



Adriaan Boshoff,
Still Life with White Daisies,
oil on canvas
SOLD R55,000



Dutch walnut
display cabinet
SOLD R17,000



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

For more information 011 789 7422 • rka@global.co.za • 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 25 ■ 15 July 2021 ■ 6 Av 5781

www.sajr.co.za

Days of wreckage and reckoning

MIRAH LANGER

As South Africans face the largest outbreak of unrest and violence in the post-apartheid era, the community of KwaZulu-Natal reels from safety concerns, lost businesses, and looming food and fuel shortages.

In Gauteng, while central community areas haven't been directly affected, the province remains on tenterhooks as it looks at the longer-term effects on the country as a whole.

"It's like a war zone. I haven't slept for two days," said Michael Ditz, shortly before he began another patrol in his Durban North neighbourhood this week.

Ditz, the co-owner of retail chain Jam Clothing, said that last week, they owned 115 stores with a national footprint. This week, "we are now down to 99, we have lost 16 stores. Some have been burnt to the ground, others just had their goods looted."

"We still have to assess the full damage, but the tragic irony is the long-term job losses – it will take years to rebuild."

Ditz said it was too early to process fully the shock of the past few days. "I just feel gutted," he said.

He said they also faced personal danger. "Our families and our houses are under threat. We are literally guarding our own neighbourhood."

Yet, he said, unity had been forged in this regard. "We have been working with the Muslim community." A similar collective effort is also happening in Jewish community member Darren Katzer's neighbourhood in central Musgrave.

"With the Muslim community, it has been unbelievable. We are working closely together, just protecting each other and doing whatever we can."

Especially as food shortages become a real possibility, "our neighbourhood block is literally

husband, Rod, are shop owners in a mall that was looted in Glenwood, said people were trying to source items like baby formula.

She said her family had looters strolling in their neighbourhood, "coming up our road with their trolleys filled with stolen goods. You feel

She described their fellow tenants as "family", who have even helped with donations to the Union of Jewish Women outreach activities in which she is involved.

"By the grace of G-d and my prayers to Hashem, for some unknown reason, our shop was spared," she said. The sole reason they can think of for the sparing of their shop is that while they are a jewellery store, they also sell "fancy goods". These include menorahs, which were on prominent display in their window.

"The majority of the people that buy the menorahs are Christian church goers." Perhaps, she muses, this acted as some kind of deterrent.

Hayley Lieberthal, the media spokesperson for the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) KwaZulu-Natal Council, said that while they were "aware that there has been loss of business and livelihoods within the community", exact numbers couldn't be given at this time.

"At present,

there are extremely long queues for petrol and food. Supermarkets that are able to open are limiting the items being bought. The SAJBD KwaZulu-Natal and Community Security

Organisation (CSO) are hard at work to resolve these two matters."

"Although tension is running high here, we have an incredible community that has always

Continued on page 3>>



The police and army patrolling the streets of Alexandra on Wednesday

Photos: Ian Oesendwyer

having meals with all of us together, so that we can pool our food, because we don't know if we are going to run out. That's the reality."

The looting has decimated businesses, shops, and factories in the area, and the violence is "on their doorstep". The equivalent of their proximity to the unrest would be something like the looting of Norwood or Sandton in Johannesburg.

Shops are now shut in the vicinity, and where one might be found open, mass queues are forming. Janyce Bear, who along with her

like you are in another world."

Both she and her husband were recovering at home from COVID-19

when their mall was attacked, and while they are grateful their store was spared, they are devastated for the other tenants.

It's a sentiment that Jenny Kahn, who owns a store with her husband in the same mall, shares.



Alexandra residents apologise to a shop owner for what others did to his business



HELP FOR YOUR
BUSINESS
WHEN YOU
NEED IT MOST

Gesher Small Business Relief Fund has already **assisted over 125 majority Jewish owned businesses** – businesses just like yours – to weather the financial crisis resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

For Jewish owned SME's that have exhausted all conventional avenues for financial assistance, we offer:

- loans up to R750 000
- interest free
- flexible repayment terms

To apply visit
www.gesher.org.za

To donate please email
romy@gesher.org.za

David Friedman

"Your Choice of property agents in the Garden Route"

david@choicenet.co.za C : +27 (0)83 451 1456



Appliance Repairs on Site

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

Call Jason
082 401 8239 / 076 210 6532
FREE QUOTATIONS

Investor looking to invest in a pre-existing business with:

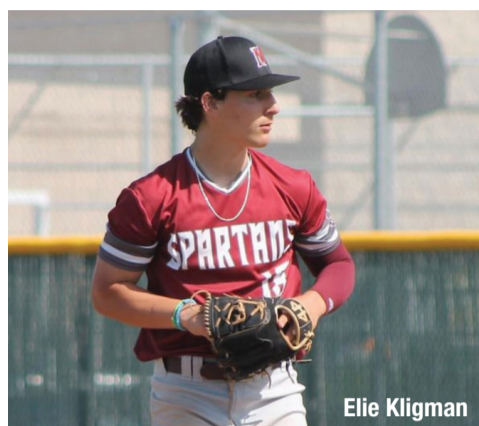
- a proven track record and requiring capital to expand its operations or
- growth potential and existing client base and requiring capital to expand its operations
- preferably an annuity type income

I am wishing to participate in an active and or advisory role.

Please send details of the potential investment to:
potentialinvestor123@gmail.com

Orthodox player second to hit the big league

The Washington Nationals selected Elie Kligman in its final and 20th round pick on 13 July, making him the second Orthodox Jewish player ever drafted into the league and the second in two days. The Arizona Diamondbacks picked 17-year-old Long Island, New York, native, Jacob Steinmetz, 77th overall on 12 July.



Elie Kligman

According to MLB.com, Kligman, 18, has moved towards becoming a catcher, but has also played shortstop and thrown the ball 90 miles an hour (144km per hour) as a pitcher. (The pitcher, Steinmetz, has reportedly touched as high as 97 miles per hour.) Kligman switch-hits as well, meaning that he can bat righty or lefty, a skill that boosts his future value.

The Las Vegas native is also more observant than Steinmetz. While Steinmetz plays on the Jewish Sabbath, albeit in walking distance of his hotels, Kligman doesn't.

"That day of Shabbos is for G-d. I'm not going to change that," he told *The New York Times* in March.

Fired Oregon professor sues for \$4 million

A professor who was fired from an Oregon university after publicly criticising its president for antisemitism and for neglecting sexual-harassment allegations has sued

the university for \$4 million (R58 million).

Daniel Pollack-Pelzner, a tenured English professor at the Baptist-affiliated Linfield University, accused President Miles Davis of making multiple antisemitic remarks to him in recent years. The antisemitism, Pollack-Pelzner said, was partly a backlash to his demands that the school do more to address allegations of sexual assault against university trustees including Davis.

Davis denied some of the allegations during an independent investigation, though later admitted to making a remark about Jewish noses.

In April, Linfield fired Pollack-Pelzner, citing "serious breaches of the individual's duty to the institution". The termination didn't appear to follow the process for firing tenured faculty.

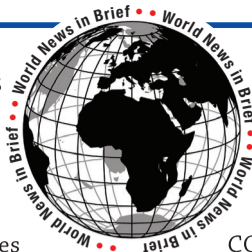
British Jews welcome 800-year-old apology

British Jewish leaders say an anticipated apology from the Church of England for antisemitic laws enacted in 1222 is "better late than never".

The church is planning a formal "act of repentance" for next year, the 800th anniversary of the Synod of Oxford, a set of laws that restricted Jews' rights to engage with Christians in England, according to a report in the *Telegraph*.

The laws ultimately led to the expulsion of England's Jews in 1290. They weren't officially readmitted until 1656.

"The historic trauma of medieval English antisemitism can never be erased, and its legacy survives today. For example, through the persistence of the 'blood libel' allegation that was invented in this country," Dave Rich, the policy director of a British antisemitism watchdog group, told the *Telegraph*. "But at a time of rising antisemitism, the support of the Church of England for our Jewish community is most welcome as a reminder that the Britain of today is a very different place."



Israel first to offer COVID-19 vaccine booster shot

Israel has begun inviting immunocompromised adults to receive a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as case rates in the country have risen again due to the spread of the Delta variant.

Israel led the world in vaccinating most of its population early this year, and the country fully reopened as COVID-19 cases plummeted to a low of single digits during a few days in late May and early June. But cases have since spiked back up to more than 400 a day.

In response, Israel is the first country in the world to approve a third dose of the vaccine as a booster shot, according to *The Times of Israel*. It has also brought back an indoor-mask mandate.

Trump's in-laws tout Haley for president

Charles Kushner, the father of Jared Kushner and the father-in-law of Ivanka Trump, hosted a fundraising event for Nikki Haley and speculated about the former South Carolina governor and United Nations ambassador becoming president.

If Haley declares, and Donald Trump, Jared Kushner's father-in-law, says he wants another shot at the White House, things could get interesting at the Kushner family seder.

Haley has said she will announce her decision about whether to run in 2024 early in 2023. She is among the more popular potential Republican candidates among pro-Israel Jews.

• All briefs supplied by JTA

Shabbat times this week

Starts	Ends	
17:16	18:08	Johannesburg
17:38	18:33	Cape Town
16:57	17:50	Durban
17:17	18:10	Bloemfontein
17:09	18:04	Port Elizabeth
17:02	17:57	East London

Torah Thought

Memory versus history

Devarim is the *parsha* associated with Tisha B'Av, the Jewish national day of mourning. After Shabbos, we will recall the destruction of our holy temple nearly 2 000 years ago.

But why remember? The world cannot understand why we go on about the Holocaust, and that was less than 80 years ago! For more than 19 centuries, we have been remembering and observing this event, and it has become the saddest day in our calendar. Why? Why not let bygones be bygones? It's history. What was, was. Why keep revisiting old and painful visions?

They say that Napoleon was once passing through the Jewish ghetto in Paris, and heard sounds of crying and wailing emanating from a synagogue. He stopped to ask what the lament was about. He was told that the Jews were remembering the destruction of their Temple. "When did it happen?" asked the emperor. "Some 1 700 years ago," was the answer. Whereupon Napoleon stated with conviction

that a people who never forgot their past would be destined to forever have a future.

Elie Wiesel famously once said that Jews have never had history. We have memory. History can become a book, a museum, and forgotten antiquities. Memory is alive, memories reverberate, and memory guarantees our future.

Even amidst the ruins, we refused to forget. The first temple was destroyed by the Babylonians. As they led the Jews into captivity, they sat down and wept. "By the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept remembering Zion." What did they cry of? Their lost wealth, homes, and businesses? No. They cried for Zion and Jerusalem. "If I forget thee 'O Jerusalem, let my right hand lose its cunning." They were not weeping for themselves or their lost liberties but for the heavenly city and holy temple. Amidst the bondage, they aspired to rebuild, amidst the ruins, they dreamt of returning.

And because we refused to forget Jerusalem, we did return. And because

we refused to accept defeat or accept our exile as a historical *fait accompli*, we have rebuilt proud Jewish communities the world over, while our victors have been vanquished by time.

Today, there are no more Babylonians, and the people who now live in Rome aren't the Romans who destroyed the second temple. Those nations became history while we, inspired by memory, emerged revitalised and regenerated and forever it will be true that *am Yisrael chai* (the people of Israel live).

Only if we refuse to forget can we hope to rebuild one day. Indeed, the Talmud assures us, "Whosoever mourns for Jerusalem, will merit to witness her rejoicing." We dare not forget. We need to observe our national day of mourning this Saturday night and Sunday. Forego the movies and the restaurants. Sit down on a low seat to mourn with your people; and perhaps even more importantly, to remember. And, please G-d, He will restore those glorious days and rebuild His own everlasting house soon.



Rabbi Yossy Goldman, life rabbi emeritus, Sydenham Shul

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 RANGE FOR PENSIONERS

- 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

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

Fairmount
6 George Ave,
Sandringham
Additional branches in Benoni and Germiston

We are COVID-19 compliant

VEHICLES WANTED



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

Arnold Orkin 082 823 7826
AUTO AFRICA

South African Jewish Report

Editor Peta Krost Maunders – 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
Proofreader Kim Hatchuel Advertising Britt Landsman: 082 292 9520 – britt@sajewishreport.co.za • New business development manager Laura Kaufman laura@sajewishreport.co.za • Design and layout Bryan Maron/Design Bandits – 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.



Doctors stay put under fire at Hillbrow Clinic

MIRAH LANGER

As violence erupted, a Jewish doctor and his colleagues defied calls to leave their posts at the Hillbrow Clinic, choosing instead to serve the dozens seeking emergency care, and eventually ensuring that they were evacuated via armoured ambulance.

“We were obviously concerned that the violence taking place on the streets of Hillbrow would spill over into the clinic. At the same time, there was no chance we could keep up with the patients. Tension

Patient numbers then began rapidly increasing, with people seeking help for traumatic injuries, mainly from gunshot wounds and rubber bullets.

“I never realised how vicious rubber bullets are until I saw the effects – we had a patient with a rubber bullet to the eye, a young man with a rubber bullet lodged in his cheek, and a one-year-old baby girl hit by a rubber bullet in the head.”

The clinic staff contacted the police to assist with crowd control and ensure the clinic wouldn't be stormed. When the officials finally arrived, they attempted

to disperse the crowd outside.

“By 21:00, we had received news that the armoured ambulance [Mfezi], which has capacity for about 20

patients at a time, was on its way to help evacuate patients from the clinic.”

The EMS, with the Mfezi, was then able to assist in evacuating patients in the direst condition first. They also sent home those not needing urgent care.

“Each time we thought we were finished with the evacuation, another patient would arrive with either a gunshot wound or stabbing. It felt like the pressure was never going to end. The last patient was evacuated only at about 03:30.”

For the medical fraternity, it has been a “nightmare dealing with the dual crisis plaguing the province of COVID-19 and now riots”, said the doctor.

However, he paid tribute to those supporting the sector's efforts to keep offering care to those who need it most. For example, during his shift that night, after his family had contacted the Community Security Organisation (CSO), “they remained in constant contact with me, providing me with updates about the situation and ensuring that I wasn't in any immediate danger. When we told them that we couldn't leave the clinic, they gave us practical advice about what we should do in the event of escalation in the clinic.”

The doctor said the support he was given by CSO made him feel privileged to be a part of the community.



The armoured ambulance (Mfezi) arriving at Hillbrow Clinic

inside the clinic began to rise as it became increasingly difficult to deal with the volume of patients with severe injuries,” said the doctor, who has asked to remain anonymous. He was one of only two doctors, alongside three nurses, attending to casualty at the clinic from Sunday night into the early hours of Monday.

“We received a number of warnings from various sources to get out of Hillbrow, but with the volume and severity of the patients we had to deal with, this simply wasn't possible,” he said.

Even before he arrived for his shift that day, a colleague working in the afternoon had called him, with a police officer at the clinic, to give directions about the safest route to reach the clinic.

When he arrived, staff numbers were already curtailed by the fact that some medical workers had been unable to get to work owing to the security situation in the area.

As night fell, they could hear the noise of the crowd and sporadic gun fire outside the clinic. “Being a clinic, we don't have the facilities to treat P1 [priority 1] patients. Our job is to stabilise the patient and transfer them to a higher-level centre.

Unfortunately, by 20:00, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) called us to say that it wouldn't be transporting any of our patients as the roads weren't safe.”

Call Alan: 082 850 0004
www.alfinauto.co.za

Days of wreckage and reckoning

>>Continued from page 1

come together and once again, this is no exception,” Lieberthal said.

The Johannesburg CSO's director of operations, Jevon Greenblatt, said that while the picture in that province was different to that on the ground in KwaZulu-Natal, people should be careful while also curbing panic and hysteria. Inaccurate posts on social media, for example, could lead to police and security companies being called out unnecessarily, preventing them from attending scenes where they are truly

needed. “Remain cautious and close to home,” he urged.

Amidst the turmoil and horror of the past week, stories also began to emerge of communities fighting back against looters. Property developer Steven Herring, under whose company Tembisa's Birch Acres was built, witnessed this when his mall was threatened and people from the neighbourhood stood up to the looters.

“It's amazing to see. When we're on the edge, it's unique that people are standing up, stepping up, and showing support. It's heartwarming to see that at the end of the day, there's light at the end of the tunnel.”

Yet, he said, this kind of community support was forged right from the start. “When we built the mall 10 years ago, we were hands on with the community every step of the way. On the property, not only is there the mall, there's a taxi rank, a vicinity

for hawkers, a centre-managers office, a car wash, and even shops that are especially allocated to elevate people from being hawkers to shop owners. It's an all-inclusive process that has been going on for a very long time, and we keep those relationships going.”

On the flipside, Jewish community member Reuben (whose name has been changed), who was involved in security operations on the frontline in Johannesburg, witnessed some truly dark moments.



Alexandra residents rebuilding five houses that were destroyed during the rioting

“We went to a store in Jeppe that had been looted, and where the owners had asked for help to access their store – a small corner spaza shop. As the owners were driving up, you could already see in their faces that their lives were shattered. They started to cry. They were shaking and as they walked into the store, there was nothing. They just broke down.

“I have seen enough carnage and damage, [but I was moved by this]. That was the worst part, you saw the real cost of the violence wasn't destruction of roads, it was lives.”

JAWITZ
PROPERTIES

INVEST IN PROPERTY IN ISRAEL FROM R5 MILLION

Contact Herschel Jawitz in strict confidence
082 571 1829 | herschel@jawitz.co.za

REAL LIFE Real Estate.

FOR SALE

FAIRMOUNT | R 2 399 000
This “Gem” is a modern, 3-bedroom apartment with staff accommodation. Set in a leafy suburb stands this spacious and bright north facing 3-bedroom apartment. 2 Modern bathrooms with main en suite. A huge tiled open plan lounge and dining room opens onto a balcony. The well-fitted kitchen has a breakfast bar and double oven with ample cupboards. There is an elevator in the building. Underground parking. Genuine seller. A must to view. Close to Shuls, schools and shops in the area.
Web Ref: RL78487
Joel Harris 082 926 0287
Lauren Shalpid 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

GLENHAZEL | R 2 599 000
Well-loved 4-bedroom family home in a great location. This home has a spacious lounge, separate dining room and family room both with fireplaces leading out to covered patio and spacious tropical garden with lovely pool setting. Charming courtyard. Large eat in kitchen with separate scullery and breakfast nook, 2 bathrooms (main en suite). Study. Two garages plus double car port and double staff accommodation. Close to many shuls, shops in the area and schools. Genuine seller wants offers.
Web Ref: RL77118
Joel Harris 082 926 0287
Lauren Shalpid 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

WAVERLEY | R 3 750 000
Comfortably proportioned single level, ground floor dwelling where the layout just flows! Two receptions accessing entertainer's covered patio, kitchen with adjacent scullery, master suite, 2 additional bedrooms share a 2nd full bathroom, large utility room/study has 4th bed potential, staff, 2 parking bays, pool in complex.
Web Ref: RL71721
Chrissie Hammer: 082 568 0440

PRICE REDUCED

MORNINGSIDE | R 2 999 000
Modern & magnificent. 2 Bed, 2 Bath garden apartment. Stylish open plan living/dining leading to modern kitchen fitted with 2 Bosch ovens plus space for 2 appliances, French door fridge/freezer & microwave. Entertainers Patio leading to landscaped herb & vegetable garden, with access to generous grassed area. Children's Play Area/Additional Toy Room/Office. Complex Pool & Clubhouse. 2 underground parking bays. Storage Room. Safe & Secure. Set in a quiet road, with Shul, shops, schools, gyms and all amenities virtually on your doorstep. An Entertainers Delight!
Web Ref: RL76319
Sandra Luntz: 083 679 1247

Gesher lifeline extended for another six months

TALI FEINBERG

The economic devastation that COVID-19 has wrought on the Jewish community has been extensive and potentially devastating, but some have been rescued by the Gesher Fund, which offers interest-free loans to struggling Jewish-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMMEs).

Now, the fund has been given a six-month extension to continue to help Jewish-owned businesses battling through the storm of lockdown, an unstable economy, and civil unrest.

“The pandemic devastated my business on every level,” says one medium-sized business owner in the hospitality industry, speaking on condition of anonymity. “In a split second in March 2020, three months of business was swept from under my feet. It’s a distressing experience having to ask for help, especially when you are an independent person. But having said that, I had to get over myself and ask for help – I have a responsibility to my staff. Gesher gave me the financial leeway to remain operational and pay staff and utilities. I wouldn’t have survived without the Gesher cash injection.”

As the pandemic continues to take lives, it also takes livelihoods, and Gesher is there to build a bridge for businesses that need to get to the other side.

“We have the resources available, and are anxious to get it to qualifying SMMEs.

We are in a window now where many need funds quickly,” says Martin Sacks, the chairperson of Gesher and a member of the board of governors of the Chevrah Kadisha.

“We kicked off our work just more than a year ago. At the time, we never thought we would be in this situation as long as we have been. We were initially given a mandate from our donors to advance interest-free loans for 12 months, and collect loans within 30 to 36 months thereafter,” he says.

“When we came to the end of the initial loan-granting period at the end of May, we sat down with our founding donors – the Donald Gordon Foundation and our other cornerstone donor, and the Chevrah Kadisha (the Chev). We discussed small businesses in the context of the third wave.

“Existing borrowers were under tremendous pressure to make their repayments, and we were approached by many new SMMEs which had been impacted by the third wave. In this context, we were kindly given a six-month extension to our mandate by our generous founding donors and the Chev. We have reopened our facilities to SMMEs who qualify. The criteria are the same as before, and we are glad to continue to provide assistance.”

The borrower quoted above says applying for a loan wasn’t simple, but it was worth it. “To survive, I had to go through the process. The help I received from the accountant/mentor assigned to my case was warm and engaging, and so supportive.”

She advises others that, “If you feel your business has longevity and the potential to beat on through these violent currents, then I would advise you to ask for help. I have totally restructured and re-invented my offering, and ‘pivoting’ was central to survival. It’s emotionally exhausting, and teetering on the brink of a depleted bank balance each month is scary, but knowing Gesher is there is a huge comfort.”

“The pandemic had a big impact on my business,” says another small business owner and single mother speaking on condition of anonymity. “From an established business of 25 years, we essentially collapsed and almost had to start from the beginning. I am in my shop seven days a week. Many days there have been no sales or customers. I’ve cried many days and nights.

“The highest turnover we had after opening the store after lockdown was only 20% of my usual turnover. If not for the Gesher Fund, I don’t think I would have



survived. I pumped as much of the money as I could into the business. I immediately paid my debt to suppliers, and my rent, which was three or four months behind. People started trusting me again. Sitting in credit with suppliers isn’t simple. Things are tough again, but I make sure my loan repayments are made on time. I would definitely recommend Gesher to small businesses. To have no interest on the loan is phenomenal.”

Sacks pays tribute to the many volunteers behind the scenes who evaluate applications and provide assistance and advice to borrowers. “We have continuing remarkable involvement from more than 40 volunteers, including our board, credit committees, and panel members. It’s a significant and highly capable infrastructure that didn’t exist in the community before. On the back of this, we are considering scenarios for Gesher to support the sustainability of small businesses in our community in the longer term. Most of our community is self-employed, and we feel that the key to the sustainability of the community is small businesses surviving and thriving.”

They are therefore talking to all key stakeholders and examining the requirements for capital and infrastructure to sustain such work. “Within the Chev and the community, there are huge demands for funding at the moment, and it’s important that any capital that Gesher continues to deploy is done so effectively and with a measurable long term benefit.”

Sacks says that so far, they have made more than 130 loans. With Gesher reopening,

that will probably go up to about 150. He says borrowers obviously come from the industries hardest hit by lockdown such as tourism, leisure, and hospitality, but also across the business and professional-services spectrum including industries one may not expect. “Many businesses spin off those worst affected, and are therefore impacted,” Sacks says.

Borrowers come to Gesher as a “last resort”, often exhausting the options of business funding, banks, or family support. “There are different levels of desperation, but after a prolonged period of forced business slow down and a tough economy to start with, they don’t have capital resources. They need funds for basic subsistence – this isn’t growth investment, it’s about sustaining the business, funding working and operating capital.

“There is a reluctance to step forward as many people don’t want to rely on donor funds,” he says. “They’ve done the hard yards in starting their own business; they are surviving and supporting workers and their families. Most of our borrowers have at least five employees, and some have hundreds. But there shouldn’t be any form of stigma. We’re just helping until they can get back on their feet. In many countries, there is much more small-business support. There’s unfortunately nothing significant here. Businesses may have been better able to withstand the shock of the pandemic and lockdowns if they had come into the pandemic off the back of a stronger economy.

“The majority will survive, and get through with support,” Sacks says. “This isn’t a grant, it’s an interest-free loan. We’re looking for businesses that will survive. Sometimes it’s beyond their control. Fundamentally, we want to help the most people we can, which includes employees from the broader community.”

Sacks says that as we’ve seen in the current civil unrest, the business environment is volatile and can change from one moment to the next. “People are resilient and hard working. But without capital, there’s very little one can do. So they’re providing ingenuity, and we are filling the capital gap where we can. Speed is of the essence – you can resolve a lot of issues if you have capital. For example, being able to pay a supplier half of what you owe shows that you are ‘coming to the party’, and they keep the supply chain going. Our capital can provide a lifeline for a long time and get a business back onto a more stable footing.”

Young doctor and school volunteers speed up vaccine drive

TALI FEINBERG

Giving a vaccine may take a second, but the administration that needs to happen for every jab takes a lot longer. Local doctor Menachem Hockman, who is only 27, realised that the process could speed up if he took this extra work off the hands of healthcare workers.

Bringing in youthful Jewish volunteers to take on these tasks, he implemented a revolutionary model that has grabbed the attention of the Department of Health (DOH), and could make all the difference in speeding up local vaccination drives.

Known by his nickname as “Dr Menoosh”, Hockman told the *SA Jewish Report* how it all began.

“I’m working at Dobsonville Clinic in Soweto, and there is a vaccination drive there. I noticed that while vaccinating a patient is quick, there’s a lot of administration that surrounds vaccination that takes up to 10 to 15 minutes for each patient. Those jobs were falling on the vaccinators or nurses. Due to that, it became quite a slow-moving process.

“So, I approached the facility manager and discussed finding volunteers who could come in and take on the administrative role because it doesn’t require much training. She put me in touch with a few people, and the government gave us the go-ahead to start a trial and bring some students in.

“We started at Jabulani Mall in Soweto with students from King David Linksfield (KDL) and the South African Union of Jewish Students. They did a fantastic job helping to capture the data and make the process go smoothly.”

Hockman believes vaccine hesitancy can be lessened by “an efficiently-run vaccination site. If people think going to a site means taking off an entire day and spending four hours in a queue, they may be deterred from doing it.

So there’s huge value in improving the sites. It will encourage more people to get vaccinated because they see it as a 20-minute process as opposed to spending the whole day.”

These initiatives are important because “COVID-19 is something that has affected the lives of every South African. It’s not something that’s ‘somebody else’s problem’. People would rather come out and help fight it than sit in their house. It was incredible to see that it’s something the youth are especially keen to get involved in.”

One of these volunteers was Tali Atie, who is 17 years old and in matric at KDL. As soon as she heard about the need for volunteers, she jumped at the opportunity. Roles included COVID-19 screening to ensure anyone who arrived wasn’t COVID-19-positive, or doing the registration, which entailed capturing personal details before the person had their jab. Then, after the vaccine was done, other volunteers captured data that would help to build government statistics.

“I’m a strong believer that you can’t complain until you actively try to do something about it,” Atie says about getting involved. “I was really upset about how the vaccine rollout was taking longer than we were expecting. However, I knew that I couldn’t fairly criticise the system until I took an active role in trying to change it,” she told the *SA Jewish Report*.

“And so, when I was offered this opportunity I took it, not knowing how much I would actually enjoy it.” While she has always loved volunteering, “for the first time in my life, I felt

the work I was doing truly made a difference to other people’s lives and the South African community as a whole. It was an opportunity that was truly unforgettable.”

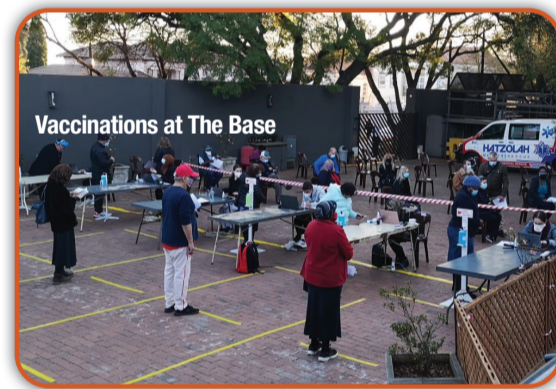
Hockman didn’t stop at Soweto. He brought the initiative home after he received a call from the DOH asking if he would like to facilitate a vaccination drive in the Jewish community.

“I told them, ‘Of course!’ From there, it took a lot of co-ordination. First, I had to find a site. I called Rabbi Aharon Zulberg from The Base, and he was so excited. He couldn’t have been more helpful. He allowed us to use his shul and co-ordinated everything – the signage, layout, equipment, and so on.

“Once you’ve got your layout, the DOH needs to do an inspection to approve the site. Then there are requirements regarding fridges, which need to be maintained at specific temperatures. There are also special medical cooler boxes with ‘temperature loggers.’ He’s grateful to Hatzolah, which loaned all this equipment.

Then they had to recruit nurses for the day and send their names to the DOH to create login details. All this was approved. Finally, they had no shortage of volunteers to do the administration, “which just made the event run so smoothly. The nurses were just focused on vaccinating. It was a complete collaboration of a lot of parties,” Hockman says.

“A lot of people came [to the vaccine drive at The Base] – a lot more than we expected,” he says. “We thought most over 50s would have already been vaccinated, but we did more



than 870 vaccines in one day. We’re hoping to implement this at more vaccination sites. We have already been in discussion with the DOH, and they’ve approved it in principle. So, we’re going ahead and planning co-ordination. We’re hoping to open up more vaccination sites in coming weeks and to bring volunteers to more sites.”

He’s grateful to every organisation and individual for their support, “and most importantly, to our volunteers who were so quick to give their time. I was worried we might not have enough volunteers, but it turned out I had to turn volunteers away because everyone wanted to be involved. We are still working on a sign-up system. We will send out details of how to sign up once it’s all in place. Our community can make a great difference to South Africa with these sorts of initiatives.”

Atie says that while she felt a bit anxious about exposing herself to so many people when she isn’t vaccinated yet, they took all COVID-19 precautions. In addition, “I loved meeting people that I had never interacted with before. We found we had similar values and goals. That’s why I was so devastated when I saw Jabulani Mall getting looted and destroyed [in civil unrest] a few days later. But it made me realise how much more we need to help wherever we can. I recommend this volunteer opportunity 100% to others. There’s so much negativity and criticism, this is a chance to make a difference not only to our own lives, but to others’ lives too.”

Fire destroys home but ignites hearts

TALI FEINBERG

Sydenham resident Aidi Posner was spending the last few minutes before Shabbos saying *tehillim* when she asked her husband, Leon, to turn on their gas heater as she was cold. He had got a new gas cylinder a few days before and was extremely fire-aware. But as soon as he turned the dial, something went wrong – the gas heater burst into flames.

"He asked me to get a blanket to dampen the fire. I ran to get one, but when I got back, he and my son, Evan, weren't there. I looked for them, and couldn't find them, but I heard them calling. Eventually, I realised they were outside the house – they recognised that they couldn't contain the fire and had to get out. They had gone out the kitchen door."

By this time, their kitchen was already burning, so she couldn't follow that way. "I realised they were outside our lounge sliding door. I got the bowl of keys but we couldn't figure out which key opened the security gate. Eventually we found it. I ran out, and at that point, the gas cylinder exploded. The house was engulfed in flames."

"Soon after she got out, the roof came down. Life can change in a split second," says her husband.

Meanwhile, not far away, their daughter, Gina Chernick, and her husband, Lior, had both got home from busy days as medical professionals. As they rushed to get ready for Shabbos, Chernick told her husband about her day working in the burns unit, which she always found difficult. "I also told him how my colleague was praising the Jewish community for how we take care of each

other. If only she knew what would happen in the next 24 hours."

Fifteen minutes later, their doorbell rang. "My domestic helper said, 'Zaida is at the gate', and I immediately knew something was wrong – why would he be there at that time? He came in, ran to me and said, 'the house burnt down!'"

As the young couple reeled from the horrendous news, they dressed Leon's hand, which had been burnt. "Driving to the house was literally like driving in a movie. The entire block was cornered off. There were so many spectators, three fire trucks, and medics. We are so thankful for the Zaka Fire Unit which came quickly to the scene, co-ordinated everything, contained the fire, and moved the cars in case of an explosion." Local fire brigades hesitated in rushing to the scene, but eventually the Sandton fire brigade did arrive.

"I was told how the glass shattered as my mom ran away from the house, and the whole home went up in flames in 15 minutes," says Chernick.

"I was taken to a neighbour, where I was treated for smoke inhalation," says her mother. "I was completely traumatised. When I went out again, neighbours said 'don't look'. I was still holding that blanket – the only thing I had left."

"Our home of 36 years was destroyed," says her husband. "But as the fire was burning, another fire started – that of social media. As quickly as the fire spread, so did community efforts to help. I think before

the flames were out, a roster was filled to provide us with meals."

The destruction was so devastating, holes were burnt in the floor, and the ceiling was hanging, but some parts of the property remain standing. As the family began to pick up the pieces, they went to Chernick's home for a meal, then booked into local

"There were non-stop deliveries. People gave beautiful, brand-new clothes. Family in Australia started a fundraiser. Someone offered for the cars to be serviced at no cost – a window had to be broken to start one car. Others offered free accommodation. People brought toothbrushes, shoes, and books to read."

"One of their good friends passed away a few years ago. His wife arrived and said, 'I can't give you my clothes as they're not the right size, but please take my late husband's tallis bag and tefillin. I was holding onto it, and I had no idea why. Now I know he wanted you [Leon] to have it.' Everyone was crying."

On top of all this, the family had been exposed

to COVID-19, and therefore had to isolate. "All we wanted to do was go to the site to try to recover things. Zaka knew we couldn't go, so their team offered to go there and try and salvage things for us, even though it's not a service it offers. My brother's room was burnt to shreds, but they found his tefillin. They also found my dad's tallis bag on Friday night in the dark."

"My parents are givers at heart. It's hard for them to take things from others," Chernick says. "They and my brother are blown away and will never have the words to express their gratitude. Without the support of the community, a difficult situation would be so much worse."

"My whole life, my parents have been fire cautious," Chernick says. "I grew up not

sleeping with heaters on and turning plugs off at night. This was a freak accident. I'm sure they would have wanted to take things, but thank G-d, they got out when they did. Every second counts in a situation like this."

"It was terrifying and a near-death experience," says her mother. "One minute it's so peaceful and you're sitting saying *tehillim*. The next, you don't know if you're going to make it. It was surreal. We are so humbled at the magnitude of people's generosity. We don't know where to begin to thank people."

As the community rallies from near and far, Chernick says, "These are the moments that you realise that we really are a unique community globally. There is one heart and one *neshomah* that we all share. Just before the fire, my mom went to drop off a meal for someone who is ill, my husband finished a shift with Hatzolah, and my mom said *tehillim* for six people. I really think these small *mitzvot* saved them."

"Fires are unpredictable and can happen in seconds," says Kayla Ginsberg, a spokesperson for the Zaka Fire Unit. They cause irreparable and unquantifiable loss and trauma. We urge the community always to be aware of their surroundings and have fire-safety equipment in their homes. This equipment can save your life. Our unit is operational at all hours. Please don't hesitate to call in case of emergency on 086 18 000 18. If you're unsure, always call it in.

"Our full support and prayers are with the family at this very difficult time, and we wish them strength and comfort. Community members are welcome to contact info@zaka.org.za for assistance with fire-safety equipment customised to their homes."



The Posner's house in Sydenham

THEATRE ON THE SQUARE



The Show Must Go On!

Please support the fundraising campaign of the 25 year award-winning Theatre on the Square!

The theatre loved by the Jewish community!

Help to keep the theatre's lights on and its reopening!

Follow the ThundaFund link for further details.

The banking details of the theatre for contributions are:

A/C: Theatre on the Square CC
Bank: Nedbank, Sandton City
A/C: 1224012844 • Code: 122405

For further details visit <https://thundafund.com>



Moriah College

בית ספר הר המוריה

Moriah College provides a dynamic working environment where staff are valued and students are committed to learning. Moriah College is a modern Orthodox Jewish Day School with a tradition of strong academic results.

Moriah College invites applicants to apply for the position of:

HEAD OF JEWISH STUDIES (High School)

We have an outstanding opportunity for a passionate and talented educator. This position has prime responsibility for the ongoing leadership, management and implementation of effective Jewish Studies teaching and learning programs that cater to the full range of students at Moriah College.

As the Head of Jewish Studies (High School), you will:

- Ensure that the Jewish ethos of the College is promoted and strengthened through an engaging and dynamic formal classroom curriculum, and teaching and learning activities.
- Strategically design and deliver upon the ongoing development of innovative school-based curriculum initiatives.
- Lead a team of educators to regularly assess and review teaching and learning programs.
- Have at least 5-10 years experience working as a Jewish Life and Learning educator with relevant qualifications and leadership skills, is desirable.

The successful applicant will demonstrate the following competencies:

- Demonstrated commitment to the Modern Orthodox Zionist Jewish values and ethos of the College
 - Outstanding classroom practitioner
 - Strong leadership skills focused on staff development and coaching.
- Able to build rapport quickly and sustain relationships across the College
- Outstanding communication and oratory skills with the ability to engage a vast range of audiences.
- Able to balance initiative, autonomy and motivation with collaboration, teamwork and accountability.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Visit www.moriah.nsw.edu.au for an Employment Application Form. The completed Application Form together with a letter of application, CV and two referees should be forwarded to jobs@moriah.nsw.edu.au

NO AGENCIES PLEASE Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Madness takes its toll

This week, the words of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, "...madness takes its toll" keep playing in my head. We are living through what feels like a surreal and devastating time. In truth, it's a time of national shame.

It seems fitting that this weekend is Tisha B'Av, when we remember the destruction of the temple and so many other losses.

Not only are we in level 4 lockdown and our COVID-19 numbers are still soaring, but an uprising has spread through the country. People have the right to protest, but they don't have the right to destroy property, loot, and steal.

I don't believe this is all about Jacob Zuma being incarcerated, but I do believe it's a multipronged problem that has been building up. And while I believe that poverty is a major part of the problem right now, there is also lawlessness because you cannot eat a television set or a cell phone. However, there are so many people starving, and about 75% of young adults are unemployed. This has to be addressed.

It's easy to expect the government to wave a magic wand, but that isn't going to happen in the midst of a pandemic that's sweeping through this country. And so, I understand why there is a feeling of despondence.

However, trashing malls and businesses is hardly going to provide jobs or feed the poor. Instead, it destroys already stressed livelihoods and creates much more unemployment.

Like most of you, I have had messages from former South Africans abroad asking if we are okay because they are watching what's happening on the news. It clearly looks horrific, and it is, what with more than 75 killed and many more injured. Also businesses and malls have been gutted, as have homes and vehicles.

But looking out from my suburban window, I see only calm and quiet. Such is the dichotomy of our country. However, our community in KwaZulu-Natal is having a tough time, and we don't know exactly what will happen.

This and so much fake news disseminated on social media has led to dread and fear. The number of malls that were trashed (fictitiously) in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg really got to people. There were videos of destruction that were years old, and some weren't even from South Africa. You have probably read it or watched it and believed it until someone hopefully told you otherwise.

And, much like when we first experienced lockdown, fear and panic has led to the mass buying of food and petrol just in case... The problem is that while we don't lack essential items right now in Gauteng, we may do if people don't stop buying what they don't need en masse.

As we have witnessed fear buying before, we have also witnessed the country in flames before.

Just recently, we commemorated the national youth uprising on 16 June 1974, which was a horrific time in South Africa. The country also appeared to be on the brink of civil war after the death of Chris Hani in April 1993. And, if you think back to round about this time last year in the United States, the mayhem that followed the death of George Floyd at the hands of police officers wasn't dissimilar.

It definitely makes it much harder to deal with this as our country still feels the onslaught of the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, in which so many people have fallen ill and died. It's a double whammy – or a war on two fronts.

However, we're not facing the end of our country or a war. Yes, the government has to take this in hand, and our president is trying hard to do this. The situation is extremely volatile and needs to be handled carefully. But handled, it will be.

This isn't a time to look at everything that's happening as the end. It isn't. This, too, shall pass.

In fact, we were in a strangely worse situation when our former president, Jacob Zuma, was in charge with his and his cronies' proverbial hands in the national coffers. They clearly set a horrible example for what's happening now.

The big difference is that now we have national leaders who are trying to stop this. Then, it was almost impossible to take on the country's leadership.

Right now, there has to be hope when you see communities forming to defend shopping centres and buildings in their areas. You see people coming out in droves to help fix those premises and business that were destroyed.

I'm astonished at the goodwill that's coming from our community and the majority of people in this country. I do have a sense of people feeling real shame about what has happened and continues to happen.

It's so clear that the majority of South Africans aren't behind the trouble. Most of us are peace loving people who want to lead honest, good lives. A small number have caused this, and the full might of the law must be brought to deal with them. We need to work out exactly what was behind this uprising, though, because that's the only way to move forward.

I know that people are feeling despondent and scared, but I'm hopeful that, with most of us wanting the same thing, we'll get it. We'll find a way to rebuild our economy, give jobs to the jobless, and be proud of our country once again.

As our wise Rabbi Eitan Ash said in a video this week, "South Africa is a miraculous country" and "We always come through". He added: "I am not saying it isn't tough, it's so tough, but if ever there is a time to be strong and positive, it's now."

I couldn't agree more. We need to be calm, work together as a community, and help do what needs to be done. We need to stay focused on being positive and uplifting those around us.

With Mandela Day on Sunday, it seems fitting to end with a quote from Madiba: "A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dream of."

May our country be blessed with peace and prosperity!

Shabbat Shalom!

Peta Krost Maunder
Editor



Can we bring the pandemic under control?

OPINION

PROFESSOR BARRY SCHOUB



One and a half years into the COVID-19 pandemic may be a suitable time to look back, and try to visualise possible future scenarios. The world has experienced its most traumatic pandemic since the 1918/1919 influenza pandemic. As of 11 July, just more than four million individuals have reportedly succumbed to the virus globally, 187 million cases have been reported, about 10% of whom may go on to develop lasting symptoms, some with disabling consequences.

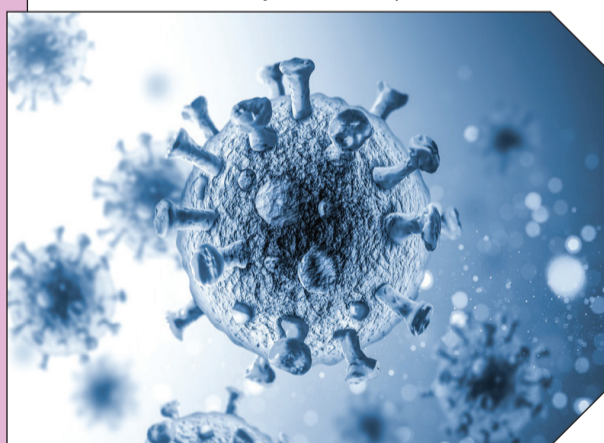
South Africa is experiencing its worst outbreak of COVID-19, driven by the rapidly spreading Delta (B.1.617.2) variant, low vaccine coverage, and also the winter season. In contrast, many high-income countries in the northern hemisphere are now starting to lift COVID-19 restrictions to gradually return to a pre-COVID-19 life.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the family of coronaviruses received relatively little attention from medical virologists. Two outbreaks of serious coronavirus disease, in 2003 and 2012, in the Far East and the Middle East respectively, were easily contained. When, in December 2019, an unusual cluster of pneumonia cases was reported in the city of Wuhan, China, it hardly merited much international attention.

The feeling was that this outbreak would go the same way as the previous two coronavirus outbreaks. However, the explosive global spread and uncanny property of the virus to mutate and generate numerous variants from the original ancestral strain took the scientific world by surprise.

The southern tip of the African continent lamentably had the added misfortune of being dominated by the most sinister of these variants, the Beta variant (501Y.v2/B.1.351) – the "South African" variant. As a result, only two vaccines with evidence of satisfactory activity against the variant – the Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer vaccines – could be used in the country.

The unpredictable evolution of the virus continues to spawn new variants. The most recent variant of concern, the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant, has rapidly encircled the world, nearly displacing all other variants. Its contagiousness is estimated to be more than double that of the original ancestral SARS-CoV-2 strain. Countries hitherto able to control the epidemic with extensive vaccination are now experiencing major upsurges. Fortunately, being more sensitive to vaccine-induced immunity, serious disease and hospitalisation has been reduced to only a fraction of previous rates.



Virologists remain puzzled by the virus' ability to mutate so rapidly and acquire sinister properties so readily. In mid-2021, science still lacks the ability to predict the advent of new variants.

Effective COVID-19 vaccines have been developed at unprecedented speed, utilising new platforms. They have certainly shown their value in markedly reducing serious disease and hospitalisation, even though rates of milder infection are only modestly reduced. Similarly, virus transmission between people is also reduced but not eliminated, and the virus, particularly variants such as Delta, will still continue to circulate, even in highly vaccinated populations.

Will the next generation of COVID-19 vaccines provide greater effectiveness in not only reducing clinical cases but also preventing transmission? Extensive research into vaccines administered other than by injection, for example, by spraying into the nose, or taken orally, may not only be much easier and cheaper to administer, but could also provide more effective immune protection directly at the site where

the virus enters into the body, and reduce transmission.

The novelty of the COVID-19 pandemic has also caught the sociological, behavioural, and communication sciences by surprise. Much still needs to be learnt. The crisis of a severe pandemic engenders in society a drive to search for explanations which may be beyond the rational. Comfort and reassurance may be sought in conspiracy theories or miracle cures. Blame is a common sociological response. There is an urgent need to develop more effective communication tools to instil responsibility in the risk takers, especially younger folk who may feel less vulnerable.

Mass immunisation of adults is another voyage in uncharted waters. Anxiety and suspicion of the new, rapidly developed COVID-19 vaccines has provided fertile ground for both a sizeable anti-vaccination lobby as well as an even larger vaccine-hesitant population. This is a further challenge to communication science.

So, what could a future scenario look like? Eradication? Control? Containment? Eradication of the SARS-CoV-2 virus isn't a realistic possibility – only one virus has, as yet, been eradicated – smallpox. Regional elimination, as, for example, in the case of measles and polio, also seems unrealistic given the rapid global spread of the virus. Containment would appear to be the most realistic vision for the future.

The devastation SARS-CoV-2 has wrought on the world is consistent with it being a virgin-soil epidemic. In other words, a totally susceptible human host at the mercy of a virus introduced into the human population from a wild-animal reservoir.

Over the past one and a half years, population immunity has progressively built up from individuals recovering from infection (natural immunity), together with vaccine-induced immunity. While the threshold value for herd immunity can be calculated theoretically, the advent of new variants and the unreliable durability of immunity have confounded the ability to arrive at a precise figure.

What can be hoped for in a future scenario is a coronavirus behaving similarly to the four endemic coronaviruses which have long been in the human population. They cause mild upper respiratory infections such as the common cold every winter. In a future world, perhaps in a year or two, with COVID-19 no longer being a virgin-soil epidemic, SARS-CoV-2 could ultimately also become an endemic infection causing recurrent tolerable mild illness such as the common cold. In other words, it could become merely a fifth endemic coronavirus.

But, what of the threat of new viruses potentially being introduced from the wild-animal reservoir into humans and causing similar devastation? For this reason, scientific pursuit to understand how SARS-CoV-2 arose in China and then crossed the species barrier to establish itself so effectively in humans isn't merely of scientific or political interest.

It's also of great public-health importance to forestall a future COVID-19-type pandemic. It could provide direction to interrupt the pathway of transmission of exotic viruses from wild-animal reservoirs to humans.

If, indeed, it's shown to have been a laboratory escape, it re-emphasises the imperative for greater biosecurity measures to prevent the escape of these dangerous organisms from laboratories.

• *Barry Schoub is professor emeritus of virology at the University of the Witwatersrand, and was the founding director of the National Institute for Communicable Diseases. He chairs the Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Vaccines. This article is written in his private capacity. He's not a member of the health department, and receives no remuneration for his advisory services to the department. He reports no conflicts of interest.*

Apology

I wish to apologise to Professor Barry Schoub for any mistaken insinuation that he was anything other than independent-minded and a stickler for the facts. I have the greatest of respect for his honour and integrity. - Editor

The Zupta chickens have come home to roost

OPINION

MIKE ABEL



South Africa has been in the grips of a well-publicised growing crisis ever since Jacob Zuma, Julius Malema, and their co-conspirators unseated President Thabo Mbeki.

Under Mbeki, our economy was growing at more than 3% per annum, and unemployment levels were about 23% and declining.

The rand-dollar exchange rate was R6.94, so imports were far cheaper and companies, countries, and individuals were investing in South Africa.

We then got someone with enumerable corruption charges against him as our “president”, and we all know how that unfolded with him, his kids, the Guptas, Bell Pottinger, and the entire state capture tragedy and rampant kleptocracy.

Unemployment has soared (youth unemployment is now more than 70%) and many more have been pushed into abject poverty and crushing hopelessness.

I, like many others, have written many articles and provided tangible suggestions and solutions to help create and build a far more equal society.

Our people are desperate. They have no jobs and few prospects. These looters aren't Zuma supporters. They are now opportunistic thieves who, because they have no income, see a real and live opportunity to get a whole lot of stuff they can't afford for free.

It makes me angry, frustrated, and upset, but a part of me also understands it. They have nothing and little hope of getting something unless our economy grows and they can land a job. But what are we doing to grow our economy?

Again, I like many others – some more qualified than me – have written articles on this and provided hard and accessible solutions and suggestions, but none of it seems to be taken into account. Perhaps until now.

This is the moment for the government to dig deep, and start looking at fresh and innovative solutions to drive investment and growth in solving unemployment.

To look towards developed countries who will actually partner us in growth, as opposed to thinking they're buying South Africa cheap and seeking to hollow us out of

our many valuable resources. We have seen this.

We need real partners, not opportunists.

We see riots and looting all around the world. Not just here. Cuba this past weekend, in America, even after things like sport losses.

People behave badly when they're angry, but

particularly when they're desperate. And we have a perfect storm here because after Zuma's “lost decade”, our economy had no give, and then a year or so later, the tsunami of COVID-19 hit.

I'm not excusing theft. It's inexcusable. But also, to an extent, understandable. It cannot be allowed, and law and order must prevail. Always.

We need to distinguish between looting and the insurrection actively being driven by the Zuma kids and his political faction, who have tried to undermine President Cyril Ramaphosa at every turn since he won at Nasrec. This has been a well-coordinated effort since 2018.

This is a time for us to reflect on the role each one of us can play in building our country, big or small, in protecting our constitutional democracy, and strengthening the state.

Don't give into the madness. Try and keep a calm head if you can. I feel for all those who have lost so much already through COVID-19. Lives and livelihoods. This is the very last thing South Africa needed – and those whose businesses are being looted and burnt right now.

Let's all see how we can be part of the solution rather than the problem. South Africa is, by and large, mostly a country of good, hardworking people, sound values, people who want to pull together to make it work for everyone.

It's time for the silent majority to find its voice, to muck-in, however possible, and help to rebuild.

Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika?

• Mike Abel is the founding partner and chief executive of MC Saatchi Abel.



The most unpopular article I ever wrote was that we could all have more by having a bit less. It spoke to creating far more of a sharing culture, and how to build an inclusive economy.

Many people pushed back – rightfully to an extent – highlighting rampant corruption as a major issue. Why should they pay more tax and give more if those who actually needed it most wouldn't receive it?

You just need to look at the auditor general's annual report of “fruitless and wasteful expenditure” – buying property for R180 million in New York City that simply doesn't exist, or the missing PPE (personal protective equipment), COVID-19 funds, and Digital Vibes to understand the level of frustration.

And the very man who directly and deliberately took South Africa into unprecedented levels of poverty was locked up last week, not for corruption, but for contempt of court.

His corruption trials are yet to begin.

We then have his son, Duduzane, a presidential hopeful according to himself, saying, “It's a declaration of war”. His other son, Edward, and a few supporters defend Nkandla from the police, and his daughter, Duduzile, fans the flames of anarchy and insurrection on social media.

And then, naturally, Jimmy Mzwanele Manyi (of ANN7 Gupta fame) creates an alternate reality and sows his unique seeds of division and unrest under the auspices of something called The Jacob Zuma Foundation. I wonder what else it does.

If the Zuma kids were the flame – and they were – poverty through unemployment was the firewood.

HOLD REAL ESTATE

SECURING YOUR FUTURE IN ISRAEL

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ISRAELI RESIDENTIAL MARKET

With more than 20 years of experience and the backing of Israel's biggest and most prestigious property development companies, you can trust Hold to provide you with the very best advice and options suited to your needs.

Whether you're considering investing for potential resale, creating a rental-based income stream, or making Aliyah, we have an exclusive portfolio of sought after new developments in cities across Israel.

NEW RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS

Ra'anana | Jerusalem | Haifa | Harish | Netanya
Ir Yamim | Ramat Beit Shemesh | Tel-Aviv
Modi'in | Jaffa

HOLD SERVICES

Legal representation, banking services - including opening bank accounts and organising mortgages and project management.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

We will find tenants and manage your apartment so you capitalise on your investment immediately.

CUSTOMER-FOCUSED BROKERAGE

We help buyers to find properties that are relevant and meet their requirements.

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

In association with

JAWITZ

PROPERTIES



Visit our website: www.hold.co.il

Independent living for senior citizens



From R11 999,00 per Month

Fully furnished suites in magnificent surroundings

24-hour security | serviced 5 days a week

Affordable rates – **no monthly levy**

Situated in Orchards, Garden Place offers the ultimate in **choice and value for money** when it comes to independent living for senior citizens.

WE'LL CREATE A PACKAGE THAT SUITS YOUR STYLE OF LIVING

Three different types of accommodation to choose from:

Standard units: Double bedroom en-suite

Studio units: Overlooking the garden, double bedroom en-suite with fully equipped kitchenette

Cottages: Lounge/dining room, double bedroom, bathroom en-suite, bath and walk-in shower, TV in bedroom and lounge, queen size wall-bed in living room (ideal for grandchildren or overseas visitors), fully equipped kitchen

- All units are fully furnished with DSTV, Wi-Fi, air-conditioning/heating, fridge, microwave, safe, bed linen, towels, crockery and cutlery
- Take your unit fully furnished or bring your own special pieces – either way, we will help create your home away from home
- Let us provide your meals and teas in our dining room or in the privacy of your unit, or choose to make your own meals
- Use our shuttle service or take your own car

The **CHOICE** is yours!

THE COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE YOU DESERVE FOR A GREAT PRICE

RATE INCLUDES

- Electricity, Wi-Fi, DSTV, 24-hour security and parking
- Idyllic gardens with two swimming pools
- Dining room and braai area
- Conference facilities at your disposal – have a game of cards or listen to a guest speaker
- Easy access to doctors, dentists, nurses, physio and Hatzolah
- Full-time management living on the property
- Daily shuttle to Norwood Mall, Melrose Arch and Balfour Park
- Laundry service available
- Situated close to clinics, fitness centres and golf courses
- Within walking distance to 4 shuls

CALL US TO VIEW
(under strict COVID-19 regulations)
011 485 3800
53 Garden Road
Orchards Johannesburg
www.gardenplace.co.za
info@gardenplace.co.za

From Africa, via Israel, to Canada

PAULA SLIER

Israeli diplomat Paul Hirschson and I agree to meet up for an easy exchange. I'll give him a packet of biltong I brought back with me from my last visit to South Africa, and he'll give me an interview.

Two weeks later, he's about to jet off to his new post as consul general of Israel in Montreal, Canada, and the biltong is still sitting in my cupboard.

He's a busy man, "our" Paul. The former Hillbrow/Yeoville boytjie is happy for the South African Jewish community to claim him as one of its own because he's the first to admit how his South African identity has influenced his life.

"I'm proud to be South African," he chuckles down the phone, the two of us having long since given up actually meeting face-to-face. His South African accent is as strong as ever, an immediate giveaway as it was all those years ago when I first met him doing the rounds of foreign journalists based in Israel and offering us assistance. At the time Hirschson was working for the Israeli Spokespersons Bureau, and gleefully took on the challenge of being battered by the international press corp.

"My grandparents were born in Johannesburg, and my grandparents' grandparents are buried in Johannesburg," he smiles.

"My late grandfather was banned by the apartheid regime for 25 years. I spent many, many, weekends at

his home, and every single time he was in violation of the banning order because there were too many people in the house."

The experience moved him, as did the strong Zionism he was brought up with. So, at the age of 21, he made aliyah on his own and enlisted in the army as a lone soldier. He later completed a business degree at Ben Gurion University in Beersheba in partnership with Boston University.

He was in the right place at the right time. It was the early nineties – the Israeli hi-tech sector was taking off, and ties between Israel and Arab countries looked promising.

"I started off in a company where I was responsible for developing ties with the Arab world. Until then, there'd been nothing. Arab countries were fully aware of Israel's competent technology, but outside of Egypt and Jordan it was illegal for them to work with us. Most of the Arab world desperately wanted to work around that obstacle."

Israelis were also working extensively in Africa.

"We did a lot of the rollout of the cell phone infrastructure with Vodacom, MTN, and Telkom itself. Those fibreglass trees in Sandton all have Israeli radio technology inside them. We weren't the only players, but we were the biggest. Venture-capital companies were completely

overwhelmed by the determination of Israeli hi-tech entrepreneurs not to give up because we survived the dotcom meltdown in 2000 and the financial crisis of 2008. It was a spectacular time."



Paul Hirschson

For someone who had always been interested in international affairs, it was a natural step, a decade later, to enter the Israeli foreign ministry. Fascinated by North America, Africa, and the Arab world in particular, Hirschson was the first Israeli to be posted to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 16 years ago. Together with another diplomat, he established the initial viable conversation between

Israel, the UAE, and other countries in the region.

"There were a lot of South African Jews in the UAE at the time, and one or two of them, aside from me, did very, very significant business on behalf of Israeli companies."

Later, he served as the consul in Miami and most recently, as ambassador in West Africa, based in Senegal and responsible for seven countries.

Hirschson chuckles. He'd never visited Miami or Senegal before being sent there, and when he sets foot in Montreal next month, it'll be his first time in Canada. His biggest concerns? That his French, while good, is not at mother-tongue level ... and the weather.

"Canada is a good friend of Israel, illustrated by the fact that we have three missions there. We have the embassy, the consul general in Toronto, and the consul general in Montreal. The province of Quebec where Montreal is

has just the right amount of news and diplomatic/political interest for me. It has a long history of its own. It's the only French place in North America. Its population is very keen on preserving their national interests. Most South African Jews who live in Canada are in Toronto, but I know of at least one former South African who is arriving this summer together with me. He is the new president

of Zim Shipping, a very big and significant Israeli freight forwarding company.

"There's a big Jewish community in Montreal, in the region of 100 000 Jews. Most of them come from Russia, but a significant portion, a quarter plus, come from North Africa because of the French-language connection."

Hirschson doesn't rule out a future posting as ambassador to South Africa.

"If it came up at the correct time, I would seriously consider it. We need to improve South Africa-Israel relations, and I would enjoy the challenge. On a bilateral level, the countries have tremendous economic relations, but there's a lot of work to be done both to grow those and to improve political diplomatic ties."

"On a multilateral level, Africa is a very positive territory for Israel, and South Africa is a significant player in Africa. It probably should be more significant than it actually is. Israel and South Africa are geographically on either end of Africa. If we look forward 1 000 years, with the Syria Africa rift continuing to move almost a centimetre a year, one day Israel is going to be an African country as we disconnect from Asia together with the Sinai desert. It's a little far in the future, but it's there."

As for the biltong, I'd better get it to him before a possible future South African posting. Otherwise, what else would I have to entice him for another interview?

Israeli ambassador dusts off his suitcase for home

PETA KROST MAUNDER

As the Israeli Ambassador to South Africa Lior Keinan repacked his dusty suitcase – that has long been ready for any potential emergency exits – he marvelled at the South African Jewish community.

As his four-year tenure came to an end this week, he told the *SA Jewish Report* he will miss a community that's probably the closest knit and most Zionist in the world.

"I'm so impressed with how much this community is willing to risk to stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel, Keinan said. "Many communities around the world would be timid when challenged about Israel, especially the way that it happens in South Africa. But not South African Jews. They stand proud. I really admire that, and have made it known back home."

"Israel knows and really cares that this community stands by it," Keinan said.

He's not, however, going to miss the anti-Israel sentiment from government and supporters of the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement. The amount of energy spent discussing Israel in government was something he was shocked by when he first got here. "It's astonishing how much Israel gets discussed in politics here. It's strange and something that people wouldn't expect in Israel," he said. "It's truly exaggerated."

However, in spite of the challenges and threats, which made him question his longevity here (and ensured he kept his bag packed), he's grateful that none of the threats were realised.

"There were no academic boycotts. Although the government brought the South African ambassador to Israel back home and didn't replace him, it hasn't downgraded the embassy.

He was also pleasantly surprised to find that

while the political front may be unfriendly, the reaction he got from most South Africans was welcoming.

Not least of those the 400 000 rural people whose lives his embassy helped to change by providing fresh running water.

He's proud of this initiative that was fulfilled in 80 villages using Israeli technology, working closely with donors and non-government organisations.

"We evaluated the ground, put up solar panels, drilled until we found water, then pumped it out with a series of pumps," Keinan said of the process.

"Now, instead of walking for kilometres with a bucket to get polluted water, the villagers have taps next to their homes," he says, referring to the biggest bilateral project between South Africa and Israel during his term.

"I took my whole embassy to the inauguration, and I will never forget the eyes of the children when they saw fresh running water coming out of a tap."

When he first arrived in South Africa, Keinan felt confident that he was familiar with the country as he is married to a South African and had been here before.

What he wasn't expecting was the love he would get from people around the country. "I was amazed at how many people we met not only knew about Israel, but loved Israel. They wanted to take us into their homes and find out all about us," he said.

He wanted to put the BDS "noise" into perspective. "We need to separate the noise they make from what's happening on the ground," Keinan said. "The past 20 years that BDS has been acting have been our best time in Israel. We have tripled our GDP [gross domestic product] and we haven't done this because the

world is boycotting us. The truth is, Israel, with its nine million people produces more than 60 million in South Africa. So, we simply don't react to all the demands and protests."

He said he has made it known to the authorities in Israel how supportive South African Jews have been. He's positive that the relationship between South African Jews and Israel will get even better, not least because the new president, Isaac Herzog, and the minister of diaspora affairs, Nachman Shai, have both visited South Africa in the past four years.

"They are both very supportive of this community as they have first-hand experience of it," said Keinan. "In fact, President Herzog has been keeping in touch with what has happened here since his visit."

Although the relationship with the South African government hadn't been easy, Keinan said he has had a few meetings with government members. "Some were coordinated and some were at events where we orchestrated a meeting," he said. "They were mostly positive under the circumstances."

However, trade between Israel and South African businesses has grown substantially, and the Israeli trade office has been the "matchmaker" in these deals.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 didn't help him achieve all he wanted to do. Keinan spoke of his time here as divided into "before corona", when he could get more done, and "during

corona", when life has been tough.

"It was also difficult as we couldn't see our two children who are soldiers in Israel," he said. "My wife and I will miss South Africa and our friends and family here, but we are going back to our soldiers, and we are going home."

He doesn't know what the future holds for him back in Israel because nothing had been finalised, but he hopes his next diplomatic mission will be as exciting and as challenging as it was here.

His advice to his successor was not to sit in Pretoria, but visit all around "this marvellous country" where "he will find friends wherever he goes".

"I will also tell him not to let the anti-Israel noise hold the narrative about Israel hostage as those behind it are marginal in their influence. The ones that make the most noise aren't the most powerful influence."

"I will always be available to him, but I won't interfere as I don't believe ex-ambassadors should do that," Keinan said.

He was grateful that he managed to get to the end of his tenure without having to use his packed suitcase. "I always worried if I was going to be here the following day. At least three times, I wasn't sure. First, when there was a call to downgrade the embassy, then when the South African ambassador was brought back, and most recently during Operation Guardian of the Wall."

His suitcase is now no longer dusty and en route to Keinan's home in Israel.



Lior Keinan

Israeli algorithm allows farmers to “talk to their plants”

TALI FEINBERG

“What are your plants trying to say?” That’s the question that drives SupPlant, a company rooted in three generations of one Israeli family. Through cutting-edge technology, it helps farmers to work smarter, and it recently raised \$10 million (R145.6 million) to widen the reach of its irrigation technology in the South African market.

“For decades, the decision how to irrigate fruit was made based on the farmer’s intuition, experience, and at best on some scattered data. Traditional irrigation approaches limit growers to being reactive not proactive in protecting their crops. Today, technology is taking over this space to help farmers use smarter ways to irrigate and produce more yield,” says Ori Ben Ner, the chief executive of the company.

Although they started SupPlant in 2012, the seed of the company was planted long before. “My grandfather, Avner Ben Ner, was born and raised to be a farmer in a small village in the northern part of Israel. He is still a farmer today at the age of 88. His son and my father, Zohar Ben Ner, studied agricultural engineering and founded SupPlant when he discovered that he could replicate and scale how

to sense plants using sensors and cloud computing. I have been working at SupPlant for many years in various roles. Today, I’m chief executive of SupPlant and all the experiments, research, and development is done on my grandfather’s original plot,” says Ben Ner.

“For the first three years, we worked on developing our technology and in 2015, we commercialised it. Sensing plants is an important part of agriculture,” he says. “SupPlant has found a way to scale the sensing: we put sensors on the plants and their surroundings. This radiates to the cloud and translates that data using artificial intelligence and big data. It gives irrigation recommendations and actionable insights.

“We use all the data we have accumulated about 31 crops from 14 countries to create the best knowledge base,” he says. “Some companies monitor only the soil or the weather. SupPlant’s sensors are placed in five locations (deep soil, shallow soil, stem/trunk, leaf, and fruit) and monitor plant and fruit growth patterns, the actual water content in the soil, and plant health. In addition, SupPlant monitors real-time and forecasted climatic data and forecasted plant-growth patterns. All this information is uploaded every 30 minutes to an

algorithm in the cloud that provides farmers with precise irrigation recommendations.”

All this allows the company to provide high resolution, real-time, and forecasted insights and irrigation commands. “It allows for accurate irrigation practices, ensuring healthy and robust harvests with optimum water usage that builds resilience through time,” Ben Ner says.

The company grew by a whopping 850% in 2020. “We have achieved remarkable results while helping farmers around the world use less water to grow more fruit,” says Ben Ner. “In Israel, farmers used 20% less water to grow 10% more avocados. Oranges used 37% less water to produce 28% more fruit. In Mexico, 20% more mangos were grown using 15% less water. In Israel, we were able to save 45% water growing



Ori Ben Ner

dates, achieving better quality. In South Africa, we helped farmers produce 41% more lemons without using more water resources.”

Asked why the company wants to expand its reach in South Africa, and how could it help here, he says, “South Africa has always been known as a country with an advanced agricultural industry and as a top quality grower and exporter of agricultural goods all over the world. At the same time, South African farmers struggle with two major challenges. First, the growing scarcity of water and an urgent need to handle that precious resource better. Second, the changing climate and the need to maintain yield and quality in uncertain conditions. These two factors make the South African market highly suitable for SupPlant’s solution, as our technology excels at managing water correctly and reacting to changing conditions on time.

“South Africa is also a fascinating place to work professionally, with seven different climatic regions, from desert to subtropical regions,” he says. “It provides us with interesting challenges. Our work in apples [reducing water usage by 37%] and lemons was done in the Western Cape, and we are very proud of it. The results with macadamias (a 21% increase in crops) came from the Mpumalanga area, and we are especially proud of this since it was the first time we have implemented our technology on this crop and we had a high yield increase that year. It created a lot of interest in those areas from farmers and others in the area, which created expansion in both areas this season.”

He predicts that water availability for agriculture will undergo significant changes in South Africa in the near future. “Whether it’s from lack of rain and low reservoir levels or the need to relocate water for

Continued on page 11 >>

Farming on the roof is music to inner-city ears

STEVEN GRUZD

The Dizengoff Center, Tel Aviv’s oldest shopping mall, sits in the heart of the bustling central business district. Surrounded by skyscrapers, it’s the last place you’d expect to find bat colonies, beehives, and aquaponic gardens (where fish waste feeds plants grown entirely in water). Creative thinking is turning concrete rooftops into productive urban green spaces. And urban farming is growing in South Africa too.

These issues were dug into on 8 July, in a webinar co-hosted by the Jewish National Fund of South Africa (JNF-SA) and the Johannesburg Inner City Partnership. The theme was, “Survival in our city: food and water security – a South African crisis. Is urban farming a solution?”

Dorit Chassid is sustainability manager at the Dizengoff Center, which opened in 1977. “Why does a shopping mall need such a position?” she asked. “It’s to create balance and lower the impact of our actions for the environment. We want to get to net-zero carbon emissions by 2028 [in which the pollution put into the environment is offset by green initiatives].”

The centre has forward-looking, innovative management. For instance, it has a social gallery where local artists display their work. It hosts regular food markets for entrepreneurs, and has regular visits from school groups who learn about sustainability in an urban environment.

“That’s why we have bats in our cellar,” Chassid said. “They are an important part of the ecosystem.” She also talked about how the centre recycles dry waste and electronic waste. It has just installed a huge composter to tackle organic waste recycling to feed its rooftop urban farm. There, it houses beehives, but doesn’t harvest the honey.

Always experimenting, the centre’s rooftop gardens used to supply fresh vegetables to 15 nearby restaurants, but it wasn’t economically viable. The space is now used to teach children about hydroponics (growing plants in water) and aquaponics. Every year on Tu B’Shvat, the festival dubbed “the new year of the trees”, 1 500 children plant trees that are then then donated to the JNF after a year’s growth.

Dr Naudé Malan is a senior lecturer in development studies at the University of Johannesburg and serves on the Agricultural Research Council of South Africa. He convenes iZindaba Zokudla (Conversations about Food), a multi-stakeholder engagement project that aims to create opportunities for urban agriculture in a sustainable food system in Soweto.

Malan said most farmers earn only between 12% and 27% on the food they grow, with supermarkets gobbling up the rest. “Farmers need to capture the value chain,” he said, and find a way to add value to their produce. “Any farmer can supply fresh food, even in a city ... unless a farmer can create a circular,

self-sustaining enterprise, he or she will be forever marginalised.”

Siyabonga Ndlangamandla works on urban farming in Johannesburg. He is currently working on food production and distribution systems in Victoria Yards, a revamped inner-city precinct.



Green rooftop in Durban - before and after

Food produced at Victoria Yards supplies many poor people in Bertrams and surrounding areas. “Watching vegetables grow changes your mindset – it teaches patience and discipline,” Ndlangamandla said. “Victoria

Yards really showcases what can be achieved in an urban setting. We need to plant more backyard food gardens, street gardens, pavement gardens.”

Completing the panel was Dr Clive Greenstone, who has received several awards for sustainable design and innovation in the built environment. This urban

ecologist is the founder of Green Roof Designs, a specialised environmental design company.

“There is so much wasted space in cities,” Greenstone said, showing a picture of what the Durban CBD might look like with green gardens dotted all along its rooftops.

He has developed many rooftop gardens in the city, growing medicinal plants, food plants, and tropical foliage in trays, tyres, and old boots and shoes. The gardens attract bees, wasps, flies, butterflies, and birds, all vital for pollination and promoting biodiversity. He also grows food indoors under lights, and designs vertical gardens on walls. All materials used in his gardens must be sourced from within a 50km radius.

“Brilliant ideas often receive resistance from mediocre minds,” Greenstone said.

As South Africa’s cities swell from urbanisation, it’s hoped that many more rooftops will produce fresh food to feed the hungry.

THE WHITE HOUSE GALLERY

WE BUY AND SELL ARTWORKS BY SOUTH AFRICAN & INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS



SEEKING TO PURCHASE ARTWORKS BY:

Andy Warhol . Jim Dine . David Hockney . Joan Miró . Pablo Picasso . Marc Chagall . Damien Hirst
Lynn Chadwick . William Kentridge . Irma Stern . Deborah Bell . Robert Hodgins . Edoardo Villa

CONTACT US FOR A VALUATION 011 268 2115 / amber@whg.co.za
Shop G 13, Thrupps Illovo Centre, Oxford rd. Illovo

Artworks, L-R: David Hockney: The Old Guitarist / Potted Daffodils / Anne Combing her Hair

Home and heart – how our elderly are coping

As our senior citizens were the first to get vaccinated and have been isolated more than most because of comorbidities, the SA Jewish Report asked a select few to write about their experience of COVID-19.

LIONEL SLIER

You feel vulnerable at this age, and every time you cough or sneeze, you fear that this is the start of it. But I have been told over the phone that one of the signs of having COVID-19 is that you lose your sense of taste. I can still taste a cigarette.

I was affected by the Spanish flu of 1929, which took place in north east Poland and Belarus. My mother, who was born there, was orphaned by the flu, and brought out to South Africa by Isaac Ochberg as one of the Arcadia orphans, so whenever I hear the words “Spanish flu”, it resonates with me. I don’t think history is repeating itself, but it could be.

My biggest fear is that COVID-19 will bring me to the end of the road. I try to follow instructions like wearing a mask and not going to heavily public places or assemblies. It’s itchy to wear a mask, with



a hint of forthcoming suffocation. I must admit, it hasn’t affected my public life to any great measure. I hardly go to the cinema now, but I seldom did it anyway. The same for theatre and concerts. But I do miss it. I miss restaurants.

COVID-19 has influenced our behaviour. Whether it returns to what it was, we can’t yet say. What will be, will be.

Be careful and obey the rules. The future is in your hands, or rather your chest. Keep your distance.

• *Lionel is a retired Johannesburg journalist who wrote for the Jerusalem Post, Jerusalem Report, and SA Jewish Report.*

CLARA TAUB

I’m Clara Taub. I have done many things in my life.

I contracted COVID-19 in July 2020. I couldn’t believe it. In the beginning, I wasn’t ill at all – that is, until the doctor told me my temperature was high and my saturation low. She organised for me to have a test and to go to hospital immediately. I was shell-shocked! Immediately! The ambulance arrived to take me, but it was the coldest night of the year, and I refused to go. They came back early the next morning and insisted as my test had come back positive.

I went into freeze-frame mode, and just went along with the process. I was whisked into a ward, into bed, with my buddy, Oxygene, and there I stayed for two and a half weeks.

All the doctors and nurses looked like space men, with their PPE (personal protective equipment) and masks on. Oh wow! Scary!

Bells were rung and whistles blown every hour on the hour – “sanitise, wash hands”. I could tell the time by this action. I would start at 07:00, and then count down from there – a game, yeah, I had found a game to play!

But what really supported me in this conflict



were the three things I did every day, all day.

I kept my sense of humour. Viktor Frankl says, “Humour is another of the soul’s weapons in the fight for self-preservation.” I really tried to find humour in everything.

The conversations I overheard [mainly out of context] were really very funny. My doctor visiting me in the middle of the night, looking like an

insect hunter! Saying something like, “Hey, there’s one in here!” Cracked me up!

I said the Shema. I say it all the time.

I said Psalm 23, something I have always said when I’m troubled. “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.”

These helped me, and I survived. But let me say that I’m afraid every day. It was horrid and scary. Even now, after being vaccinated, I’m afraid. My message is to be positive, and believe that Hashem will protect us. “Shema Israel, the Lord our G-d, the Lord is one”.

• *Clara is a resident of Our Parents Home. She led in the field of drama, working as a teacher, textbook author, as well as writing poetry and story books.*

BARBARA SCHNEIDER

At the beginning of June 2021, my brother and sister-in-law, Simon and Maxine Schneider, passed away within hours of each other after contracting COVID-19. You can imagine how devastated the family is. Their seven grandchildren and their children, Cindy Silberg, Hayley Kissos, and Stacey Barnett will never get over or understand it. Neither will I or Maxine’s sister, Avril Epstein.

My social worker, Irene, arranged for my children, Glenda Sauer and Lance Schneider (my third child lives in the United Kingdom), to break the news to me, and she was so well prepared. Sugar water, tissues, new masks, etc. She has also come to see me many times. An amazing woman. Sister Selina and her staff come to check on me every couple of hours, day or night. Unbelievable! The waitrons knock on my door every time they pass my room

to ask if I need anything and to give me lots of support. Zama, my cleaning lady, has sat on the floor and cried with me every day.

The residents have been so supportive. It’s amazing how much they care.

I would like to know if there is anywhere else in the world in which such care, compassion, comfort, and support is given to people not just in times of

need, but always. I don’t think so.

This is my family’s COVID-19 history. All are now fully recovered. In March 2020, my daughter and her husband, Bob; in November 2020, my daughter’s partner, Adrian Levi; in mid-May 2021, my son Lance, his wife Lynssey, and my nephew, Yoav Kissos, as well as my grandson, Adam Sauer. It has been one of the worst periods of my life.

To know that my children and grandchildren are sick and I can’t see or help them has been devastating. I feel completely useless and helpless. When stressed, I don’t eat or sleep. I become moody and a recluse, not wanting to see or speak to anyone.

One of the children opened a family chat on WhatsApp, which made contact much easier. But like any mother, the spoken word tells far more than the written word. I can tell so much by their voices and, thank G-d, the voices are good. I’m slowly becoming normal again, but being locked down in our rooms isn’t helping, although I know it’s for our own good.

To be the matriarch of the Schneider family, and not be with my nieces when their parents were taken has made me feel inadequate and sad. Thank you to everyone at Sandringham Gardens who helped me through this very difficult time. I still worry about the kids – whether they’re at work or out shopping. So please, anyone out there who is going through this, know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.

• *Barbara is a resident at Sandringham Gardens.*



ROSALY KATZ

My name is Rosaly Katz. I have an older sister, Ruth Kur, who also resides at Sandringham Gardens. I have a brother, Theo Isaacson, who lives in Sydenham. I have a daughter, Fiona, who lives in Germiston.

Last year, just before winter set in, I was diagnosed with COVID-19. I had no signs of the virus. The nurse came to my room, and said I had tested positive. I packed my clothes, got as far as the hospital door at Sandringham Gardens, and passed out.

I remember the nurses came around with meals. I asked if it was breakfast, and they said, “No it’s supper time.” Whatever happened to the day? It was confusing not to know what day it was or if it was breakfast, lunch, or dinner.

I was out of things for quite some time. The worst was not to be able to see my sister, brother, daughter, and the rest of my family.

I had the best care from Dr Price, who is a fantastic doctor and person, and who gave me the very best attention.

Thanks to her and the nursing staff, I pulled through, because all thought I wouldn’t. When I asked for ice cream, Dr Price thought it was my last request, and went all out to see that I had enough ice cream to last me a very long time.

I don’t remember much of my time in the hospital. When I did eventually come around, I was very weak. My breathing wasn’t great. I was on oxygen, and couldn’t do anything for myself. I had to learn to walk with a walker, and the oxygen was my constant companion.

Thanks to Rabbi Jonathan Fox and everyone in our congregation, overseas family, friends, and strangers, who prayed for me, I pulled through. I woke one time, and Dr Price was trying to put a mask on my face. I kept pushing



it away. Eventually, they brought an oxygen tank and put the oxygen through my nose. That I accepted. I have no idea what happened after that. I was on oxygen the whole time I was in hospital (three months). No-one thought I would ever be able to go back to my room – they thought I would need help. But, with the help of a walker and oxygen in my room, I was able to function on my own.

Today I don’t need a walker or oxygen. I’m back to who I was before. It’s all thanks to prayers, and Dr Price and the nurses who looked after me. I thank them all from the bottom of my heart.

• *Rosaly is a resident at Sandringham Gardens.*

BRENDA SOLARSH

Although there's a common response to living through the pandemic, we all have our own experience. Our lived response to what it means to manage a living nightmare is significant disappointment, pain on an emotional or physical level, isolation, anxiety, and anticipatory grief. The term "coronacoaster" sums it up so aptly. People talk of the "stuff of fairy tales", this has been the "stuff of horror stories".

We hear how we can turn our limitations into strengths. Perhaps, unwittingly, that's what happened to me. As COVID-19 appeared, my family turned to me in great anxiety. I had battled cancer twice in my life, and many years later, a benign brain tumour. I have some other issues as well.

They were worried about my tendency to catch infections and not recover easily. A dear niece was particularly concerned about my vulnerability, having lost her mother – my sister – relatively recently. My GP strongly advised shielding, and so my lockdown, stay-at-home life began.

Thankfully, I haven't been infected by COVID-19, but it has had a significant impact on my life.

Being so cautious and rarely going out has probably protected me. Possibly the person I became as a result of ill health, particularly my life threatening illness, shaped and strengthened me to

face such a dramatically different lifestyle.

I learned that one can't control everything. So, I respond to chaos or threat with calmness and pragmatism. Life has taught me that "this too shall pass". My experiences have taught me that one can endure pain and discomfort.

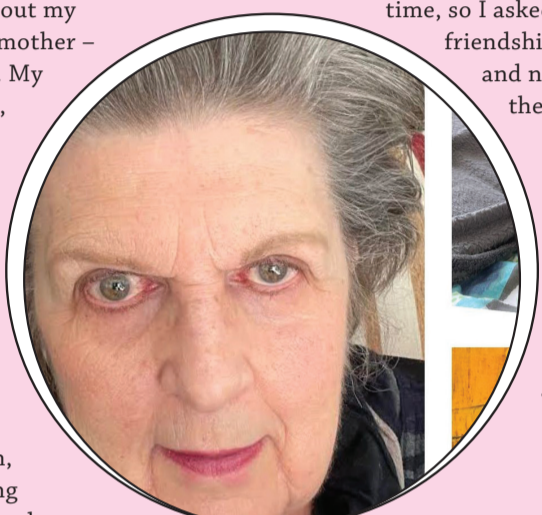
Having faced my own mortality, I had no illusions about the nature of the virus. I stayed home, learned to order everything online, and on the few occasions I had to venture out, I followed all PPE requirements, doing whatever was within my control.

I make the best of my situation. I have enriched my life by doing online courses and watching documentaries and films that are uplifting and interesting. I read and write when my mood dictates, and rest and relax when I need to. I learned how to care for my mental health during a traumatic time, so I asked for and shared support, friendship, and humour with friends and neighbours. I deeply appreciate these connections.

Home has been best because the Chev has done whatever possible for all its residents.

I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to my well-known pet, Georgie, the black pug – the best vaccine invented.

• *Brenda is a resident of Golden Acres. She has a Masters in social work, and a 45-year career in the field, half of which she spent at the Chev.*



AVRILLE AMLER

I'm Avrille Amler. I have lived Our Parents Home for four and a half years. My favourite occupation is reading.

COVID-19 means that some of the people that I love have taken ill, but *behatslacha*, they have recovered. The memory of the anxious wait is still clear. Unfortunately, other friends and family haven't been so blessed, and their loss hurts.

I have felt safe and protected since coming to live at Our Parents Home. Many in the crowd outside were people unknown to me. Unfortunately, these anonymous people have now got names and faces. I have shared some history with them, and they are no longer just numbers in daily reports.

Like most of us, I have never experienced these conditions before.

We are battling with the lockdowns, although we understand how necessary they are. "Lockdown fatigue" isn't an expression any longer, it's a reality. We are really tired of it. We want to be able to go beyond our protective fence and walk freely around a shopping mall, or even just go into one shop and wander around. We want to be able to do our own thing.

Family and friends have been helpful in doing our shopping for us, but for me, writing a shopping list has now become an activity. Photographs have to be taken of the item required if it's not a regular purchase. Likewise, exact sizes and quantities, colours, and shapes need to be listed and sometimes things aren't always what you want them to be!

I find that participating in crosswords and quizzes is a fun way to keep myself occupied, and it's a bonus to be rewarded with sweets and chocolates. Reading has always been one of my favourite occupations, and working with the books in the library on Friday mornings has become one of my favourite activities.

• *Avrille is a resident of Our Parents Home. She worked for many years in the law and insurance fields, and now enjoys working in the library and excelling at quizzes*

Israeli algorithm allows farmers to "talk to their plants"

>>>Continued from page 9

urbanisation, South African farmers will find themselves in a new situation in which they need to make the best of what they have and cope with limited water quotas," he says.

"Our technology is perfectly suited to situations in which farmers need to know not only when to irrigate and give more, but also when they can give less and still get enough. This is because we measure the plant's reaction to everything they do, and the plant can tell us what's right for it and what's wrong."

The system also allows farmers to create quotas for plots and crops and follow it throughout the year, making sure they don't unknowingly run out of their quota before the year end.

SupPlant is being distributed and serviced in South Africa by a team from AECI Plant Health, "a team of professionals we trained in all aspects of the system – agronomical and technical," says Ben Ner. "Local agronomists support farmers and help them benefit from our system. This is a two-way street as we also learn from farmers – many of

the features we introduce into the system come from our local teams and farmers as they know best what's needed in the field.

"In addition, we believe in training the farmers we work with in plant sensing so they can make full use of our system and constantly improve," he says. "That is why all of our data is available for the farmer to download so they can use any tool they wish to learn from and become better at what they do. SupPlant believes that a farmer with more knowledge and tools is a better farmer, which is important to us."

Finally, he says, "We believe in co-operating with local forces in the market. In this spirit, we are co-operating with Motech South Africa, an irrigation manufacturer we know well from Israel, where our systems are fully compatible with its products, and they are widely used. In addition we are co-operating with DFM Technologies, which produces unique soil sensors. These are also compatible with our system, and can be presented alongside ours. Together, we present a strong presence in the market, ready to answer any needs and challenges farmers may have."

Read the South African Jewish Report online
www.sajewishreport.co.za

Branded Digital multifocal lenses

R1499

a pair of lenses

*until 31 July 2021



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



SAVOY PHARMACY

PERCELIA PHARMACY

MONDAY – FRIDAY

8:30am – 5:30pm

SATURDAY:

9:00am – 2:00pm

SUNDAY

AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

9:00am – 1:00pm

☎ (011) 885-1200/1

savoy@medicarehealth.co.za

MONDAY – THURSDAY:

8:30am – 5:30pm

FRIDAY: 8:00am – 4:30pm

SATURDAY: CLOSED

SUNDAY

AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

9:00am – 1:00pm

☎ (011) 640-4321/31

percelia@medicarehealth.co.za



South African Board of Jewish Education

The South African Board of Jewish Education
invites applications for the role of



King David Schools' Foundation

OPERATIONS EXECUTIVE: KING DAVID SCHOOLS' FOUNDATION

The Operations Executive is responsible for the overall operational management of the organisation (financial, human resource (HR), administration and marketing) as well as establishing the organisation's strategy and implementation thereof. This role does not include the fundraising functions of the Foundation.

Main Duties

- Set targets, goals and supervise all the KDSF personnel.
- Oversee the relevant administrative, HR, marketing and operational functions and team members in support of the strategy and the fundraising objectives of the organisation.
- Streamline the operations of the organisation to ensure efficiencies and optimal process effectiveness.
- Create and implement/oversee a marketing strategy to support and enhance fundraising efforts including the digital social media strategy.
- Promote and preserve strategic stakeholder relationships
- Ensure governance compliance and regulatory adherence to all related legislation.
- Support the ongoing advancement of the Foundation in line with the key objectives of the organisation.
- Oversee contractual relationships with external companies, suppliers, vendors etc.

Qualifications required:

- Relevant business or management undergraduate degree with a similar post graduate degree an advantage.

Experience required:

- Successful track record as an operational manager/director in a similar role with a minimum of 3-5 years' experience. Relevant industry knowledge and experience an advantage.

Skills and Ability:

- Solid knowledge of financial and general management practices
- An analytical mind with a strategic ability.
- Passion and interest in Jewish education
- Excellent organisational and leadership skills with experience in managing and leading people.
- Outstanding communication (written and oral) and interpersonal abilities
- Project management and the ability to manage complex projects and implementations.
- In-depth knowledge of relevant legislation, operational management principles, industry laws and best practices.

Applications should be emailed to dexterj@sabje.co.za by 30 July 2021.

The SABJE retains its full discretionary right to only interview short-listed candidates.

The day Mandela came to shul

MIRAH LANGER

It was no ordinary shul *brocha* on the Shabbat when Nelson Mandela came to Marais Road Shul and had a cup of rooibos tea. Yet, beyond the charm of the event, it had profound resonance in shaping the connection between the iconic statesman and the South African Jewish community.

In honour of Mandela Day, Ann Harris, who was there with her late husband, the former South African Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris; former Israeli ambassador Dr Alon Liel; and David Gordon, the current president of the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation, reminisced about the event with the *SA Jewish Report*.

On the first weekend after the democratic elections, Mandela decided to “pay his respects” to various places of worship, recalls Harris. On Friday, he went to mosque, and on Sunday, to a number of different churches, but Saturday was earmarked for a shul visit, and Marais Road was chosen because of its expansive size.

Congregants had never been more punctual than on that day, says Gordon. “I think, for the first time, everybody was there by 08:15 in the morning! Normally people stroll in five minutes before the *brocha*,” he laughs.

The atmosphere was exhilarating. “There were literally throngs of people out on the pavement waiting to come into shul. It was packed, and there was an absolute buzz in the air. People would keep going in and out all the time – everyone was checking – has he come yet? Has the car arrived? Everyone knew a little bit of news – ‘Now he’s on his way’; ‘He’s 10 minutes away’; ‘He’s five minutes away.’”

“We had *davened*, *leined* and finished the service when Mandela and his party arrived,” remembers Harris, telling how the shul congregants then cleared some of the area downstairs for Mandela and the group accompanying him.

“He walked in with Chief Rabbi Harris, Rabbi Jack Steinhorn, Ambassador Liel, and Mervyn Smith, then the national chairperson of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies,” recalls Gordon. “Everyone stood and clapped. He was regal and exceptionally humble. He shook people’s hands and asked them how they were. He took his time, not rushing up to the pulpit. He acknowledged the people upstairs, and went to speak to elderly people in the front row.”

Various communal leaders gave speeches, and then Mandela began his address. “He opened by saying ‘Shabbat Shalom,’ which delighted the crowd, says Gordon.

Liel says during Mandela’s speech there was one moment that he – and the crowd – found particularly striking. “He was calling all the white people who had left South Africa for ideological reasons to come back to the country now that it was democratic.” However, Mandela added in a caveat, saying that this was “except for the Jews who had gone to Israel because they went to their homeland”.

“I was surprised he had such a sentence,” muses Liel. He later discovered that Mandela had taken up the suggestion of another community leader to add in this acknowledgement

of the special relationship of the Jewish community across the two nations.

Liel recalls how after his speech,

use his fist. It was the symbol of the struggle, and behind him was Cyril Harris, Smith, and myself. By doing so, he [essentially] recruited us to the

Harris, remembers a distinctive moment during the time when the party stood outside the shul. “Mervyn Smith pointed out to him

that we could even see Robben Island from the steps across the bay.”

The visit made headlines in Jewish publications overseas. At the time, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency quoted Smith as describing the event as the “peak in Jewry’s relationship with the new South Africa” and that “the determination of South Africans from all walks of life to make the transition work was never more manifest”. Smith, who died in 2014, played a key role in driving Jewish communal support of the country’s democratic project.

Gordon recalls that on the day of the visit, even after having taken all the obligatory media photographs, Mandela continued his stay by

attending the *brocha* taking place, as usual, in the hall.

Ann Harris says she asked Mandela if she could get him anything to eat or drink, to which he replied, “I would love a cup of tea, but you know how I like my tea.” Indeed, she did, she says, adding, with a laugh, that it was a concoction she considered rather horrible. “Half a cup of milk with a rooibos tea bag stuck in, and then filled up with hot water. I mean, I quite like rooibos tea, but not like that!”

Central to any anecdotes from those who attended that day is Mandela’s personal interest in the people there, chatting to everyone from the cleaners to the rabbis.

Yet, Harris says, this was his usual *modus operandi*. “Even when he came to visit Afrika Tikkun [a non-profit organisation co-founded by the late chief rabbi], many times, you never knew where he was because he was so busy introducing himself, chatting to everyone, and talking to the children. You could never have a fixed programme because he wanted to meet everyone.”



From left to right: Rabbi Jack Steinhorn; Israel’s former ambassador to South Africa, Alon Liel; former Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris; Nelson Mandela; and Mervyn Smith, former chairman of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies

Photo: Alon Liel

Mandela went outside to address the media gathered there. “He gave another short speech, and then he raised his fist.” It was a moment of political and diplomatic genius, he notes. “It was so clever of him to

struggle.”

Liel, who would later accompany Mandela on a visit to Israel, said that in every encounter with him, Mandela’s presence was that of a “giant of a man”.

The blessing of Madiba

MIRAH LANGER

July 18 was chosen for Mandela Day because it marks Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela’s birthday, but it’s also the day he chose to marry Graça Machel in 1998, and before he did so, he made sure that he got a Jewish blessing.

Fellow humanitarian icon, Ann Harris, the widow of the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, recalls the intimate gathering in which they shared an affirmation of the love he found in the later years of his life.

“Mr Mandela wasn’t a religious man, but he was a man of faith. About six months before 18 July, he met my late husband [about another matter]. As they shook hands, he said to him, ‘I want to have a word with you, chief rabbi, about a private matter, but I’ll phone you at home,’” recounts Harris.

A few days later, he phoned and asked the chief rabbi to diarise 18 July for what Mandela called “a special occasion” in which he wanted Harris to take part.

“So my husband looked at his diary, and he realised it was Shabbat. He said, ‘I’m so sorry, Madiba’, that was what he used to call him, ‘I won’t be able to come to you because it’s our sabbath. My president in heaven is stricter than you are!’ They both laughed,” says Ann. Mandela said he would work out a different arrangement to ensure they were “still going to be a part of all this.” “Of course, my husband didn’t know what all of this was, except that it was Mandela’s 80th birthday,” Harris said.

In the months that followed, media reports emerged suggesting nuptials between Mandela and Machel were imminent, although no official announcement was made.

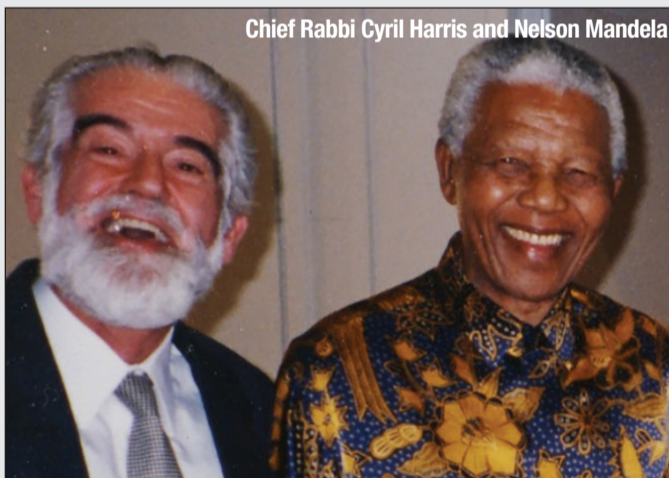
“About a week before, he phoned my husband and said, ‘Remember that I told you about that day next week, my birthday – well, that’s the day I am going to marry Graça Machel. We want to have a multifaith ceremony in our house, so I wanted to ask you to take part.’”

The chief rabbi again stated that while in any other circumstances he would love to partake, it was Shabbat that 18 July. However, Mandela was one step ahead, saying to him, “I told you that I will make a plan, and I have”.

He then proposed that since Shabbat would begin around 17:00 that Friday, the chief rabbi and Mrs Harris come to his house an hour before, even adding that if they went to Great Park Shul, which was nearby,

they would have to leave only a few minutes before in order to get to the service on time.

The entire meeting was to be secret, and the awaiting hordes of media outside Mandela’s Houghton home were simply told that Eastern European diplomats were paying him a visit – an excuse that the Harrises found amusing, considering that, at the very least, the chief rabbi’s appearance, donning a kippah and being extensively bearded, was clearly that of an Orthodox Jew.



Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris and Nelson Mandela

Inside Mandela’s home they met Mandela and Machel in the living room. He was wearing one of his famous colourful shirts and Machel a yellow silk suit, “looking beautiful”.

The Harrises had brought a wedding gift, and the couples chatted and had refreshments together at first. “Then, Mandela said that he understood that with a multifaith wedding, the [religious leader] wouldn’t be able to do exactly what they did when they married people in their own faith, but that he wanted my husband’s blessing.”

Harris, Machel, and Mandela went and stood by the window overlooking the garden. “My husband said, ‘I want you to imagine you are standing under a canopy because that’s what we do. The canopy is an example of what your home will be together.’”

The couple listened intently as Harris explained some ideas around Jewish marital duties. “He said, ‘All I can do is wish you the very best’, and then he blessed them. If you want to know what I was doing, well, I was sitting in the corner crying. I never stopped crying because it was so moving to watch.”

It was just such intimate moments that elevated the extraordinary nature of Mandela. Not only was he an iconic statesman, a fierce revolutionary, and at the helm of some of the most extraordinary political and

social change that the world has seen in modern times, he also showed humanitarianism in small, everyday gestures, often infused with wit.

For example, recalls Harris, he always phoned the chief rabbi to wish him well ahead of religious holidays. However, one Rosh Hashanah, he phoned when it was already Rosh Hashanah morning. The Harris’s housekeeper was quite indignant that someone would call when she answered the house phone while they were already at shul.

As Harris recounts, when their housekeeper answered, “The voice on the phone said, ‘Can I speak to Chief Rabbi Harris?’ ‘No,’ she said. She was quite sharp when she didn’t know who it was, and he said, ‘Is Mrs Harris there?’ ‘No, no,’ she said, ‘It’s their new year, and they’ve already gone to synagogue – and anyway, even if they were here, they wouldn’t speak on the phone today.’”

“So, he said, ‘Will you please tell them that I phoned only to wish them a happy new year?’ So, she asked, ‘Well, who are you?’ and he replied, ‘I’m Nelson Mandela’, and then he said to her, ‘and who are you?’”

The two went on to have a long conversation, discussing their backgrounds and how they came from neighbouring villages. At the end, “she was absolutely overwhelmed, and turned from being quite cross with somebody who dared to ring up on Rosh Hashanah to delight that she was the one who spoke to him”.

Even Tony Leon, who as then-leader of the then-Democratic Party was a political rival, was struck by the wit and warmth with which Mandela interacted with him on numerous occasions.

“Toward the end of 1998, and ahead of the 1999 elections, political temperatures were rising here as Mandela entered the last lap of his presidency. There were many things going wrong, and as leader of an opposition party, I unhesitatingly pointed to some of them. Mandela got very irritated at some point, and referred to my party (then consisting of just seven MPs) as ‘a Mickey Mouse organisation’.

“I responded the next day in the press in the same Disneyesque rhetoric, saying, ‘If I head a Mickey Mouse party, Mandela then heads a Goofy government.’ The rhetoric went unanswered until early December.

At that time, Leon was in Milpark Hospital about to undergo a gruelling coronary bypass operation.

Early in the evening before the surgery, “there was a knock on the door of my hospital room, and a world-famous voice announced, ‘Hullo Mickey Mouse, it’s Goofy. Can I come in and say hullo?’ It was a beaming Mandela who entered the room and we exchanged pleasantries. The operation was, indeed, a total success.”

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

Hollard.
presents
Big Ads
for Small Business



“We tell your epic story”

Video content creators

Data driven video
personalization specialists

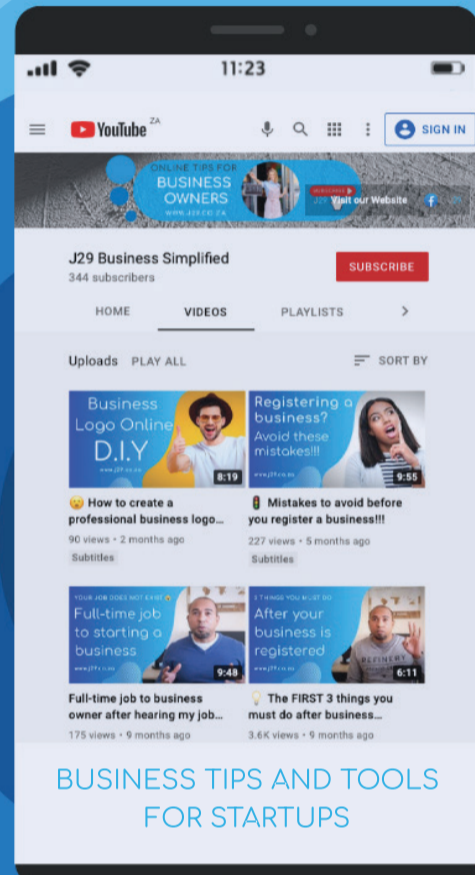
At affordable rates.

www.anim8.co.za

J29 BUSINESS SIMPLIFIED

TAKING THE STRESS OUT OF STARTING YOUR BUSINESS

GET BUSINESS TIPS - VISIT OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL
GET ONLINE - VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.J29.CO.ZA



BUSINESS TIPS AND TOOLS
FOR STARTUPS

Proactive HS

Superior service - Expert advice



- Corporate Gifting
- Corporate Clothing
- Signage & Banners
- Create logos & designs

fred@proactivehs.co.za www.proactivehs.co.za

Tel: 011 443 0992

www.promoafrica.com

Vehicle Licence Guys



Vehicle Licence renewals via WhatsApp.
Delivered to your door (T's and C's apply)

WhatsApp 072 561 4037

Looking devastation squarely in the eye

TISHA B'AV

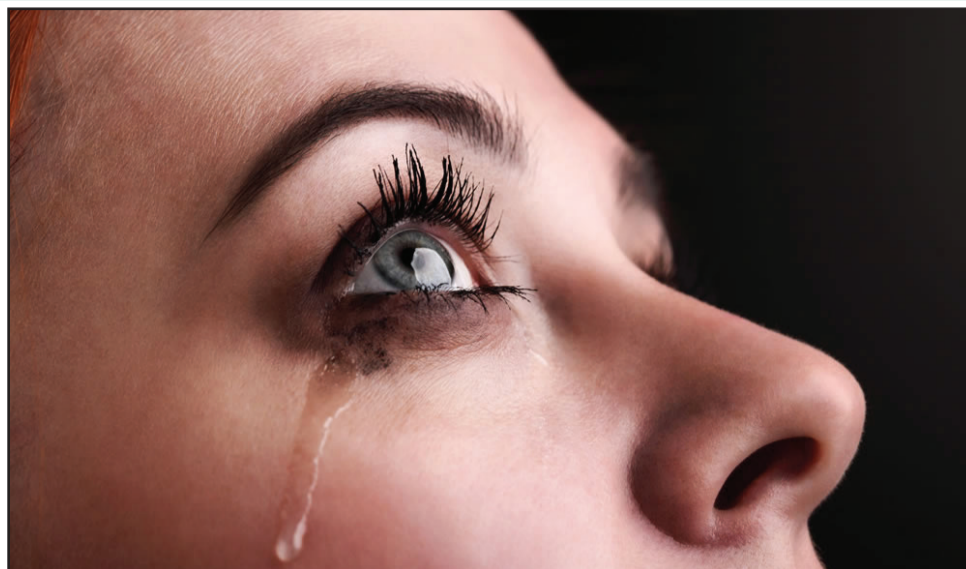
ADINA ROTH



"How can we be brave enough not to look away?" These were the words that writer and thought leader Beth Amato asked on Facebook after yet another tragic loss was announced in the midst of this savage third wave.

With all the suffering, the growing despair, the loss of so much life, and the poverty, she was asking about our courage to bear it all, to "see" what's happening. At times, the immense losses and despair feel like too much. And yet, as humans, how dare we turn away from the horror we see unfolding?

In the fifth chapter of Tractate Gittin in the Babylonian Talmud, we find a number of *aggadata* (stories) which recount the destruction of Jerusalem, Betar, and the Temple. Indeed, the rabbis wrote searing accounts of that



time. They had the courage "not to look away". Yet, the stories aren't only about the rivers that run red with the blood of the Jewish people, the devastation is also described in terms of the loss of

daily rites of passage, the blows dealt to communal life.

In one story, we are told that when a Jewish bride and groom would walk towards their chuppah, it was customary for a rooster and a

hen to be included in the procession as a positive omen for procreation. One time, a Roman troop came upon a Jewish wedding procession, and stole the fowl pair. Enraged, the Jewish community attacked the troop of Romans, provoking the Roman emperor to bring an onslaught on the Jewish people.

A further story recounts that trees were planted upon the birth of every Jewish boy and girl. When they got married, boughs from these trees would be intertwined to build the chuppah, symbolic of the bride and groom's intertwinement. One time, the emperor's daughter was passing by a grove of these trees when her carriage broke. Her soldiers hacked down one of the trees in order to replace the shaft. The Jewish people were so angered, they attacked the daughter's attendants, leading the emperor to attack Betar.

If the Ninth of Av is linked in our minds to the destruction of the Temple, here we read that it's also about desecration of the precious traditions that enriched the daily lives of the Jewish people – chickens and roosters at a wedding, cedar and cypress trees at births.

It's hard to quantify loss in a pandemic. On one level, if we are alive and healthy, we might whisper *dayeinu*, and thank G-d for our fundamental existence. Yet, as these stories teach us, life is made up of more than mere survival.

During this pandemic, we have been robbed of the experience of living on all levels: weddings and B'neimtzvah are postponed, a simple birthday which a child anticipates all year around is celebrated on Zoom, we are denied our usual rites to comfort the mourner, and our Jewish holidays are celebrated alone.

As with these *aggadata*, we can affirm that the loss of a tree or a rooster, a school play, or a long-anticipated birthday party are part of this suffering and part of this story.

As we move into the heart of these stories of killing and destruction, the rabbis recall how in an act of deep perversity, Romans compelled Jewish children to watch while they engaged in sexual relations. Again, the horror feels too much to witness.

Yet, we read of a story where two children who are forced to watch this degradation open their mouths and speak. Their response is surprising, they turn to text. One of them says to the other, "Where is this terribleness written in our Torah?" The pathos of the question is felt keenly. The child is both protesting this suffering

and seeking to draw some meaning from it. The other child responds, "It is written about in Devarim." The first child then responds, "Why haven't I reached that sentence yet?", to which the second child responds, "You are one and a half pages away." The first child then responds, "I'm glad I haven't reached it yet because had I reached it, I wouldn't have needed you to answer the question."

At the pinnacle of their despair and humiliation, these children turn to the ageless Jewish practice of Torah learning and *chavruta* (friendship). The first child asks a quintessentially Jewish question about meaning-making: "Where is this written?" The Romans incorporate the Jewish children in a perverse sexual relationship, enacting the very antithesis of connection and ethical relatedness.

Yet, in the midst of that evil, the two children remember the perennial Jewish practice of meaning-making through text and *chevruta*. Theirs is a profound form of protest and hope in the middle of despair.

Wherever we are, we have the capacity for consciousness and connection. I like to imagine that as the rabbis recounted this story, they too felt a shift. They were "seeing" the devastation of this time with unflinching courage. And at this moment, like the children, they recalled that as humans, we can seek meaning, as humans we have each other. Even now, all isn't lost.

What these stories seem to teach is that the courage to look suffering in the eye is the very place from which hope can emerge. In mourning our losses and crying our sense that the world we once knew is gone, we begin the process of dreaming and re-building. Richard Tarnas writes that hope isn't a flimsy rainbow-in-the-sky experience. Rather, hope is a spiritual discipline.

What's more, when we engage in the spiritual practice of hope, we're no longer victims to the whims of history. Hope allows us to become participatory actors in the unfolding of reality. The Jewish people have always embodied hope as a spiritual practice. We look at suffering on Tisha B'Av squarely in the eye, and from that place, we remember Torah study and relationships, we remember who we were, are, and who we can become.

We will come out of this wave, and this time, as the Jewish people and humanity, we will pray and dance together, we will learn and we will befriend. *Nachamu, nachamu, ami* (Take comfort, oh my people).

• Adina Roth is a clinical psychologist in private practice, and a teacher of Jewish Studies. She runs an independent Barmitzvah and Batmitzvah programme in Johannesburg, and teaches Tanach to adults.

Antisemitism – a continuously mutating virus

JULIE LEIBOWITZ

Eighty-six percent of viewers of a recent SA Jewish Report webinar said they thought antisemitism in South Africa was getting worse but the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) maintains that incidents are still low compared with other parts of the world.

The Board points out that spikes in antisemitic incidents correlate with conflicts in Israel, such as the recent May Gaza conflict, when it recorded 33 antisemitic incidents in one month compared with 37 incidents for the entire year in 2019, or 69 in 2020.

And it admits that political elites within our government have "been captured" by a small number of senior advisors feeding pro-Palestinian and often false news to top echelons, resulting in the ideological equation of Israel with apartheid and genocide. Anti-Israel sentiment is also driven by political expediency, particularly in the Western Cape, where the Palestinian cause resonates with voters.

"Hatred for Israel constitutes 90% of antisemitism in South Africa," SAJBD National Director Wendy Kahn told a webinar titled "Antisemitism: Mutations of the Eternal Virus" on 11 July. Kahn said the majority of antisemitism in the country was fomented by the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, where anti-Israel activity thinly disguises anti-Jewish sentiment.

"Jews have a reason to feel anxious, however statistics show that we're not dealing with a massive antisemitism problem," Kahn said. "We're dealing with a threat to our relationship with Israel [which research shows about 90% of South African Jews have], and there's lots of intimidation and harassment because of this association."

for the Constitutional Court, antisemites changed tack in 2021, increasingly using social media to launch personal attacks.

"There has been increasing hatred and threats on personal groups," Kahn said. "Children have been targeted on WhatsApp groups; health professionals have been targeted on their forums; Jewish businesses and business owners have been harassed; and rallies moved into our backyard [such as the demonstration by pro-Palestinian supporters outside Beyachad in Johannesburg]."

"We are certainly in a Gutenberg moment," said Professor Henry Abramson, the dean of the Lander College of Arts and Sciences in Flatbush, New York, who has a YouTube channel on Jewish history. "We are at the nexus of change in terms of information technology and antisemitism."

Abramson was referring to the invention of the printing press in the 15th century, which allowed images and sentiments to circulate much more widely than before.

"Social media allows people's most venomous thoughts to penetrate the brain space, and people to connect with each other. In the United States, it's bringing our democracy to a standstill," he said. "We haven't figured out what the 'paper-bag' moment is for social media [in terms of censorship]."

Abramson, who gave participants a tour of antisemitism through the ages, pointed out that antisemitism is by its nature "plastic", mutating to fit different cultures, circumstances, and issues.

"If the Jews didn't exist, antisemites would invent them," he said, quoting philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre. "Antisemitism is becoming more and more divorced from reality. It's a powerful way for people to view the world, particularly if they view it in a threatening way."

The most recent iterations of antisemitism appeared in the early 18th century, when it became distinguished by racist notions of

the Jews as a parasite race involved in a global conspiracy to bring down healthy society. These notions, dominant among the Nazis, are still prevalent.

Today, right-wing antisemitism in the United States has the notion that Jews are replacing white workers with African American workers, hence the

"Jews will not replace us" slogan of the white supremacist Charlottesville rally in Virginia in 2017. It's associated around the world with fear of the information age, inequality, and a sense of deprivation. On the left-wing, Jews are blamed for not being progressive and globally orientated enough, which fits into criticism of Israel. There are also variants of antisemitism associated with COVID-19, identifying Jews with the origin and perpetuation of the virus.

The bottom line is that antisemitism doesn't have to make sense. It's often contradictory.

"[In South Africa], we need protection for minorities against hate that goes beyond incitement to violence," Kahn said, pointing out that unlike absolute freedom of speech in the United States, South Africa has the notion of protected speech in its Constitution. These concepts



A screenshot from the webinar

"Studies have shown that amongst black South Africans, Jews are largely an unknown quantity," said Adam Mendelsohn, the director of the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies & Research and associate professor of history at the University of Cape Town. Mendelsohn points out that although there are some traditional antisemitic associations of Jews with money or anti-Christian sentiment, there is also some confusion of Jews with Muslims. And most South Africans are focused on local issues. "Elites can drive the conversation," he said, "but it's unlikely that programmatic antisemitism [as was witnessed in the country in the 1930s and 1940s] will emerge again."

Though antisemitic incidents have traditionally taken place in the public sphere, such as graffiti; marches; Israel Apartheid Week; boycotts of stores, products, academics, and performances; and most recently, the discrimination shown to Jewish candidates

Letters

WHEN IT COMES TO VACCINES, IT'S BETTER TO STICK TO THE FACTS

The Ministerial Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Vaccines (VMAC) as well as the two other MACs are concerned about the extent of vaccine hesitancy in the country.

A recent survey conducted by the Human Sciences Research Council found that only 52.3% of a cross-section of urbanised and rural populations were planning to be vaccinated – possibly one of the lowest vaccine acceptancy rates in the world. The success of the COVID-19 vaccine programme is critically dependent on public trust and public partnership in what is essentially a novel public health programme – the mass rollout of a new vaccine for adults.

Undermining the programme by uninformed “pseudo-activist” grandstanding can only further damage the fragile public confidence about COVID-19 vaccines. One need only look back in recent history to see the damage wrought by uninformed, wannabe COVID-19 “experts” such as former United States President Donald Trump.

The plea is certainly not to stifle criticism of the government or the vaccine programme. In fact, the VMAC itself has, on a number of occasions, criticised various aspects of government policy. For example, take the Covax deposit issue, which is in the public domain under earlier advisories published on the health department’s website.

The VMAC was established as an independent scientific think tank of top national experts, as well as a panel of international experts, in the field of COVID-19-related vaccine issues. Its members serve in a voluntary capacity, function completely independently of the government, and declare no conflicts of interest. Its purpose is exclusively to provide expert, evidence-based, scientific guidance for the government to plan and execute its vaccine programme.

Three items in the last issue of the *SA Jewish Report* sanctimoniously adopt a moral stance of the right to speak out against the government. Few reasonable people would disagree with this. But criticism, to be of any value, must be based on authentic science and scientific facts. As the late senator, Daniel Moynihan, so wisely quipped, “You are entitled to your opinion. But you aren’t entitled to your own facts.”

On 3 July, I wrote a letter to the chief rabbi informing him of my resignation from his informal medical advisory body. My reason was that it would “be totally inappropriate for me to be recognised as a medical adviser

to your office”. This followed his submission to *Business Day* on 29 June of an opinion piece which was replete with misinformation and, in my view, was also distasteful in the extreme. These were repeated in his interview responses in the last issue of the *SA Jewish Report*.

For example, what’s glaringly omitted in any of his submissions is the pivotal role that the B.1.351 (Beta) variant played in the vaccine strategy of the country. He went on to say that evidence was available that the AstraZeneca vaccine would have prevented serious illness, hospitalisation, and death. No such evidence exists, only vague speculation by some. He laments the fact that so many middle-income countries are so far ahead of South Africa, but omits the inconvenient truth that vaccines widely unregistered at the time – from China and Russia – were used, vaccines which had no evidence of activity against the Beta variant.

The chief rabbi’s piece was drawn to my attention, inter alia, by a member of my VMAC. As chairperson of the VMAC, I was unfortunately compelled, in the public interest, to correct at least some of the glaring items of misinformation. It certainly was unfortunate, as the very last thing I wanted was to be involved in a vitriolic to-and-fro correspondence duel with uninformed journalists pursuing their own narratives.

As far as the Jewish community is concerned, I continue to cherish the responsibility that the community has given to me to advise it on COVID-19. I have, for more than a year and a half, willingly, and in fact feel privileged to have been able to volunteer my services and professional and scientific knowledge. I have provided scientifically based advice on COVID-19 to schools, shuls, organisations and, of course, to many individuals who have contacted me.

As chairperson of the VMAC, a member of the general MAC on COVID-19, and a number of other scientific forums, I’m fortunately in a position to provide to the community updated scientific information and data on COVID-19 to clearly explain the facts and sort them out from the plethora of background noise often emanating from the media and unqualified “experts”.

I will be using the South African Jewish Board of Deputies Facebook page every Wednesday at 12:00 to give a weekly update on COVID-19. It can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/SAJBD>

– **Professor Barry Schoub, Johannesburg**

COME BACK, RONALD, YOUR INTEGRITY IS AT STAKE!

What a beautiful photograph of Ronald Bobroff! (*SA Jewish Report*, 24 June 2021) It’s just a pity he’s not prepared to fight his “just case” from inside South Africa’s borders. After all, he was a past president of the Law Society of South Africa and, if there’s a person who knows how the system in South Africa works, it must be him.

The very last paragraph of your article is telling. Bobroff alleges that your *SA Jewish Report* “has consistently maintained the narrative that I’m the archetypal ‘thieving Jewish lawyer.’” And then he invites us to reflect on this. And I have. I dare you to come back to your home country and tell us why you aren’t a “fugitive from justice”. Come and clear your good name, and tell us why the judges in the Supreme Court of Appeal (and all the other court judges) are barking up the wrong tree? Tell us, from inside South Africa why you aren’t that archetypal “thieving Jewish lawyer” aka the *SA Jewish Report*. It seems to me as if you and *boetie* (your son) are the only people who know exactly what was going on – all the others are “framing” you.

I was proud of having you as president (of the Law Society). I recall that photograph – I admired it then, and I still do. I dare you to come back and make attorneys such as myself proud again. Come back, tell your story, clear your name, and sue the *SA Jewish Report*. That would be a nice legal tangle to watch.

It seems that you’re rather hesitant to come back to South Africa, and it seems further that there are people in Israel and South Africa that desire to have you and your beloved son back courtesy of the taxpayers in these two countries. Having referred to your imminent return to South Africa, the SCA gave you R7 million back. I suggest that in the light of the fact that you are such an honest and upright man, you pay your own fare back. Your integrity is at stake!

I can go on and on from inside South Africa, not like you from outside our country.

Regards, Ron, hoping to see you soon. (Just a gentle reminder: pay your own fare. The SCA gave you some of your money back. It’s the right thing to do.)

– **Neels Coertse, Johannesburg**

Disclaimer: The letters page is intended to provide an opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not reflect the views of the *SA Jewish Report*. The editor is not obliged to use every letter and will not publish vitriolic statements or any letters with inappropriate content. Letters will be edited and – if need be – shortened. **Guidelines:** Letters are limited to 400 words. Provide your full name, place of residence, and daytime phone number. Letters should be emailed to editorial@sajewishreport.co.za

CHIEF RABBI SHOULD CONSULT BEFORE SPEAKING OUT

The chairperson and executive of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) would like to clarify the organisation’s response to the *SA Jewish Report*’s interview with Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein and last week’s editorial (8 July). Both referred to the chief rabbi’s article in *Business Day*, (29 June).

South Africa is teetering in the face of the enormous double challenge of a rampant COVID-19 third wave while parts of our country have been set alight. Now more than ever is the time for visionary and responsible leadership.

The SAJBD is the democratically elected representative leadership body of South African Jewry. When issues of concern arise with our government, we have no qualms in raising them. We live in a constitutional democracy, where everyone has the opportunity to air their views.

But, in the *SA Jewish Report*, the chief rabbi’s call for President Cyril Ramaphosa to “repent” and “atone” for “his sins” was presented as the equivalent of speaking out against apartheid. This is an offensive and objectionable analogy.

The tone and content of the article in the *Business Day* was also inappropriate and ineffectual.

We wrote to the chairperson of the United Orthodox Synagogues (UOS) to engage on this issue, and were dismayed that the UOS responded that it has no oversight over the chief rabbi’s communications.

It’s critical that any representative of a community purporting to speak on its behalf is accountable, and that they fully consult on issues of strategic importance. This is a fundamental principle of good leadership.

The chief rabbi criticises the elected leadership of the Jewish community, and separates himself from it, in spite of the fact that he sits on the SAJBD national executive committee and has every opportunity to discuss strategy for engaging with government.

The notion that a single leader can know what’s best for his community and can act unilaterally is outdated and dangerous.

Our community is suffering and frustrated. Now is the time to come together and find constructive ways of rebuilding.

The SAJBD remains committed to a productive relationship with the chief rabbi that serves the best interests of our community and country.


– **Shaun Zagnoev, SAJBD national chairperson**

SEEKING DESCENDENTS OF LEVIN AND MAISEL

Lawyers are trying to trace the descendants of Jack Levin (born 15 August 1904) and Morris Maisel (born 16 February 1912) with regard to property in Malmesbury. If you have any information, please contact Beryl Heyns at transfers@smutsco.co.za.

Read the South African Jewish Report online
www.sajewishreport.co.za

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

BDO

© 2019 BDO South Africa Services (Pty) Ltd.

The day before the night



INNER VOICE
Howard Feldman

world was consumed by fear and anxiety. By Tuesday, when I penned this column, I had nothing to write. Because Sunday might have been only 48 hours in the past, but it seemed a lifetime away.

When news of the looting started to circulate, I made the decision not to watch all the footage that I was sent. I decided not to forward it, as I knew what watching it was doing to me. I made the decision that so long as I was up to date and I knew what was happening, I wouldn't need to see clip after clip after clip of destruction. "Looting porn", I decided, wasn't for me. So I opted out.

That, however, was only half the battle. I also made the decision to remember Sunday – a day so easily forgotten. I did it because in all the important ways, Sunday says so much more about who we are than Monday does. Sunday speaks to what we are capable of as a country and as a community, and what it means to take an active stance in bettering the lives of those around us.

Monday speaks simply to fear, and all that's negative.

I have little doubt that the current situation will pass. I'm confident that things will settle, and that probably few lessons will be learned. I also know that as tempting as it is to spend energy on Monday, we will gain so much more by focusing on the day before.

On Sunday, I had an article that would write itself. Those are my favourites, as the words flow from the heart and the pages are filled before I have time to consider the detail of what I'm going to write. Those types of columns are rare, and occur only when I'm either moved in a positive way or the complete opposite – when I'm so frustrated and devastated that the only way for me to process what I'm feeling is through words.

Sunday was the former. I had heard about the vaccine initiative spearheaded by Rabbi Aharon Zulberg at The Base. I had received notification from different communities, all of whom were encouraging members to register and get vaccinated, and so, before recording the Sunday COVID-19 podcast, I quickly went past to see it for myself.

I was blown away. Between the health department, The Base, volunteers, the Community Security Organisation, and Hatzolah, the process was managed down to the last detail. It was magnificent to see that not only members of the Jewish community had taken the opportunity to get their vaccines done in a welcoming manner. At the end of the day, Zulberg confirmed that they had vaccinated more than 870 people. I had nothing to do with this, and yet I felt so much pride for the rabbi, The Base, all the communities that supported the initiative, and for all those who were involved.

And then Monday happened. The looting that had begun in KwaZulu-Natal spread to Gauteng. My social media and communication became dominated by real horrors as well as false information. And just like that, within hours, our

All Fridges, Washing Machines and Dishwashers on special now!
Shabbat Shalom from I-deal Furnishers

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

Furniture: Lazy Boy, Linea Classica Alpine & Grafton
Beds: Sealy, Simmons, Rest Assured & Contour
Appliances: Bosch, Defy, Samsung & LG

☎ 011 887 5456 | 011 440 9571
Nathan: 082 854 5706

Midways Mall,
280 Corlett Drive, Bramley Gardens
Monday to Friday 8:30 – 17:00
Saturday 8:30 – 13:00 | Sunday 10:00 – 13:00

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Keep calm and a cool head in the chaos

Along with continued high levels of COVID-19 infection resulting in an extension of lockdown conditions, South Africans have been confronted over the past week with a disquieting eruption of violent protest, vandalism, and looting in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng. Understandably, this has generated much unease in our community, with many fearing that the unrest will spread to the main Jewish residential areas.

On Tuesday evening, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) organised a webinar titled "Cutting through the chaos – understanding the current crisis" to give our community a more in-depth understanding of what's happening and how best to respond. SAJBD Gauteng Council Chairperson Professor Karen Milner chaired the event, in which a panel of security experts, academics, and communal leaders gave their perspectives on the situation. Presenters included representatives of the Community Security Organisation (CSO), security company CAP, and the Institute for Security Studies, all of whom were in a position to provide a reliable report about what was happening on the ground.

While no-one sought to sugar-coat the situation, all participants urged people to keep calm, act responsibly, and in cases where they felt uncomfortable or became aware of potential threats, to contact the CSO (control room number – 086 18 000 18) and other security providers. Another point that was stressed, particularly by University of the Witwatersrand academic and media expert Dr Nechama Brodie was the importance of not exacerbating public fears by rushing to believe and pass on unverified information (such as fake-news stories about local malls being attacked). To a significant extent, the problem has been exacerbated



ABOVE BOARD
Shaun Zagnoev

less by a dearth of reliable information about what has been happening than by the plethora of unsubstantiated rumours that have been doing the rounds via social media. Milner concluded with the comment, "We need to rely on whatever well of resilience we have to weather this crisis, and very soon, we need to be there to rebuild our communities and country." We are engaging with our KwaZulu-Natal Board to find ways to support and assist KwaZulu-Natal Jewry who have been directly impacted by this serious crisis.

Tribute to a Jewish institution
Many people will have been saddened to learn that one of Johannesburg Jewry's most venerable and highly regarded kosher food suppliers, Gary Friedman Caterers (GFC), has closed its doors as a result of COVID-19-induced losses. From the SAJBD's point of view, we have lost a resource that we have relied upon for decades, not just in terms of reliably providing quality kosher products for so many of our public functions, but through the unfailing helpfulness and support that Gary and his team have provided. In common with everyone else who has benefited from its services and will sorely feel the company's absence, we hope very much to see GFC, at least in some form, up and running when these difficult times are behind us.

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

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

Locked down but not out of Mandela Day

Under lockdown, but still want to do something good on Mandela Day? Here are a few options.



or cycle 6.7km on 18 July anywhere, anytime. Take a photograph as proof, tag Growing Champions, and post on social media. <https://www.facebook.com/growingchamps>

Mensch and the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies: an online cook-along. This Mandela Day, 18 July, help to nourish the children of South Africa. Time: 18:00. Should you join, please support at least one child (R180). Go to www.mensch.org.za/mandela-day to book.

Santa Shoebox Project: for Christmas in July, assist in packing Santa Shoeboxes filled with toiletries, sweets, clothing, school supplies and stationery, books, and toys for underprivileged children. Children younger than 13 are welcome to register and serve their 67 minutes. Find out more about the Santa Shoebox Project here: <https://santashoebox.org.za/mandela-day-vss/>. This year, personalised virtual Santa Shoeboxes will be available from 18 July. <https://santashoebox.org.za/product/virtual-santa-shoebox-generic/>

Virtual Walk - 6.7km: pay R167 entrance fee to challenge your family and friends to walk, run,

67 Stories: a Learning in Reach initiative in which writers, videographers, and photographers collectively document the stories of 67 individuals. Amplifying voices from Lavender Hill, highlighting the importance of early childhood development (ECD), and documenting a five-year journey of progress in quality ECD. Writers, photographers, and videographers can sign-up and volunteer their skills. <https://learninginreach.org.za/mandela-day-2021/>

Ladies of Love Mandela Day: book your tickets for the Ladies of Love event and contribute to its world-record attempt to break the longest line of food cans. Donate 67 minutes of your time, or purchase cans to pay forward on Mandela Day in partnership with the V&A Waterfront. <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/EventCategories.aspx?itemid=1507220994>

KosherWorld Centre

TRULY KOSHER

KosherWorld TRULY KOSHER
011 440 9517

Feigels
KOSHER DELICATESSEN • FALAFEL & SMOOTHIE BAR
063 113 9608

CJS PARTY Shoppe
082 0847794

OPENING SOON
Hometown Pharmacy
Where the pharmacist knows your name

We're open daily. Please watch Facebook for our trading hours.

Concierge Shopping Service - orders@kosherworld.co.za - 011 440 9517

LA-MICH
UNISEX HAIR & BEAUTY SALON
011 440 8591

Kosher Plate
Kosher with a touch of class
079 224 3423

chabad bookshop
011 440 5224

Montagu
TRUSTED QUALITY SNACKS
011 440 9517

KOSUSHI
GOURMET FUSION SUSHI
082 086 9631

Jozi Blue
the coffee experience
079 616 0905

The Cleaning Brothers
011 786 1063