkaos* issued by the Beth Din by failing to proceed in the secular courts to have the labour dispute determined.

"The rabbi, in wilful disrespect for the Beth Din's decision, has instead chosen to bring proceedings in the secular courts to review and set aside the Beth Din's ruling on the basis, inter alia, that they 'failed to apply their

mind to the matter,'" he says. "When the Beth Din says the rabbi is 'within his rights to turn to the secular courts', that's incorrect. He's not permitted to refuse to accept the Beth Din's decision. That constitutes a wilful disrespect and disobedience of the Beth Din." In fact, Pincus states that in terms of Jewish law, disobedience of a ruling of the Beth Din can result in *cherem* (excommunication).

When the Beth Din says that the ELHC refused to have the labour dispute determined before it, Pincus states that "there are situations where a person or entity may be excused from refusing to have a dispute determined before the Beth Din, such as where there is a perceived bias on the part of the Beth Din."

"The manner in which the Beth Din conducted the proceedings relating to the disputed will wasn't only disturbing to me, but demonstrated a bias in favour of Rabbi Galperin," he says.

"For example, they interviewed Rabbi Galperin and his wife after the hearing had taken place, in the absence of the ELCK. Not only did the Beth Din not disclose this to the ELCK, but they regarded these facts as vital evidence and incorporated them in the award handed down by them in favour of the rabbi [which is also being disputed in court]. The Beth Din further never disclosed to the ELCK that the rabbi's wife drew up the will. This is unacceptable, and clearly would justify a perceived bias on the Beth Din's part."

Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft of Small Jewish Communities Association (SJCA) has tried to mediate a resolution. He proposed a day of mediation between the two parties with their legal teams (each in separate rooms), and a commitment to come to an agreement or compromise by the end of the day.

"But before that, an agreement has to be signed that says that whatever comes out of the day, that's the final settlement," he says. "I proposed this in consultation with the Beth Din and the lawyers. The congregation agreed, but Rabbi Galperin refused. It looks like the East London Jewish community has died an unnatural death. We at the SJCA are standing by, at any given moment, to assist it to re-activate. It was a community of such great esteem, and for those that remain, they are entitled to have shul services, say Kaddish with a *minyan*, have *yom tov*, and enjoy communal activities."

A community member who asked not to be named says, "As long as the Galperins remain in the congregation house [after they were told to vacate it when they were dismissed], we cannot bring people to do services as we would have the additional expense of accommodating them. If we had our house back, we could easily accommodate a few people over *yom tovim* or weekends to get us back on our feet."

"People are saddened by the situation, which came on top of COVID-19. They are shocked by the rabbi's continued occupation of the house. They miss Friday night services, *brachot*, and *yom tovim* very much. We just wish this nightmare would end!"



The East London Shul

# Israel and SA unite to nab Bobroffs

MIRAH LANGER

**A**s Israeli and South African legal authorities collaborate in securing a court victory against Ronald Bobroff and his son, the fugitive attorney continues to rail about personal vendettas and conspiracies against him.

About R95 million held by the Bobroffs in Israeli accounts was declared as the proceeds of thievery and money laundering in a unanimous ruling by the Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) last month, which ordered the money to be handed over to South African legal authorities.

Bobroff, who has since filed an appeal with the Constitutional Court, told the *SA Jewish Report* that this finding was "plainly wrong" and "there were no irregularities" in terms of handling their Israeli bank accounts. He asserted that that his firm had always "delivered an exceptional service", and clients "who believe that they have been overcharged are free to institute civil proceedings".

In 2016, Bobroff, and his son, Darren, both Johannesburg-based personal-injury attorneys, were disbarred following the emergence of details of financial irregularities. A warrant was issued for their arrest, but before it could be executed, they left for Australia. An Interpol Red Notice that allows for the provisional arrest of a person pending extradition or other similar legal actions has since been issued.

In a statement issued by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) about the SCA judgment, it said the court had found, "on a balance of probabilities" both "the allegations of dishonesty, theft, and fraud had been established", as well as "the funds in the Israeli accounts were the proceeds of the unlawful activities". It also said "the money had been laundered to disguise its origin and identity prior to deposit".

The Bobroffs appealed against a forfeiture order granted by the High Court in Pretoria in August 2019 in relation to their accounts held at the Bank Discounts and the Bank Mizrahi Tefahot in Israel. They contested whether the High Court had the jurisdiction to grant the order across countries. The court found it was, indeed, empowered to do so. It also found that the bulk of the money in the Israeli accounts was the proceeds of crime.

Advocate Priya Biseswar, the special director of public prosecutions in South Africa's Asset Forfeiture Unit, praised the engagement between Israeli and South African legal authorities in securing this judgment. She told the *SA Jewish Report* that "co-operation between the countries had been consistent and helpful".

Collaborative efforts between the two countries began in 2017, when the state attorney in Israel contacted South African authorities. Israeli police began a money laundering investigation after a bank compliance officer noticed a suspicious transaction in one of the Bobroffs' Israeli accounts. When the Israelis became aware of the Red Notice, they contacted South Africa and the accounts were frozen. The High Court in Pretoria thwarted the Bobroffs' attempts to get the money back, instead granting the forfeiture order.

The only concession the SCA gave was that about R7 million of about R103 million in the Israeli bank accounts could be directly identified as not sourced from criminal practices, and thus was excluded from forfeiture.

In the SCA judgment, drafted by acting Judge of Appeal Johannes Eksteen, he detailed how the Bobroffs described

travelling overseas over many years, usually with their wives, and depositing their travel allowances in different banks abroad. The Bobroffs said the reason they opened and closed different accounts was because "they had been advised by the banks that it was a simple matter for banking authorities in South Africa to determine whether the travellers' cheques had been deposited into international bank accounts, and then to take steps to attempt to attach the credit amounts".

"The purpose of the exercise was accordingly to disguise the origin and identity of the money. This practice bore all the hallmarks of money laundering," Eksteen said.

Moreover, said the appeals judge, the explanations provided by the Bobroffs about the origin and nature of funds in their various Israeli accounts were "vague and unhelpful" and fell "woefully short". He went on to say, "In the absence of a cogent explanation, which is clearly called for, I consider that the overwhelming probability is that these funds are the proceeds of crimes."

The SCA came to the conclusion that the Bobroffs were guilty of theft when it looked back at a 2014 Constitutional Court ruling declaring that the way in which the Bobroffs charged fees to certain clients was unlawful. In the judgment, Eksteen declared that "the Bobroffs' overreaching [in the fees charged], coupled with their decision to retain their gains and investing or reinvesting same for their own benefit, after 2014, knowing that they were not entitled to the money, constituted theft".

In voice recordings made after the SCA judgment which are in possession of the *SA Jewish Report*, Ronald Bobroff rants against the ruling, criticising the finding of thievery. He reflects how the court "said, well, but we kept the money and we invested it and used it and that's theft as well". He then sarcastically queries whether "what we should have done is we should have gone on our hands and knees, contacted every former client and said, 'Indeed, I'm so sorry. You know, I worked for five years on a case on risks, spent lots of my own money, got you a great result, but, you know, because the court now said the agreement is now invalid – well, I want to pay you back and I'm going to pay back the difference between my percentage fee and the peanuts I can draw...'"

In the recordings, Bobroff also remains adamant that he and his sons are victims of a "lynch mob mentality – to get us no matter what". The *SA Jewish Report* contacted Bobroff asking for confirmation of the veracity of various claims and extracts of the recordings. In a reply sent by his attorney, Richard Spoor, Bobroff verified that he believed himself to have been "unjustly vilified. I believe that I have conducted myself honourably throughout my long legal career in South Africa".

Bobroff has now appealed to the Constitutional Court in the matter regarding his Israeli bank accounts. He told the *SA Jewish Report* he was confident that he would be vindicated.

Asked about the state of the NPA's larger case against the Bobroffs, NPA spokesman Siphon Ngwema said it was "critical that those responsible for this mess account fully to their victims and the people of South Africa. We will pursue this matter until justice is done – there should be no hiding place for fugitives from justice".

Before publication of this article, Bobroff chose to send a second response to the *SA Jewish Report*. In this letter, he stated that he remained proud of Israel's achievements "notwithstanding my betrayal by certain officials".

He also suggested that "readers might find some interest" in the assistance he had organised for disabled Israeli soldiers following a 1994 visit, after which he "resolved to try and do whatever I could in some small way, to assist the plight [of] these disabled soldiers".

Bobroff also said he noted that "the *SA Jewish Report* has consistently maintained the narrative that I'm the archetypal 'thieving Jewish lawyer'. I invite you to reflect on this".



Ronald Bobroff



# Order of Australia winner reflects on SA Jewish roots

TALI FEINBERG

Professor Karen Zwi may have left South Africa more than 20 years ago, but she has carried the ethics and ideals that she grew up with to her new home in Sydney, Australia. There, she works with the most disadvantaged and underprivileged children and their families – often unseen and unheard by fellow citizens, the government, and the rest of the world. Last week, her work was recognised by the Award of the Queen’s Birthday Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to paediatric medicine.

Zwi says her Jewish and South African identities have played a role in getting her to where she is today. “Being raised in the South African Jewish community and going to a Jewish school like King David embeds the values of compassion and social justice. And it gives you the confidence to actually speak out and realise that you have the capacity to make a difference. That’s a very precious gift.”

She is a consultant community paediatrician at Sydney Children’s Hospital, conjoint professor at the University of New South Wales, head of the department of community child health, and the clinical director for priority populations at Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network.

Her work in community paediatrics is rich and varied, including research, outreach work, and treatment of very vulnerable children who are often abused. She describes it as “child public health”, and says that much of it is a continuation of what she did in South Africa, including her time at Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital.

One of Zwi’s major passions is working with refugees and asylum seekers. “Australia has a very strict policy towards refugees arriving by boat, often described as ‘boat people’,” she says. “For example, this could be someone who has fled Somalia, gone to Indonesia, and arrived by boat in Australia. The Australian government has become very punitive towards them. They can’t apply for permanent refugee status or asylum, and they get detained in prison-like conditions. They are kept there with little certainty as to what will happen. Amongst them have been thousands of children. For me, locking up kids without access to normal life is untenable. They have committed no crime, and are just seeking asylum.”

She has devoted herself to advocating for them, conducting extensive enquiries into their health, and researching how detention is damaging to them. Much of her advocacy has meant that these children are no longer detained. “Most are out of detention now. It’s taken 15 years. We are working with them to get them back on track.”

Her Jewish identity has been a major motivation in this work. “My grandparents arrived by boat in South Africa as refugees searching for a better life. They were given that opportunity. If it wasn’t for that, I wouldn’t be here today. I see it in these families – they are so motivated, they just want to create a better life for their children. But languishing in detention, they just become more depressed. That is why we intervene.”

She emphasises that she hasn’t done it alone. “We have got organisations to make statements, speak to the media, and pressurise government. It’s made a big difference. They’re a small proportion of refugees compared to those fleeing to Europe. Australia could easily afford to accept and integrate them. It’s not impossible. It’s not a flood. It’s just a few people fleeing difficult circumstances. And they’re really exceptional, resilient, tough, and clever. They could make it here.”



Working with “boat people” and their children is just one aspect of her work. Asked about her average day, she says, “I do clinical work which includes seeing kids who may have problems with their behaviour

or development. I also train registrars and give talks to medical students. I’m involved in research looking at the health outcomes of the most vulnerable in Australia. This includes very poor children, refugee children, and Aboriginal children. My work also includes the management of services across networks at two big hospitals and other sites in Sydney.”

From South Africa, Australia looks like the picture of a middle-class paradise, but as Zwi explains, “There is a segment of the population that struggles to meet its potential, including children. Aboriginal and refugee children are very high risk for social issues. Refugees also may come with degrees

and qualifications, but these aren’t always something they can use. It’s very hard to re-establish yourself with the same earning potential.”

She says that while there is welfare, it “tends to be very basic, so it’s hard to live in an established neighbourhood, send kids to school, and invest in children. Some children that we treat have been abused and removed from their parents. But foster care means they don’t always have a stable childhood. It can have a major impact, and then carry on in the next generation.”

Although it may seem overwhelming, Zwi devotes her time and energy to turning this

Continued on page 16>>

# YAD'S SOUP FOR THE SOUL



#Yadjoinin



YAD AHARON & MICHAEL

The Jewish Food Fund



## MORE THAN JUST SOUP!

Many Jewish families rely on **YAD'S SOUP KITCHEN** for heart-warming meals.

- Set in a warm and nurturing environment.
- Supplemented with burgers, pies or toasted cheese.
- Where everyone's dignity is upheld.

### THE ONLY KOSHER SOUP KITCHEN IN JHB

### GET INVOLVED!

info@yadaharon.co.za

DONATE NOW TO SPONSOR

HALF DAY @	FULL DAY @	2 DAYS @	OWN
<b>R900</b>	<b>R1800</b>	<b>R3600</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>

## YADAHARON.CO.ZA

Call: 011 485-2076 or 011 640-2106

Your donation is tax deductible and attracts an 18A certificate  
Banking Details: Yad Aharon & Michael, Nedbank, Branch Code: 151105,  
Account Number: 1911087363, Ref: Your full name/SOUP

Donline 05/09/2021/04







# A GREAT INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY IN THE BRAND NEW CITY OF HARISH



## SAVYONEY HARISH

This beautiful NEW city boasts advanced urban infrastructure, an exciting lifestyle for young families, and a modern school system.

**BEAUTIFUL 2, 3, AND 4 BEDROOMS, PENTHOUSES & GARDEN APARTMENTS AVAILABLE AT PRE-SALE PRICES.**

FROM  
**NIS 999,000**  
20% SECURES THE DEAL

The Savyoney Harish complex is located in the highest spot of the "Prachim" neighborhood, overlooking the entire city.

- 384 apartments
  - 2, 3, and 4 bedrooms, penthouses, and garden apartments
  - Each apartment comes with 1 private parking space and a store room
- 45-minute drive from Tel-Aviv
  - 40 minutes from Haifa
  - 30 minutes from Kfar Saba and Ra'anana
  - Located in the north-eastern Sharon region
  - Close to the highway for easy and convenient access to the city



**The city is set to accommodate 100,000 residents within 10 years.**

Our services include legal representation, banking services - including opening bank accounts and organising mortgages, and project management. We also find tenants and manage your apartment so that you capitalise on your investment immediately.

### Contact Julian Nathan

✉ julian@hold.co.il  
☎ +27 87 551 0734  
📞 +972 58 631 9754

### Contact Herschel Jawitz

✉ herschel@jawitz.co.za  
☎ +27 82 571 1829



SECURING YOUR FUTURE IN ISRAEL

In association with



Visit our website: [www.hold.co.il](http://www.hold.co.il)



# Tributes to

# Zoe Cohen ע"ה

## Saluting a Special Social Worker



Zoe Cohen was a small, vivacious person with a huge heart and a powerful personality. She lived a meaningful and impactful life in which she loved and cared deeply for her family, friends, colleagues and clients.

She was dedicated to her work and to alleviating suffering. Her sudden passing has shocked and saddened us all.

A true professional, Zoe had over 50 years of experience as a Social Worker. The Chev was privileged to have had her on our team for the last 13 of those years.

She specialised in adoption, child protection and family preservation work - fields that demanded her unique combination of wisdom and compassion.

She touched, enriched and saved the lives of thousands of babies and children by ensuring their permanent placements with caring families, giving them hope, opportunity and improving their lives.

Zoe was known as the Doyenne of Adoptions, locally and internationally, for her passion and vast experience in this challenging area of social work in which she tirelessly advocated and lobbied for the rights of adopted children and their adoptive parents. In this way she brought joy to families throughout the country who were unable to have children of their own.

Zoe was a role-model to the Chev's 26 social workers and has left a legacy that exemplifies the highest standards and values of the social work profession - a field in which the Chev is active on multiple levels. She embraced life with eternal optimism and believed in the goodness of humankind.

Zoe loved people, and animals too, and her selfless kindness and generosity endeared her to everyone she met. Loyalty was her gold standard.

The Chev's Board of Governors join me in extending heartfelt condolences to Zoe's family. Her passing has left a huge void in the lives of all who knew, loved and respected her.

Zoe has been buried in the Section of Honour at Westpark cemetery in recognition of her half century of exceptional service to the community.

May her memory be a blessing

~ Saul Tomson  
**Chief Executive Officer**

There is a beautiful verse in Psalm 106 which says "Praiseworthy are the guardians of justice, who perform charity at every time". Our sages translate "at every time" to mean literally twenty four hours a day. The obvious question that arises from this is "How is it humanly possible to ever achieve this?" The Gemara in Kesubos debates this very question and provides us with the answer. R' Shmuel bar Nachmani says "One who raises an orphan boy or orphan girl in their house" performs charity "at every time" or 24/7.

If this may be said for someone who has adopted a child, how much more so does this apply to our dearly beloved Zoe Cohen. Zoe did more than touch the lives of hundreds of desperate children, she changed them forever. Zoe gave voice to those without a voice, agency to those without it and restored dignity and self-worth to the most vulnerable in our society. Besides the hundreds of children, Zoe gave shelter and love to many women in distress, women stigmatised and rejected by their families and society. No matter the circumstance, no matter the deed, there existed no judgement in Zoe's world, only empathy, compassion and love. Hers was a heart full of love, a soul full of grace.

The Chevrah Kadisha mourn a most valued and treasured colleague and our community mourns a remarkable and courageous warrior. The Cohen family have lost a devoted and loving wife and mother. There are no words adequate to express the admiration, gratitude, respect and love we all have for Zoe. Zoe may have been small in stature but she had a giant soul, a beautiful radiant soul. Her remarkable legacy will live on in all of us for she too touched and changed all of our lives. May Hashem in his mercy grant comfort to Lee, Dalan, Garyn, Melissa and Joshua. We hold you in our hearts.

~ Dr Richard Friedland  
**Board of Governors**

And so it is that unique and rare people cross our paths. Selfless, with a warmth that radiates from their gracious human spirit. They carry messages of hope and promise of possibility. With grace and dignity they touch our lives and invite us to 'be' more. More open, more loving and more kind. This was you. Zoe, friend and colleague, wife, mother, grandmother and so much more, you leave behind an endless line of souls filled with gratitude for your being. Their lives forever altered by your investment in their dreams.

We weep with tears of sadness and grief at your loss but recall with vivid memory the impact that you made. We were gifted with your presence in our lives and now we mourn the absence of your presence. With head bowed we join your treasured family in the loss of their precious Zoe. And the clouds come from time to time demanding we take shelter from looking at the sun....

With heartfelt regard

~ Brenda Lasersohn  
**Board of Governors**

We at the Chev Community Services are heartbroken and devastated by the passing of Zoe. Her love for her family, friends, colleagues and clients was boundless and her loyalty to the Chev was absolute. As an activist and lobbyist she gave us the courage to stand firm and promote the rights of adoptees, their families and the protection of children. We hope to continue promoting this legacy and empowering others to walk in her footsteps. Zoe was vivacious and embraced life with eternal optimism, truly believing in the goodness of humans and animals. She was more than a colleague to us all, she was a true friend. Her sudden passing has left a huge void at the Chev, in the lives of her many clients and all those who knew her. She will always be lovingly remembered and will live on in all of our hearts.

~ Glynne Zackon  
**Group Manager Social Services**

Zoe Cohen was my dear colleague and friend for over a decade. From the time we started working together I was inspired by Zoe's passion for her holy work. She would dedicate hundreds of hours to help mend a broken family, to reunite a child with a parent or to give a family the gift of adopting a child. Zoe and I worked together to ensure that adopted Jewish children continued to be raised with Jewish traditions and values. Zoe would follow up regularly and would be so excited to hear about the progress of the children. I will miss Zoe immensely but her warm smile and huge heart will always remain in my thoughts. May Hashem comfort her family and may Zoe's memory be an inspiration for us all.

~ Rabbi Jonathan Fox  
**Group Rabbi**

We can't believe that Zoë is no longer with us. She touched everyone she came into contact with deeply, with her gentleness, kindness, selflessness, positivity and sense of humour. We will all terribly miss her warmth, care, devotion and love.

~ Daniel Tucker  
**Group Manager Systems & Revenue Operations**

I haven't known Zoe for long but in my first year at the Chev, she stood out as such a bright spirit. She would always be available to chat about a client and even offered support on some personal issues such as options for adopting my niece. Zoe put her heart and soul into every case and would make sure to leave no stone unturned, this made her incredible at her job. The Chev has been left with such a gaping hole that she is gone.

~ Mary Masterson  
**Financial Aid Analyst**

Zoe my dear friend, confidante and colleague, to me you were always sincere, warm and caring. You always made time to listen and exchange views, opinions and laughter. I will always cherish the many Yom Tovs and parties our families celebrated together. You had a special gift to make life lighter and fun. For this I will always remember you. Farewell my friend

~ Dorit Gold  
**Social Worker**

Zoe was a friend, a mentor and a confidante. She opened up a door for me - into a world of social work and adoption. Zoe taught me to care about the little things (in people) because those were the "big things" and she made everyone feel important. Zoe had a passion for people and she warmed up every room she walked into. Zoe was energetic, caring, thoughtful, vibrant, present, personal and had all the time in the world for you.

~ Lucy Woolcott  
**Social Worker**

As a young Social Worker at Helen Joseph Hospital, I heard about Zoe. She was a hero, a person giving hope and filling empty lives with adoptions and care and love. The first day I walked into the Chev, Zoe greeted me and I could put a name to a face I had heard so much about. She loved it when we "Afrikaners" talked and when she heard us talking would hurry and join us to practise her Afrikaans. We who have known her, who have been touched with her love and care, would like to thank you for sharing her with us. May G-d carry you and comfort you all. Liefde en mooi wense

~ Freda Steenkamp  
**Social Worker**

Thank you for what you added to my life over the 45 years we knew each other. We started out at Jhb Child Welfare together and enjoyed a wonderful professional and social relationship at that time, spending many hours together with friends and family. Your absence in the world is sorely felt and more especially by us as a team who relied so much on you - the person and the professional. Rest in peace dearest Zoe - you will be with me always in spirit.

~ Jacqui Michael  
**Senior Social Work Supervisor**

It is not a simple task writing a tribute to our beloved Zoe. There is not one day that goes by that I don't think of her, every memory and thought filled with so much love, joy and positivity. She will forever be in my heart, a true gem and Eishet Chayil. May Her Dear Soul Rest In Peace.

~ Bianca Dreyer  
**Social Worker**

What can one say about such a lady, a friend, a wife, a mother, a very proud grandmother, Social Worker, and just an ALL-ROUNDER like Zoe? Zoe was around to share in people's simchas and joy. Zoe was around to feel the physical and emotional pain of others. Zoe was around to share her kindness, her love, her care, her compassion and her laughter. Zoe was always around. Like an ALL-ROUNDER. Rest peacefully my friend, watch over your beautiful family and all those who love you.

~ Mandi Silberhaft  
**Social Services Admin**

I started working at the Chev in January 2021 and finally got to meet the Zoe I had heard so much about. From the moment I met this amazing lady she felt like a friend. She was so warm and welcoming and our frequent chats in the corridors cemented her humanity and kindness.

~ Melissa Janet  
**Social Worker**

Baruch Dayan Emet. I would like to thank Zoe. She treated everybody with kindness and respect. She never said a bad word about anyone. She was a formidable social worker. She taught me so much. I miss Zoe every day. I miss hearing her walk down the passage engaging with everyone along the way. Her warmth and friendliness permeated the whole office. She had such a presence. May her family be comforted and know no more sorrow.

~ Sharlene Shapiro  
**Social Worker**

How perfectly your two names suited you. You know that Zoe means Life, Abundant Life and Paula means Little or Humble. You were a little powerhouse, filled and brimming with a true zest for life that was contagious. But so humble and sincere, with not a mean bone in your body... Like a gentle butterfly, ethereally clothed in all your beautiful, colourful, flowy outfits, you breezed into our lives and in your inimitable, gentle manner shared your warmth, kindness and love with all. A person could not help but be touched by your bubbly and optimistic personality. You are sorely missed and your precious memories and whacky gifts greatly treasured. Till we meet again... With love.

~ Lynette Lemmer  
**Group Care Admin**

Zoe was devoted to her family and friends. She was committed and devoted to her work and the entire community. A woman of valour, an Aishes Chayil; a friend to all who knew her, a legend in her time. She will be sorely missed. May her memory be a blessing.

~ Lynette Yach  
**Social Worker**

Zoe knew well that she was one of my favourite quick catch-ups that would turn into 30 minutes on a WhatsApp call while I was making supper and my children were making a noise in the kitchen. She was always ready with support, guidance and knowledge on clients we shared and her answers never fit into a quick email. She cared too much about the community and colleagues relying on her input. No chat with her would ever end without her asking me how I was and expressing appreciation for our work together.

~ Mariette Steynberg  
**Financial Aid Analyst**

Working with Zoe for the last 15 years has been a privilege for me. Zoe was a joy in my life. She was always caring and compassionate to her clients and colleagues. She was highly respected for her integrity, wisdom and kindness. I will miss her.

~ Shirley Resnick  
**Group Intake Consultant**

A highly respected, knowledgeable and special colleague who will be sorely missed. I will remember Zoe for her endearing and caring ways and her concern, always, for all her colleagues and clients alike. She leaves a void which will be hard to fill.

~ Tania Leibovitz  
**Group Intake Consultant**

How I will miss you. From the top of your head to your tippy toes you exuded warmth, love, compassion, care, interest, concern, resilience, courage, valour, knowledge, skills, kindness, authenticity, genuineness and down to earth humility. I so prayed you would make a full recovery. Hashem has taken the best of the best, an angel with wings under her clothes. You are forever in my heart Zoe. I will miss you, my colleague and my friend. Rest in Peace. Watch over us as we mourn your loss. Fly high with the angels Zozo

~ Ingrid Woolf  
**Social Worker**

Every life composes a song of its own. And when G-d gave Zoe to us, He gave us the most beautiful song. Forever loved, forever cherished.

~ Lizzie Mashiloane  
**Admin Social Services**

Zoe was beloved and loved by all. She will always have a special place in my heart. She has left behind a big void.

~ Sheila Furman  
**Social Worker**



# ChevrahKadisha



# Barbarossa and barbarism in the Soviet invasion

OPINION PROFESSOR MILTON SHAIN



Exactly 80 years ago, on 22 June 1941, the Nazis launched Operation Barbarossa, a savage assault on the Soviet Union. Named after the Holy Roman Emperor and German crusader of the twelfth century, it was the largest invading force that had ever been assembled, numbering nearly 3.6 million men, 3 600 tanks, 600 000 motor vehicles, 7 000 artillery pieces, and 2 500 aircraft.

The assault was in flagrant violation of the earlier German-Soviet non-aggression pact of 23 August 1939, and ensured that the war would now be fought in the East as well as the West. Brutal and murderous, Operation Barbarossa arguably prepared the way for the Final Solution.



Operation Barbarossa

Although some observers maintain that Operation Barbarossa was a pre-emptive strike designed to cripple an anticipated Soviet offensive, this wasn't the case. In mid-1941, the Soviet forces were far from ready. Yet, Stalin sensed that the Third Reich would sooner or later turn on the Soviet Union. "War with Germany is inevitable," he told graduating military cadets in Moscow on 5 May 1941. Nonetheless, he warned his generals against any provocative action, hoping that stepping up the delivery of supplies to Germany in terms of trade agreements would delay German aggression. Stalin was wrong. Plans for war had already begun in earnest in December 1940. Hitler wished to destroy the Soviet Army in Western Russia in preparation for a broader struggle against Britain and the United States, while at the same time eliminating the "Judeo-Bolshevik" threat.

German preparations for the attack continued throughout the early months of 1941. On 6 June, the infamous "commissar order" was issued whereby Bolshevik commissars, Communist intelligentsia, and Communist Party functionaries were to be identified during the operation and murdered. Six days later, troops were issued further guidelines demanding "ruthless and energetic action against Bolshevik agitators, irregulars, saboteurs, and Jews, and total eradication of any active or passive resistance".

By the evening of 21 June 1941, about 10% of Germany's adult male population – assisted by more than half a million Romanians, Finns, Italians, Hungarians, and Slovaks – were awaiting orders to attack. Just after 03:00 on 22 June, a massive artillery barrage on three fronts shattered the silence, followed by the advance of 17 panzer and 14 motorised divisions in the direction of Leningrad, Moscow, and Kiev.

By late morning of that same day, the Luftwaffe had destroyed 890 Soviet aircraft, mostly caught by surprise on the ground. "Stalin had never had so great a shock in his life," wrote Soviet historian Dmitri Volkogonov. More than three million soldiers and 3 000 tanks attacked the Soviet Union.

The pace of the advance was spectacular. Troops marched up to 50km a day, and sometimes even more. Barbarism ensued. Soviet political commissars were shot on sight, and tens of thousands of prisoners were killed by firing squad in German concentration camps. By the end of October, more than 300 000 Red Army prisoners had died.

For Jews, Operation Barbarossa turned into a war of racial extermination. Deportation plans – still on the table in early June – rapidly gave way to a Final Solution. In the euphoria of early victory, a *Judenrein* (Jew-free) "Garden of Eden" in the East was anticipated. "The physical extermination of all European Jewry," writes Christopher Browning, "had become a top Nazi priority."

From the very start of the advance, the Einsatzgruppen,

Nazi Germany's motorised killing squads, slaughtered thousands of Jews in the towns and villages of the Baltic region. "What the Führer prophesied is now taking place," wrote propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels on 11 August 1941.

Years of unrelenting Nazi racist propaganda and special ideological training for the SS security task forces had dehumanised the Jew. Even the Wehrmacht was involved in terrible atrocities against hapless civilians, whose only crime was to be born Jewish. Mass murders and pogroms took place in public, often reported upon and even photographed. At Babi-Yar outside Kiev, 33 771 Jews including women and children were executed on the last two days of September 1941. The "war against the Jews" had begun in earnest.

In the autumn of 1941, Hitler's plans to deport Europe's Jews to "the East" after a victorious war against Russia were changed: deportation could begin before victory. That decision, writes Hitler's most definitive biographer, Ian Kershaw, "was a fateful one", bringing "the 'final solution of the Jewish question' throughout the whole of Europe a massive step closer".

For the immense number of European Jews now targeted, new and more efficient killing techniques were needed. The use of poison gas was now considered a viable option. In the first week of December 1941, the first extermination unit began operations in the Polish village of Chelmno through the use of exhaust fumes in mobile gas vans.

Only days before Chelmno became operative as a killing centre, Reinhard Heydrich, the head of the Reich Main Security Office, sent out invitations to several state secretaries and selected SS representatives to attend a conference at Wannsee outside Berlin on 9 December. The purpose was to orchestrate coherent plans to rid Europe of its Jews. Because of the attack on Pearl Harbour, the meeting was postponed to 20 January 1942.

In less than one and a half hours, the participants at Wannsee had agreed on plans to expedite the annihilation of European Jewry. According to eyewitness testimony, a satisfied Heydrich enjoyed a glass of celebratory cognac, looking relaxed at the absence of resistance and awkward questions.

While the deliberations were taking place, another death camp at Belzec was under construction, and the first gas chamber at Birkenau was being prepared for its odious use. Over the next three and a half years, five million more Jews, including a million children, would be killed in an orgy of mass murder and industrialised killing – all this in spite of the Red Army having turned the tide against the Nazi war machine by 1943, beginning with victory at Stalingrad and the retaking of Kursk. By October 1944, the Red Army had marched into East Prussia.

The assault on the Soviet Union had failed. But it wrought havoc and death for European Jewry and many others. The precise relationship between Operation Barbarossa and the Holocaust has generated decades of debate. Some scholars argue that Hitler wanted initially only to deport Jews from German-controlled territory but that the advance into the Soviet Union – and for some the failure of that advance – presented new challenges and options. For some scholars, however, the war was a mere cover for long-planned murder: war and the annihilation of the Jews were intimately connected.

These debates have now largely subsided. It's impossible to know, says historian Omer Bartov, "whether the Third Reich would have sooner or later pursued a similar genocidal policy had it not invaded the Soviet Union, but the actual timing of the Final Solution, as well as the logistical, geographical, and psychological context within which the war in Russia was conducted leave little doubt as to the close ties between Barbarossa and the regime's extermination policies".

• Milton Shain is emeritus professor of historical studies at the University of Cape Town.

# A melting pot of bad drivers

OPINION GUY LIEBERMAN

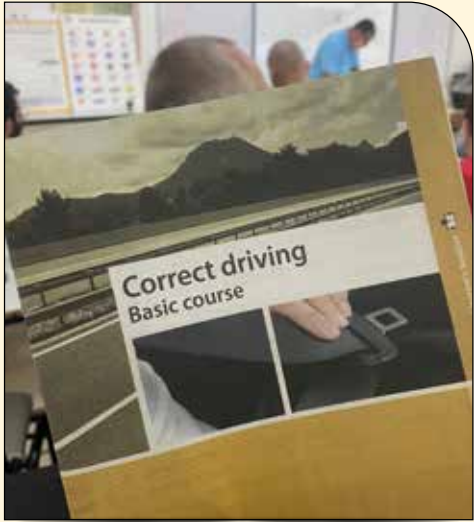


My wife, Naami, and I were last week summoned to a school in the slapdash city of Hadera to be re-educated on how to drive. This happens in Israel. If you get caught performing a driving misdemeanour, no matter how minor, you lose points. There aren't that many points to begin with, so if you misbehave behind the wheel, you find them disappearing like popcorn on movie night.

After one decade living in Joburg, both of us were at a distinct disadvantage. I remember my first interaction with an Israeli traffic cop. He had pulled me over for doing the thing you should never do, no matter how quiet the street or how slow the car is going, or how important the message. You know the thing. We all do it. Well, here, you shouldn't.

Coming out of nowhere, he released one blast of his siren, and all my triggers leapt into action. Scanning the car for spare cash, checking my pockets for my driver's license, putting my coffee down (which was in my other hand – I rely heavily on the miracle of luck while on the road), wiping the breakfast from my chin, trying to fix my hair. He was at my door in seconds, like some blue-uniformed ninja. Squinting up at him, his head shading my eyes from the sun, I noticed how strange it was that he seemed so tidied up, so ready for business, so fit, so ... professional. I knew I was caught off guard, but I also knew that I had to let him know my position up front so we could quickly settle our arrangement.

"Cold ... drink?" I asked him, leadingly. "What are you talking about? Driver's license, please." I handed it up to him, muttering under my breath how usually well behaved I was, patently lying to myself, then grumbling further that the truth was that maybe I did very occasionally check my phone to find my music playlists because music did keep me awake while driving, so it was ultimately for my safety and the safety of others. Then I noticed him staring down at me with a concerned look.



"Are you OK, mister?" He asked. "Yes! Yes, I'm fine. Can you forgive me? I'm new here and ..."

"One thousand shekel fine. Don't do it again." With that, he handed me a slip of paper and walked back to his cruiser.

And now, to add insult to that staggering financial injury of so many months back (R4 400 for texting "love you too, ma"), we were called up to this high school in Hadera at 17:00 on Tuesday, which would result in eight hours of classes over two evenings. Eight classroom hours! I hadn't spent that much time in a class since primary school. I could taste the panic.

Hadera isn't the Israel I made aliyah to. Zichron Yaakov, the bougie quaint town in the hills above the Mediterranean, brimming with middle-class Anglos from across the English-speaking world, is more my scene. Just 15 minutes apart by road – if you drive at the speed limit – but 15 light years apart in demographics and worldview, Hadera is the raw cross-section of Israel in its current incarnation.

It was into this classroom, and into this country, that Naami and I entered, and over

the next two days, I was unceremoniously inducted into the hardboiled multiplicity that is the true state of Israel. Naami, a Jerusalemite, acted as my guide, and by picking up the dialects, nuances, and fashions, whispered quietly to me who was who and from where they came.

One thing was certain: we were all bonded together in this room because we shared the singular common condition of how badly we drove. The comradeship was hard to hide – we were the naughty kids. From the front of the class to the back, from the cool cat with *peyot* and peak cap to the shaved bald Russian gangster, from the Arab siblings seated next to each other comparing notes to the Armenian fashionista, the Ethiopian intellectual to the Litvish nerd, and all of us being quietly observed by the R&B babe attending to her nails in the corner. We were here to get legal again, and apparently have some fun doing it.

The first thing that struck me was the presence and attitude of the instructor, who was about to steer this motley crew through the rules of the road. I instinctively felt bad for him until he addressed the room. Here was a born educator.

We all remember that one teacher who was simply made to impart knowledge, to distil complexity, to guide, and inspire. It was suddenly clear that we had in our midst a tried and tested tutor of the most refined order. The traffic department seeks out teachers to do this work outside of their normal hours, and this man had clearly done his time.

He started by deftly juggling both a stick and a carrot in front of us. If we check our phones while in class, he will kick us out, and we will have to return at some later date. He has the power to do this, and he has done it. A collective sigh and a shuffling of about 40 smartphones off desks and laps and into handbags and backpacks.

However, he continued, if we moved quickly through the class, stayed focused, and got the answers right, the next day he would bring us the best *knafeh*, a delicious Arabic sweetmeat, from his home village of Fureidis.

This time, the energy in the room swelled in hope. All eyes were on the lecturer. From that moment on, we were putty in the hands of this skilled schoolteacher from the Arab town that neighbours Zichron. And he was masterful.

Roll call was the Ingathering meets the Levant. The session fell between the recent end of the violence with Gaza (and the multiple flare-ups within Israel) and the fraught political battle for rule of the country. When he called my name, "Lieberman, Guy!" I stood up to present my ID, and he said "Ah, good, we can all get some money now that we have a family member in the treasury." To which half the class yelled, "Not yet! It might not be!" Uproarious laughter from everyone.

And so, we rolled through the sessions, with quips and interruptions from the class clowns, par for the course in any classroom anywhere, our captain up front exuding his warm authority.

At the end was a remarkably simple test, 10 multiple choice questions. We went back to Zichron feeling re-educated – less on driving (these habits die hard) but more on what drives the country.

The colourful tapestry in which we were briefly immersed is daily life for most Israelis. The world either forgets or doesn't know that Israel is as diverse and blended as any complex nation on earth. And so it should be. *\*Disclaimer: allow for poetic license – I never bribed anyone, ever!* *\*\*We never did get that knafeh.* • Guy Lieberman is a social entrepreneur and cultural activist, who approaches critical social and environmental issues through the intersection of creativity, originality and initiative.



# Melville Edelstein murdered by outsiders, say former Soweto pupils

TALI FEINBERG

He was senselessly killed during the Soweto uprising of 1976, in the wrong place at the wrong time because of his dedication to the disenfranchised. And yet, while many know the name Dr Melville Edelstein, few know what he stood for and what really happened to him on that day.

Now, a *SA Jewish Report* webinar has shed new light on his final moments for his own children, and offered an opportunity to build his legacy.

During the webinar, former pupils of the Morris Isaacson High School who were involved in the uprising told Shana Edelstein Rosenthal and Janet Goldblatt (Edelstein's two daughters) that it wasn't possible that school students killed their father, saying it was done by others who didn't know him.

"We always thought it was the students who killed him. But the people on the webinar said it may have been others – people who didn't know my dad," says Goldblatt. "That lines up with what famed press photographer Peter Magubane said – if they had known it was Dr Edelstein, they never would have killed him. He was part of the community." Magubane found Edelstein's body.

Omry Makgoale, who was in matric at Morris Isaacson in 1976, told the Edelstein women on the webinar, "It was probably unemployed youth [who killed him]. The students of Morris Isaacson knew him and would have protected him. We had white teachers at the school, and we protected them. The people who killed him were aware that we [the students] weren't there and we were already in Orlando West."

"From Morris Isaacson High School to Orlando West is a distance of 7km to 8km. So, most of the Morris Isaacson students were 7km or 8km away," said Phale Modise, who was in Grade 11 at the school in that year.

Reflecting on what they heard on the night of the webinar, Goldblatt said, "We were gobsmacked. We had never heard that story before." It was especially relevant because Edelstein died near the school. In addition, the school was seen as the "crucible" of the

the project, the ceremony was brought to an end. Concerned about the safety of a female colleague, Edelstein drove through crowds of students to get to his office. He rushed through the offices, instructing staff to leave immediately.

By the time he emerged later that morning, the political temperature was high after deadly police shootings. In the heat of the moment following the shock of the killing of schoolchildren by the police, he was stoned to death.

"It has always troubled us as Morris Isaacson students that because of our school's proximity to where Dr Edelstein was killed, people spoke of his death as if the school children at Morris Isaacson were complicit. That's understandable given the proximity," said Modise.

Modise and others on the webinar didn't know Edelstein personally, but they knew who he was at the time, saw him at work, and were impressed with his quiet dedication to the people.

"It was subsequent to the shootings in Orlando West, as anger spilled around Soweto, that Dr Edelstein became a victim. Black youngsters who would have been in that office were unemployed youth seeking to prove to authorities they were looking for work. Tsotsi elements also took advantage of the disorder." He also noted that all of those arrested for the murder wore soccer shirts with the number 15 indicating that they were possibly part of a group or gang.

"I felt I should share those thoughts directly with them [Edelstein's daughters]," Modise says. "I was touched meeting his direct blood relatives for the first time and hearing about them as victims also of that

fateful day, sharing their loss."

Goldblatt was 12 years old when her dad died, and she has been the unofficial family representative and spokesperson ever since. Goldblatt said that the Jewish community hasn't always recognised her father's story, and she knows that as a humble man, he probably would have preferred to stay out of the spotlight. But at the same time, having the opportunity on the webinar "to tell his story as Jews" was very meaningful, and a chance to bring his humanitarian stance to the fore.

"In a world full of polarities, he showed that you didn't need to have a political agenda. His only agenda was kindness, love, and equality – bringing Torah values to the world. That was the story of his life."

She hopes that the Jewish community can integrate his story into schools, museums, and education, and identify that Youth Day is very much part of our history. "We should be lighting a candle and be inspired by him on that day," she says.

She also hopes that South African schoolchildren and communities can learn more about what her father did and stood for as a white Jewish man trying to improve the lives of the most underprivileged during the height of apartheid.

Goldblatt has quietly taken on her father's legacy, bringing education and emotional intelligence programmes into Soweto. She once conducted a workshop close to where her father died, but didn't realise it until a colleague pointed it out to her and the group. "Everyone was crying" she recalls. Meanwhile, her sister hopes to build an education centre in his honour in Soweto.

Goldblatt says his legacy is "completely Torah-based. His values were that everyone belongs, everyone has a place, equality, and being non-judgemental. He davened, laid tefillin, and learned Torah. He kept Shabbos. I remember walking with him to Sydenham Shul every Shabbat. His purpose was [derived from] a love for humanity." She hopes these values can inspire people today.



uprising. It was named for Morris Isaacson, a Jewish immigrant from Lithuania who set up a fund for black students to complete their education to university level. He also donated enough money to build a school with 10 classrooms. It opened in 1956 with 300 pupils.

Edelstein was a sociologist and respected academic who devoted himself to social-welfare projects in Soweto for 18 years. He instituted many projects to assist the youth, disabled, poor, unemployed, and marginalised.

Earlier on that fateful morning, he greeted students as they passed his office on Mputhi Street. He was hosting the official opening of a branch of his sheltered workshop programme in Orlando East, designed to provide employment for the disabled.

When news of the student protest reached

## Pride and prejudice – it's up to us

OPINION

RABBI GREG ALEXANDER



June is Pride Month, celebrating the freedom that we have in South Africa for the LGBTQI+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex) community to live true to who they are.

When you think of Pride, you think of carnivalesque Pride marchers and rainbow flags. Due to COVID-19, that won't happen this year, but perhaps it's appropriate for other reasons. You see, Pride isn't just about celebration. It's also recognition that there is so much work to do.

Just this month, some schools banned Pride celebrations, and people were attacked and killed because of their sexual orientation, because of who they were. Religious communities are part of the problem and the solution. The problem because when someone's orientation is seen as "abomination", it gives power to those who would cause harm. The solution because when religious communities embrace and support people for who they are, it normalises difference and takes away the power from those who might cause harm.

This isn't about Leviticus or any biblical texts. It's about the readers of the texts – their lens. We, the Jewish people, know about prejudice. We know about exile, about pogroms, the horrors of the *Shoah*. We know what it feels like to be the stranger, the reviled, the oppressed. We are a people that knows prejudice. And we know pride too. Four thousand years of Jewish history, the wisdom of our Torah, the creativity and resilience that has kept us alive and thriving through all the challenges we have had to face. The way that a tiny community of Jews at the foot of Africa seems continuously to produce leaders of business, science, medicine, arts and culture, political activism, and social change.

We are a people that knows pride and prejudice. What Pride Month calls us to do is to examine our own prejudice and seek its source. To embarrass or demean someone is against the Torah's most central teachings, and yet for hundreds of years, our communities, leadership, and literature has struck out against LGBTQI+ individuals because of their

sexual orientation – because of who they love and who they are.

As you read this, you might be one of those people who has been alienated by your religion. You might know someone in your family who has come out. Or neither. It's irrelevant, actually. Because changing attitudes about queer Jews is an issue for everyone. Just as apartheid wasn't just about black people, or feminism about women, or the Holocaust about Jews.

They are all about prejudice, not about the object of the prejudice. They are about the communities that allow it to take place. And this is where Pride Month is so important. To highlight the expansive diversity of our Jewish communities. Our Jewish community. To call out to all Jews that we welcome and celebrate you, us, each one of us. That you belong. Not "tolerated" or "accepted". That you belong, that you are core, central, normal. And to hold up brave role models, mentors who have pioneered the way by stepping bravely out of the closet and speaking out, writing their stories, starting nongovernmental organisations, and stepping under the chuppah to show that where there is a Jewish will, there is a Jewish way to go forward without fear, stigma, and harassment.

This article isn't for the LGBTQI+ Jewish community. There is no such thing in this country. There is the Jewish community, and within it are found many LGBTQI+ individuals. This article is a call to you and to all of us to be allies, to speak out against prejudice, to create opportunities for welcome and understanding, to be proud of who we are and where we have come to in 2021. For this reason, Temple Israel is speaking out proudly this month and all year round with webinars, social media posts, the Rainbow Challah Bake, and this week, Pride Shabbat, turning the spiritual spotlight on how much we have to be proud of.

• Rabbi Greg Alexander is a proud member of the Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation, and Temple Israel's rabbinic team.



# SECURITY OFFICER



OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE AND WORK IN CAPE TOWN!

The Site Security Department (SSD) is a division of the CSO Cape Town.

They are looking for a responsible security officer to join the growing SSD team, which manages and maintains a safe and secure environment for students and teachers (and all physical and personnel aspects pertaining to the safety and security of each campus).

Location:	Cape Town
Reporting to:	Director of the CSO / SSD manager
Hours of work:	06h30 – 15h30 (overtime required for events/functions)
Salary range:	Market-related (commensurate with skill & experience)

**PSIRA GRADE C (minimum) & Firearm Competency Certificate are required**

**Interested?**

Email Caroline for a detailed spec & to apply: [carolinek@ctjc.co.za](mailto:carolinek@ctjc.co.za)

Closing date for applications: 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

*If you have not been contacted within 2 weeks of application deadline, kindly consider your application to have been unsuccessful*





# Peter Feldman – the man who never missed opening night

TALI FEINBERG

The sudden passing this week of renowned entertainment critic and journalist, Peter Feldman, brought to an end his 50-year career across print, TV, and radio. For many, it was the end of an era of entertainment journalism, with Feldman as its leader and icon.

“He is one of the last of the important arts reviewers, whose body of work reaches back to the 1970s, when critics were feared, revered, and valued,” says music producer Bryan Schimmel.

He wasn’t born Peter Feldman. “Peter named himself, often regaling us with the story of how he was called Selwyn David Feldman by his parents,” says his friend, Janice Walker. “One of the few if not only Jewish students at his platteland primary school, the youngster made the decision to change his name the first time he walked into the classroom.

“When his *ima* [mother] visited for the first teacher/parent meeting, no one knew of a Selwyn Feldman, but they did have a Peter,” she says. “Peter’s explanation, complete with an accent, [was] ‘I wasn’t going to be called Shellvin Felldmin – ‘little Shelly’, so I called myself Peter after the Greek café owner in our street.’ Later, his parents officially changed his name.”

It was the beginning of an illustrious association with words, stories, and entertainment. “Recalling his career and working together for more than 30 years, Peter had a truly wonderful and rounded life – a time of many laughs, amazing experiences, and touching human moments,” says Walker.

“He was passionate about what he did, a hard grafter, and a lover of people. He was spiritual and believed in angels, and that his guardian angel protected him. This past February marked 30 years since he was shot in the stomach by a hijacker in the driveway of his then Parkmore home. He later told me he didn’t believe it was his time to go,” she says.

“Peter was the country’s foremost music critic in the heyday of arts journalism in South Africa,” says Walker. “He was punctual, professional, pedantic

about grammar, and didn’t pick and choose only the better stuff to review. He sat through it all. His criticism was always constructive. Many former colleagues from *The Star*, paying tribute to him on social media, recalled his kindness to them, his willingness to share his immense knowledge, and his lack of ego.

“It’s Peter with a twinkle in his eye, his love of prawns, and his collection of watches that I will miss the most,” she says. “He was master of the pun, and happy to make fun of himself. He once arrived at *The Star* wearing a pair of over-the-top platform shoes purchased two decades before in London’s Carnaby Street, and paraded around to laughs and applause. With his thinning hair and bright red spectacles, he looked somewhat like a young Elton John.

“He was a dedicated family man. When you saw Peter, you usually saw his beloved wife, Carla. My heart goes out to her, their beloved daughter Janna, and grandson Quinn.”

Publicist Penelope Stein met Feldman in the 1980s, “at the beginning of my career. Peter was a highly respected, much-loved music and entertainment journalist, whose contribution to the arts in all forms was enormous.

“He had a love of many things: good food, watches, dogs, movies, theatre, and his great interest was ‘the artist’. As a young publicist, the fear we had of dealing with him was quite something – no spelling mistakes, and if you said 09:00, it had to be 09:00 not a minute after! Peter was always on time, reliable, and delivered on his word.

“In those days, we had no faxes, computers, or cell phones, so every press release was typed, photocopied, and delivered to *The Star* offices with pictures. Deadlines and spelling were everything to Peter! He loved having lunches with music-industry people, and enjoyed the different whacky personalities of those days. Zoo biscuits and tea were a regular event to chat about ‘what’s news’.

“Peter had a quirky sense of humour, always quick to chip in a funny pun. If he made it to your press conference, you were okay! He would often

lead the way and in many instances, saved the day for me. He gave so many artists an opportunity to shine. He was fair. I know of numerous artists who still treasure the stories he wrote about them.”

For the owner of the Theatre on the Square, Daphne Kuhn, “his support for more than 25 years of Theatre on the Square was exceptional. He has probably reviewed almost every production since 1994 which he attended with Carla, who is a drama specialist. Janna [his daughter] is also a drama specialist and lives in London. His article about my theatre and our fundraising drive to keep it alive appeared in *The Citizen* a few weeks ago, and he regularly wrote for the *SA Jewish Report*, *Artslink.co.za*, *The Citizen*, *The Star*, *The Saturday Star*, *The Sunday Independent*, and other publications.

“He has also been the recipient of several awards for his contribution to music journalism and the South African record industry, and was a judge for the Naledi Theatre Awards,” she says. “He was a true gentleman, proud of his Jewish identity, warm, kind, and would do whatever he possibly could to promote the industry. There wasn’t an opening night that he missed! He simply understood the business. He was a true icon in the industry and a huge loss.”

He was a mentor to many. “He loved nothing more than to help a writer become their best self,” says entertainment blogger Mandy Strimling. “He always critiqued my writing before I published it. He had the ability to mould a writer of the arts in a

profound way.”

As a critic, he never took advantage of his power. “He was an old-school writer, and never veered from it,” says Strimling. “Even when he gave a bad review, it was always done in a way that gave the show an optimistic tone, the way it could improve. He never just tore someone’s work to pieces like many do. He always said there was never a good reason to do that. That’s what I respected most about him as a writer – his criticism was always constructive, never mean.

“We would have an opening night where there were lots of journalists and bloggers invited, but the cast and directors of the production would wait for Peter’s review to come out because that’s the one that could sell the show based solely on his thoughts. It was incredible to watch.”

Says Stein, “I will always have a picture of him in my mind, which is Pete carrying his bag and recorder ready to get the exclusive at any time. It’s the end of an era. There will only ever be one Peter Feldman.”



Peter Feldman

# Playwright and leader Victor Gordon makes his final exit

DIANE WOLFSON

Victor Gordon, who passed away this month due to COVID-19, had so many divergent sides. Gordon was a multi-talented man – a playwright, an artist, and a musician.

He was one of the Pretoria Jewish community’s guiding lights. He has been an active member of the Zionist Federation media team for the past 14 years, monitoring and countering antisemitism and anti-Israel bias in all facets of the media.

He served on the Carmel School parent-teachers association, Carmel’s board, the Jaffa management committee, and was chairperson of the Pretoria Council of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies for eight years as well as acting vice-chairperson for several years.



Victor Gordon

Gordon was pivotal in arranging events at Jaffa, bringing interesting speakers, films, and the like to the Pretoria community for many years. He also took over the running of Tararam, the South Africa Israel culture fund for a number of years, and wrote many speeches and articles for the Israeli embassy.

In his eulogy, Rabbi Gidon Fox said, “On the one hand, this is the easiest eulogy to write. On the other, it’s the hardest and one of the most painful to write. Easy, because there’s so much to say. Difficult, because the loss is unbearable. Difficult, because what words can one say about one of the world’s finest wordsmiths? What tribute can one pay that will do justice to a life that itself was such a tribute to the gift of life itself?

“Yet despite all these talents, Victor didn’t seek the limelight. Victor took on positions of import in the community not because he needed them, but because they needed him,” said Fox. “They needed his sage, wise, and eloquent advice, counsel, and leadership. In spite of all this fame, Victor was one of the humblest people I have had the privilege of knowing. A man who struggled to receive compliments due to his humility, yet had no trouble in dishing them out in spades.

“He lent his support, time, and abilities to communal organisations. Whether it be the history club, Jaffa, or indeed any time an MC was needed at a function or someone was required to give a vote of thanks,” said the rabbi. “And when Victor spoke, everyone listened. Every time he wrote or spoke, it sounded like poetry. Every time he opened his mouth, it was music to the ears. When a fabulous guest speaker or guest entertainment was provided in the community, it wouldn’t be uncommon for the highlight of the show to be Victor’s opening or closing remarks.”

His first play, *The Clue of the Blue Vase*, was staged at Brooklyn School on the final day of

his school year. While living briefly in London, his interest in writing plays really started to germinate. Soon after their return to South Africa, it was announced that television would be introduced in 1976, and it became obvious that this would create opportunities.

For Gordon, these lay in scriptwriting, and in spite of having no experience whatsoever, when the SABC (South African Broadcasting Corporation) announced the launch of an English drama and scriptwriting competition with guaranteed production of the winning play, Gordon was inspired to write *Fever Ward*. To his amazement, the script scooped first prize.

He also co-wrote what he referred to as “an awful TV series” with Paul Slabolepszy and Joe Stewardson called *The Adventures of Scotty Smith*, followed by a few episodes of the Springbok Radio series *Squad Cars* for Anthony Fridjhon. Victor then submitted *The Stibbe Affair* for the Amstel Playwright of the Year Award, gaining 11th place among more than 60 entries. He was so encouraged by that, a year later, he re-entered the competition with a play called *Brothers*, which scooped first prize and was subsequently produced by PACT (the Performing Arts Council of the Transvaal) at the State Theatre. It was a critical success, and was produced at the Baxter Theatre in Cape Town. Two years later, a new play called *Comrades* won the Combined Performing Councils of SA Award, and it too was staged at the State and Alexander Theatres.

The demands of earning a living then took priority, but in 2009, Victor wrote *Harry and Ed*, a play based on the unusual friendship that existed between President Harry Truman and a nondescript Jew named Eddie Jacobson which had a vital influence on the birth of Israel. This play was staged at the Sandton Theatre on the Square.

Next, believing that the Jewish American, Jonathan Pollard, who spied for Israel, was the

victim of a terrible miscarriage of justice, Victor wrote a play titled *Pollard’s Trial*. This came to the attention of well-known Israeli actor and director Roy Horowitz, who translated the work into Hebrew. The play opened shortly thereafter at the famed Cameri Theatre in Tel Aviv. Not only did it get a five-star rating from every critic, but Horowitz won the award for the best director that year.

It became the only play in the history of Israel to receive an invitation to mount a private performance at the Knesset before an invited audience of 350, hosted by current President Reuven Rivlin. *Pollard’s Trial* ran on-and-off throughout Israel for more than two years. The Gordons went to Sydney, Australia, not long ago when his latest play, *You Will Not Play Wagner* had its premier. It, too, was an outstanding success.

Gordon had just completed a play on the life of George Bizos, which got the nod from Bizos prior to his passing, and he was in the process of writing two further plays.

He began painting in his teens, with sales of more than a hundred, many of which are in foreign lands.

At 13, Gordon took up the clarinet and by joining the Boys High Military Band, was given a rudimentary introduction to the instrument’s workings. By 14, he had formed his first band. From there on, jazz dominated his life for many years, and he played semi-professionally for more than 40 years.

Gordon’s other interests included working with his hands. He was a devoted member of the MG Car Club for 12 years, during which he restored three vintage MGs, one dating back to 1938.

The Gordons have two children, Jonathan and Lisa, and are also the proud grandparents of Amy and Tali.



# Community spirit in *babkes*

As if we didn't have enough to worry us, there's genuine concern about diabetes amongst healthcare workers. And if there isn't, there certainly should be. Because with the goal of doing something to alleviate the stress and exhaustion of the teams, the community has reverted to type. When all else fails, there's always food. And right now, we have all become Jewish mothers.

Because nothing says that we care quite like *babke* does. Or quite like carbs do.

On Monday, I received numerous messages from well-intentioned individuals as well as restaurants and caterers asking me for the addresses of some of the frontline workers so that they could send them a "little something" to say thank you. It wasn't co-ordinated or structured, and yet at the same time, with incredible synchronicity, so many in the community have reached the logical conclusion that everyone needs to eat.

I have seen a list of deliveries of muffins and scones and chocolates and *bulkas* and bagels and coffee and whisky (probably not the best choice right at this moment). All sent to the offices, wards, and homes of those on the frontline.

As an aside, not for the first time, I have noted that talk-show hosts, columnists, and podcasters aren't considered frontline workers. But we don't need to go there, especially considering that some of us are slimming down on the assumption that the beaches will remain open come December.

Ordinarily, eating carbs makes me happy. But in this case, the magnificent behaviour of our community (as it relates to carbs) is doing the job. It says so much about who we are that at a time of extreme anxiety, frustration, and fear, we're able to look to others and appreciate what they are dealing with.

## INNER VOICE

Howard Feldman

What's fascinating is that, according to Malcolm Gladwell in his new book, *The Bomber Mafia*, as well as *Humankind* by Rutger Bregman, we shouldn't be at all surprised. In both these books, they recount a perplexing aspect of human nature as witnessed during the Blitz of London.

Psychologists and politicians alike in Germany and Britain assumed that the constant barrage of bombs would break the spirit of Londoners. They anticipated a flood from the city, and an increase in psychiatric demand. The Germans believed it would lead to surrender. None of this happened. The psychiatric hospitals, prepared in advance, remained empty, and London remained full. People helped each other, looked after each other, and many would recount this as being one of the most meaningful periods in their lives.

No matter what social media and the regular media might have us believe, in times of crises, we're more likely to come together than we are likely to rip each other apart. We're more likely to think of our first responders, nurses, and doctors than we are only to think of ourselves and our personal situation. It's at times of crises that although we might see the worst in some, we often see the best in most.

With each enquiry that I received, and with each gesture of goodwill I have seen this week, I felt more and more blessed and grateful to be part of this community. We are truly magnificent! And I don't mind being the one to say so.



A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

# Behaving responsibly in critical times

Gauteng has emerged as the epicentre of the much dreaded third wave of COVID-19 infection in South Africa, and the Western Cape has also been hard hit relative to the rest of the country. The great majority of Jews reside in these two provinces, and the impact on our community has, indeed, been severe. We all know people who are ill and sadly, many who have died from COVID-19. As goes without saying, whatever these new measures might be, it's incumbent on our community, collectively and individually, to abide by them strictly.

During the coming weeks, we need to double down our efforts to avoid socialising, to stay at home wherever possible, and meticulously follow all safety protocols relating to wearing masks, sanitation, and social distancing. All over 60s further need to ensure that they are vaccinated at the first available opportunity. We welcome the fact that educators have now been added to those who will receive priority in terms of receiving vaccinations. Those who have questions or need advice can email the South African Jewish Board of Deputies on [sajbd@sajbd.org](mailto:sajbd@sajbd.org).

## Global Jewry confronts rising antisemitism

Last week, the Board's senior leadership and professional staff had an enlightening, if rather sobering, meeting with our United States counterpart, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), regarding the antisemitic fall-out from last month's Gaza conflict. National Director Wendy

This column is paid for by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

## ABOVE BOARD

Shaun Zagnoev



Kahn also chaired the World Jewish Congress' (WJC's) National Directors' Forum meeting looking at the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on South African Jewry, and attended a WJC cyberhate working group meeting where the issue of cyberbullying and intimidation was addressed.


The WJC team will be advocating on these issues with social-media companies as insufficient attention is paid to these matters currently in their codes of conduct.

It was striking to learn, particularly from the ADL and WJC meetings, how closely the trends we have observed in South Africa have mirrored the US and other major diaspora communities. We are seeing the same kind of intimidation, inflammatory rhetoric, and "cancel culture" tactics, although thankfully, lower levels of actual physical attacks. To confront this growing threat effectively, global Jewry needs to work together as much as possible, sharing information and best practice, and forging practical partnerships where such opportunities present themselves. While the intensified wave of antisemitic hatred resulting from the last violent upsurge is very concerning, it's heartening to know that we aren't alone but are an active part of a united global Jewish effort to counteract it.

• Listen to Charisse Zeifert on Jewish Board Talk, 101.9 ChaiFM, every Friday from 12:00 to 13:00.

# WANTED!!!

# TOP PRICES PAID



## Free Evaluation & Buying on:

- South African & International coins and banknotes
- Medals and Militaria
- Silver and Gold Jewellery in any condition
- Silverware
- Collectable Items
- Pocket and wrist watches

Remember your I.D. and banking details if you wish to sell your items

### Collectors Investments

Dealers in Coins, Medals & Banknotes

**Enquiries:**  
Tel: 011 880 9116 / 076 741 8801 • WhatsApp: 079 784 0101  
32 Fricker Road, Illovo, Johannesburg

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



ADVERTORIAL

## Grovest races to meet eleventh-hour demand for tax break

With just a few days left until the Section 12J tax break becomes a thing of the past, Grovest has been inundated with enquiries from taxpayers scared of missing out on the opportunity to unlock up to R1.25 million in value through local investment.

In response, Grovest is on a mission to ensure that no investor misses out. We have increased our client-service capacity and opened a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week taxpayer helpline, which will be active until the legislation's final minute.

The investment incentive in Section 12J of the Income Tax Act, through which investors get up to R1 of value for every 55c invested in a qualifying fund, will come to an end at 23:59 on 30 June 2021. This means that taxpayers have just seven days left to receive up to 45c for free for every rand they invest, even before growth in the investment is considered - a benefit the likes of which won't be seen in South Africa in the foreseeable future.

The incentive, which was introduced into tax legislation by the government in 2009, was designed to encourage South Africans to invest in local small, medium, and micro enterprises (SMMEs) in specific growth-targeted industries by offering taxpayers substantial breaks on their income tax. Taxpayers were able to claim a deduction

against their taxable income up to set limits of R2.5 million for individuals and R5 million for companies, each year.

Crucially, Section 12J resulted in local taxpayers freely choosing to invest in growth-driving South African businesses instead of moving money offshore or holding on to cash. In the past five years alone, Section 12J investment has resulted in more than R5 billion worth of investment into more than 360 SMMEs, the employment and growth drivers of the South African economy. Section 12J investment has directly created more than 10 500 jobs across the country while still offering very attractive returns to investors over and above the substantial tax benefits. All of Grovest's Section 12J funds performed well over the pandemic, outperforming, for example, many of the United States dollar-denominated foreign investments often favoured by local investors.

Unfortunately for taxpayers (and for the fiscus), National Treasury announced it would bring the incentive to an end in this year's February budget.

This is your last opportunity to choose where your tax money goes!

### GROVEST 24-HOUR HOTLINE

011 262 6858  
[info@grovest.co.za](mailto:info@grovest.co.za)

INVEST BEFORE 30 JUNE 2021

**Taxpayers eager to make the most of this unique incentive before it comes to an end are encouraged to give Grovest's 24/7 taxpayer helpline a call on 011 262 6858, or visit [www.grovest.co.za](http://www.grovest.co.za)**



# Ra'anana residents ponder the prime minister next door

TALI FEINBERG

What's it like living a few streets away from the prime minister of Israel?

According to Israeli media, the residents of Ra'anana are up in arms that the newly-elected head of state, Naftali Bennett, is refusing to move to the prime minister's official residence in Jerusalem. This is because he doesn't want to uproot his children. But some of the many South African *olim* living in the area say they are only too happy to have him as their neighbour.

"I have been living in Ra'anana for the past six and a half years with my family. We aren't the direct neighbour of Naftali Bennett and his family – we live around the corner from them, and we've had a bit of social interaction with them," says Saul Kaplan, originally from Cape Town. "Our kids are all at the same schools. Very often I see him fetching his kids or doing school duties such as opening the doors for parents when they drop kids off. He's a very warm and friendly person, and so is his wife, Gilat, and their kids are very sweet."

One Israeli newspaper reported a resident saying that Bennett is "basically holding thousands of people hostage" by staying in Ra'anana, and Kaplan says it does have an impact on the lives of residents. "But I think he's also putting out a really powerful message. He's saying, 'Yes, I'm the prime minister, but why do my kids need to be uprooted from their lives and taken out of their comfort zone and away from their friends and schools? Let them continue as normally as possible.' These children don't have the easiest life with all the security."

Kaplan says that although the media has reported residents responding with "fury" to Bennett's decision, "there are many in Ra'anana who are very supportive of his choice to stay because essentially, it's for his family. For him personally, it's a nightmare. He has to drive an hour in the traffic every single morning and night. If he lived in Jerusalem, he would roll out of bed into work every day, and his life would be a lot more comfortable. "So, he's making a big sacrifice for his kids. And yes,



Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett

we're going to have to make a sacrifice," says Kaplan. "That sacrifice is that one road [where he lives], which is a road of residences, has now been blocked. So yes, it's quicker for me to take my children to school via that road, but I'm going to take the road next to it which takes a few minutes longer."

Neill Snape, who made aliyah from Cape Town two months ago, says, "We have the 'pleasure' of living about 200m from Naftali Bennett. On Sunday morning, I heard sirens and there was a blue light brigade, so I felt like I was back in South Africa. Today [Monday 21 June], there are protests outside Bennett's house. It's about 15 very noisy Likudniks making the whole neighbourhood unhappy. Security has blocked off the road and taken over a little public open space.

"Over the years of visiting Ra'anana, I have on many occasions walked past the Bennett home," he says. "Sometimes there has been hectic security and sometimes nothing. But one never seems to see any movement or people in the house."

Now that Bennett is prime minister, Snape says, "Who knows what's going to happen, but I really hope that the situation doesn't develop like the protests that happened outside Bibi's place! After the protests that happened after Shabbat, I'm sure Bibi's Jerusalem neighbours will

be happy that he is going, no matter their political leanings."

He's referring to the year-long protests outside former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's house in Balfour Street, Jerusalem, in which thousands turned up every Saturday night bearing signs, chanting, beating pots and drums, and blowing horns.

"If it gets bad, I'm going to protest and ask the *rosh hamemshala* [prime minster] to *lech* [go] to the official residence and leave us in peace," he says, referring to the many protesters who called for Netanyahu to *lech*.

"But, hey, what an exciting time to be *olim*! Also, we understand why he wants to live in Ra'anana and not disrupt his family life and children's schooling," says Snape. "For us, that shows great values in that he's not prepared to 'sacrifice' his family – well, we hope so. For that, we will be prepared to put up with a bit of noise!"

In a discussion on Facebook, one South African *oleh* said, "I live in Ra'anana, near Bennett's house. All our streets nearby are already affected by traffic jams. I work in the medical field and have had to change all my

patient bookings because of this."

However another South African *oleh* said, "We should be thanking him for taking on such an enormous role and putting his entire life on the line for his country. What an honour it is to live amongst the new leader of the Jewish people!"

Says Kaplan, "For us as residents who live very nearby, if you look at the bigger picture, he's really making a huge effort for the country bringing this unity government together and I think we can find many things to complain about.

"This is something most Ra'anana residents aren't going to feel much. Yes, the houses next to him [may be affected], but they've also got unbelievable added security that they've never had before. He doesn't block too many houses from the one side. The other side, there's a small block that some people need to go through, but it's really minor," he says. "It's quite special that we have a prime minister living around the corner from us. It's quite historic. It will cause a bit of chaos, but if you look at the bigger picture, most of the people I've spoken to – neighbours, friends, who all live within a few hundred metres of him – are very supportive of his decision, and we'll manage. I'm a big supporter of him staying in Ra'anana."

## Hard truths about human trafficking

STEVEN GRUZZ

If cybercrime were a country, it would have the third largest GDP (gross domestic product) in the world after the United States and China, said Andre Jordaan, a cybersecurity expert and forensic investigator, pointing out that crime, indeed, does pay.

He said the global market for cybercrime was estimated in 2019 to be between \$1.6 trillion (R22.9 trillion) and \$2.2 trillion (R31.5 trillion) annually. In 2021, it's estimated to be more than \$6 trillion (R85.6 trillion). Illegal online markets are worth \$860 billion (R12.2 trillion), trade secrets and intellectual property theft contribute \$500 billion (R7.1 trillion), data trading makes \$160 billion (R2.2 trillion), cybercrime-as-a-service is worth \$1.6 billion (R22.8 billion), and ransomware earns \$1 billion (R14.2 billion).

"This is a very uncomfortable topic," said psychoanalyst Andy Cohen, who moderated the webinar "Stolen people, stolen dreams" on 17 June on human trafficking and cybercrime, organised by the Johannesburg branch of the Union of Jewish Women.

Jordaan said that dangerous cyber activities – cybercrime, phishing, fake news, and trafficking – had all increased under the COVID-19 pandemic, as people spend more time online. He mapped out the murky and dangerous world of internet-based crime in the deep web and dark web. "My aim is to empower people to go online in safer ways," he said.

"The criminal has come into your home," Jordaan said. "He's not 'out there' anymore. He's in your room. He's in your child's room. He can have access to your cell phone and track your every move." According to Accenture, South Africa has the third highest number of cybercrime victims worldwide, losing R2.2 billion annually to cyberattacks. Android phones in particular are targeted by banking malware. Coronavirus-themed porn is now a searchable category, with millions of videos uploaded, downloaded, or streamed.

Turning to human trafficking, Jordaan said that 58% of victims eventually meet their traffickers face to face, while 42% who initially met their trafficker online and never met him or her in person, were still trafficked. "Predators look for indicators of substance abuse, runaway activity, and destabilisation within the home. Children are at risk, especially the vulnerable and marginalised." He showed a dark website advertising

sexual slave girls to rent for 15 or 30 days, with some as young as nine.

Seema Naidoo runs Hope to Heal, an organisation offering trauma-based services to survivors of human trafficking, which she calls "modern-day slavery". There are few counselling services for survivors of human trafficking in South Africa. Naidoo said there were also insufficient services for children and males who had been trafficked into forced labour or sexual slavery. Hope to Heal aims to reintegrate survivors, who often face the danger of being exploited again. It offers various therapies such as dance, art, and pottery. She appealed for greater support from South African corporates as she hopes to open other such centres.

"Survivor X" then told her painful story. In 2006, this 39-year-old resident of Alexandra township met someone she thought was a pastor in Yeoville, who promised her work overseas. The single mother of five was destitute and accepted. She was flown to Iran, and then kidnapped and locked in a flat for six weeks. She was then forced to swallow packets of drugs, but was arrested in Iran en route to China. She was housed in filthy underground cells, and underwent a crude operation to retrieve the drugs from her digestive system. Some drug packets burst inside her, and she struggled to voice her problems due to the language barrier. "I had an open stomach for three days, and my intestines were rotting. I was stitched up after four days, without an injection."

The South African embassy saw her only after four months in prison. She was given the death penalty, but eventually released in 2014. After a diet of rice, watermelon, and raisins, she had uterine cancer and had a hysterectomy in Iran. She said the government had done nothing for her in spite of many promises, except buy her plane ticket back to Johannesburg. Naidoo said Hope to Heal would see what could be done for "Survivor X".

"If a person is vulnerable in the real world, they will be vulnerable online," said Cohen. Young people cannot always bridge the gap between reality and cyberspace. "We must empower them to make informed decisions."

No-one has accurate figures about human trafficking, but South Africa remains a key recruitment and transit country. Jordaan hopes this wake-up call will cause people to be much more circumspect in cyberspace, and take measures to protect themselves and their children. "You need to build trust with your children about their online activities. It's dangerous out there," he said.



Andre Jordaan



Andy Cohen



Seema Naidoo

AUDIT • ADVISORY • TAX

CLARITY.  
ORDER.  
DIRECTION.

Our team of over 1 400 professionals, operating from 7 offices in South Africa, offers a unique combination of local market knowledge coupled with an international network, personal service and a professional approach. We shine a unique lens on clients' businesses to see the people beyond the numbers and establish where they are going.

www.bdo.co.za

© 2019 BDO South Africa Services (Pty) Ltd.

TL6802Z



We're sharing our big ad space  
with small businesses  
to help create better futures ♥

This page is proudly sponsored by

Hollard.  
presents  
**Big Ads**  
for Small Business

**ORDER BEANS  
ONLINE**



**MOCOCOFFEE.CO.ZA**

15% off your order  
use coupon code: BigAd15



**HYLOREN**

HYALURONIC ACID COMPLEX

*Mon Platin*  
PROFESSIONAL

Best Tech in Hair Care.  
Find a stockist or shop  
online:  
[www.MonPlatin.co.za](http://www.MonPlatin.co.za)

Designed, developed  
and manufactured  
in Israel.



**plasticsdirect**  
(PTY) LTD

Plastic solutions for commerce and industry

Specialised Safety Shield Mfg for  
Hospitals  
Office Parks  
Call Centres  
Industry

Custom Design

Industry  
Marketing  
Shopfitting

Free covid screen  
750mm x 600mm  
for any purchase  
over  
R5000



FAST TURNAROUND  
TIME

**ORT Jet**

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR  
2017  
NOMINEE  
2018

Proud Distributors Of  
Quality Branded Plastic Sheeting

S/B: 011-640 7438/640 1718 CELL: 084 587 8756  
[www.plasticsdirect.co.za](http://www.plasticsdirect.co.za) [info@plasticsdirect.co.za](mailto:info@plasticsdirect.co.za)



**FIBRE**  
FAST INTERNET

Top Value Telecom's

**FIBRE  
INTERNET**

- Extremely fast upload and download speeds.
- Stream smoothly - no more buffering.
- Very reliable - no more copper cable theft.
- Save even more - you don't need a phone line.
- Wireless fibre also available.
- Professional email addresses and domains available.

011 264 2736 • [www.topvaluetelecom.com](http://www.topvaluetelecom.com)



# Chasing the (Jewish) Windies

LUKE ALFRED

My guess is that you don't know much about Ivan Barrow, or to give his splendid and gloriously antiquated full name, Ivanhoe Mordecai Barrow.

Barrow was a Jamaican cricketer of the 1930s, when cricket in the Caribbean was just beginning to establish itself, a fearless wicket-keeper in massive pads and strangely under-sized gloves, and an opening batsman who played 11 Tests.

Alongside teammates with names like Vincent Valentine, Puss Achong, and Manny Martindale, Barrow scored the first Test century by a West Indian in England, 105 in the second Test at Old Trafford in 1933.

These were the days in which not very much was expected of the West Indian team, hope jostling in perpetual uneasiness with expectation, so Barrow's quiet century in alien conditions was a remarkable achievement.

His century helped put Caribbean cricket on a more confident footing and, haltingly, the Windies began to step out of England's colonial shadow, although it would take until a trip to India in 1948/9, for them to win their first Test series away from home.

Barrow and his twin brother, Frank, were born to Hyam and Mamie (née Reuben) Barrow on 6 January 1911, and attended the local Jewish primary school in Kingston, Jamaica, before going to Wolmer's School, one of the oldest high schools on the island.

The twins' parents were Sephardic Jews who probably – no-one is quite sure – immigrated to Jamaica sometime from the 1830s onwards. The Iberian Jews settled in many parts of the Caribbean, including Trinidad and British Guiana. Although today their influence has waned, there was a time when they played important roles in Caribbean society as traders and professional men.

After his 11 Tests, Barrow worked as an accountant in a sporting goods store he either owned or lent his name to. According to journalist Abhishek Mukherjee, he also worked as a promotions officer in the Jamaican Industrial

Development Corporation, as well as a horse-racing commentator. He married Dorothy Nunes in 1950, he and his wife having two daughters.

Barrow's international debut came against England at Sabina Park in his home town of Kingston in April 1930 when he was only 19. The visitors batted first and scored a mammoth 849, Andy Sandham scoring 325 and Les Ames 149.

With the England total on 179, Barrow found his name in the scorebook, stumping batsman George Gunn off slow left-armer Freddie Martin. Miraculously, given England's 849, the West Indies hung on for a draw. Needing 836 runs to win they were 408 for five at the close, the great George Headley scoring 223.

Also making his debut in the England Test at Sabina Park, was Trinidad's Oscar Da Costa, full name Constantine Oscar Da Costa. In probably the most famous photograph of Barrow, taken in England in 1933 (the series in which Barrow scored his century), he is sitting on a bench with his good friend, Da Costa, facing the camera. While the

well turned-out Da Costa (he is wearing a tweed or serge jacket) is looking at the camera with a certain haughtiness, Barrow's hooded eyes look slightly uncomfortable. He is staring off elsewhere, either unable or unwilling to engage the prying eyes of the photographer's lens.

A character and bit of a joker, history tells us that Da Costa had a stamp made for himself before the tour so that he could save time when dealing with autograph-hunters' requests. There is, of course, a more obvious conclusion to be drawn from the story: that Da Costa was illiterate and struggled to sign his name. A stamp was an elegant solution, saving both time and humiliation.

Barrow was also careful about self-exposure. For many years, the world was under the impression that his middle name – slightly incomprehensibly – was "Mordred", until after his death one of his daughters corrected the record to reflect the more obviously Jewish "Mordecai".

He played his cricket at a time when it was difficult to be a West Indian abroad. During the first-ever West Indian tour of Australia in 1930/1, official "whites only" policy



Ivan Barrow



Best Prices on Sealy Posturepedic Pole Firm Queen Base Set (152cm)

R5999

Save R1000

For the Ideal Prices, best service and Ideal value speak to us. We stock the biggest and best brands.





FURNISHERS

Furniture: Lazy Boy, Linea Classica Alpine & Grafton

Beds: Sealy, Simmons, Rest Assured & Contour

Appliances: Bosch, Defy, Samsung & LG

011 887 5456 | 011 440 9571

Shabbat Shalom from I-deal Furnishers

Midways Mall, 280 Corlett Drive, Bramley Gardens

Monday to Friday 8:30 – 17:00

Saturday 8:30 – 13:00 | Sunday 10:00 – 13:00

required that the mixed members of the visiting team stayed in different hotels. To their credit, the West Indian tour management found this unacceptable and told their hosts so. The tour went off without a hitch. According to the famous Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, the West Indians made a very "favourable impression".

Although they lost the series 4-1, the visitors recorded their first Test victory on foreign soil, winning the fifth Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground by 30 runs. "At the end of the match, the visitors were cheered enthusiastically and cheered heartily," recorded Wisden.

## Order of Australia winner reflects on SA Jewish roots

>>Continued from page 5

kind of situation around. "The first thing is to make health services accessible. But creating this access isn't always easy. Once this is established, we can address the social determinants of health and what's holding the family back. This could be a need for stable housing, addressing parental drug addiction, abuse, domestic violence, and parental mental health. It means getting kids into school or day care and helping teachers understand where the kids are coming from so that everyone is on this child's side. It means motivating parents to find work or apply for benefits."

Zwi says the work is rewarding because it can make a big difference. "Almost all children have amazing potential. It's hard to watch when that potential isn't able to be expressed. It's a very natural thing to want to see a child flourish. It's not easy to get education, employment, and schooling all 'lined up'. But if the child gets that support, especially in early childhood, then the chances are high of them becoming a resilient, well-functioning adult. If we don't start early,

we're just wasting time."

She says her South African background continues to influence her work today. "I did community work and outreach even as a medical student. I learnt about going out, getting the community involved, asking people what they need and want, and engaging with them. I do the exact same here, and it really works. People want to feel valued and respected and asked to help deliver the services that they want."

Zwi is proud and honoured to receive this award, and she wishes that it had a direct impact on the children who so desperately need her help. Meanwhile, she is carrying on with her extensive outreach, activism, and engagement.

"I haven't achieved everything I wanted to achieve. I hope the award gives this type of work a little more recognition, and shows that even in a wealthy country like Australia, people are suffering. But in a country like this, one can resolve it. So it should be done."

Letters will be online only this week

# KosherWorld Centre

TRULY KOSHER

## OPENING SOON

Welcome to our very own pharmacy in our centre.  
Now even more convenience for our community.

# Hometown Pharmacy

Where the pharmacist knows your name

Your one-stop kosher centre

011 440 9517

063 113 9608

082 086 9631

011 440 9517

079 616 0905

079 224 3423

011 440 8591

082 0847794

011 440 5224

011 786 1063

1 Long Avenue, Glenhazel | 011 440 9517 | info@kosherworld.co.za | www.kosherworld.co.za

facebook