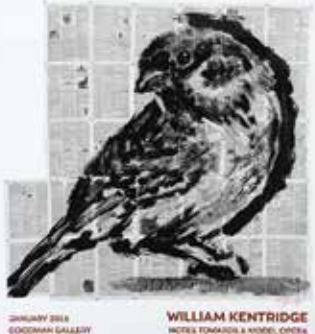




Victorian 2-tier buffet  
with pierced and carved  
foliate back  
**SOLD R15,000**



William Joseph Kentridge,  
Notes Towards a Model Opera  
(exhibition poster),  
giclee print on paper  
**SOLD R24,000**



Pair of Geo II cast  
candlesticks London  
1752 maker John Café  
**SOLD R38,000**

# ■ Volume 24 – Number 37 ■ 16 October 2020 ■ 28 Tishrei 5781

# South African Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

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

## Beth Din dispute with manufacturer foments discontent over pricing

NICOLA MILTZ

Local manufacturers of kosher food say they are looking overseas for alternative kosher certification following the furore caused by the Beth Din's removal of a company's kashrut licence last week.

A longstanding relationship between the Johannesburg kosher department and Honeyfields, an ice cream, sugar cone, and chocolate manufacturing company, turned sour, resulting in it being stripped of its kosher licence.

The Beth Din claims it was because of a contractual breach following “ongoing non-compliance” with its stringent kosher model, in which it has a zero-tolerance policy for non-compliance.

Honeyfields claims it all comes down to money, saying that the Beth Din took its kosher certificate away because it steadfastly refused to accept the “exorbitant spike” in Beth Din kosher fees.

However, the Johannesburg kosher department insists it has nothing to do with fees.

“This has nothing to do with an increase in Beth Din fees. The breakdown is purely over non-compliance over many years and the unco-operative nature of the company with regard to kosher compliance,” said Head of Kashrut Rabbi Dovi Goldstein.

There has been a lot of allegations this week both on social media and on ChaiFM over what people in the community claim to be “sky-rocketing kosher food prices” and the Beth Din’s alleged “lack of service, transparency, and communication”.

The Beth Din has threatened to seek legal action following Honeyfield’s message to its Jewish clients in which it allegedly questioned the Beth Din’s integrity and pricing models. Honeyfields is further challenging the Beth Din’s price hikes at the Competition Commission, claiming unfair business practice.

The owner of Honeyfields, George Georghiou, told the *SA Jewish Report* that he may have made mistakes in the past, but he always rectified them. “I accept and admit there have been mistakes with the printing of my labels in the past, but I always acknowledge this and fix them. This is not about me and my procedures being kosher or parev, it’s to do with the increase in fees which I’m not prepared to pay,” he said.

He said he believed many manufacturers would “be looking at obtaining kosher certification elsewhere overseas because they are left with little choice,” he said.

Georghiou says he is looking for a new hechsher as he wants to remain loyal to his Jewish clients. “Three products

including parev and dairy chocolate-lined sugar cones and wafer baskets are going into 600 stores nationwide and sadly, the Jewish community won’t be able to buy them even though the products are kosher, but are now uncertified,” he said.

In a message to his Jewish clients last week, he said the Union of Orthodox Synagogues (UOS) had inflated his fees by a whopping 600%, which was going to affect the prices consumers were going to pay in the future. He wrote that he was offered numerous payment methods to meet the obligation, which he told the *SA Jewish Report* remained unaffordable.

“I’m just a simple chocolate and ice cream maker, I’m not here to fight. But when they decide to damage my turnover, that’s declaring war, and I will go to war with the Beth Din,” he said.

Georghiou isn’t the only manufacturer prepared to take a stand.

Johannesburg mashgiach Akiva Mallett decided to explore alternative options when he set up his new company, Dairyluv, which makes Chalav Yisrael dairy products. “I found that during my application process, there was a lack of commitment on the part of the UOS, and I felt it would turn out to be a disappointing relationship,” he said.

So he looked further afield for kosher certification.

“I applied to six of the world-leading kosher authorities, and chose Montreal Kosher. It was a long application process, but made easy with the professional people working there. We have a six-hour time difference but overcame that obstacle through proper communication and understanding.

“Even though the exchange rate plays a role, I believe the fees will still be less than what I would be paying here,” he said.

The owner of The Chocolate Tree, Moshe Amoils, told the *SA Jewish Report* that this outcry has brought to his attention the fact that manufacturers and producers aren’t alone in this struggle.

He said his Beth Din kosher Pesach fee in 2017 was R7 200. It went up more than 300% in 2020 to a staggering R45 000.

He successfully negotiated this down with the kosher department, explaining how it would negatively affect the community.

“Many people realise that there are actually other options available. People are considering moving further afield, and will do so if they find it more affordable, especially if it comes with better service and improved relationships.”

One longstanding manufacturer who prefers to remain anonymous said he was dissatisfied with the way the Beth Din conducted itself. “After many years,

I’m considering applying elsewhere for an international hechsher,” he said.

Colin Hurwitz of Glens Sauces told the *SA Jewish Report* that the consumer was the biggest loser. “My heart broke earlier this year when I overheard an old lady complain that she couldn’t afford to buy a bottle of my kosher-for-Pesach tomato sauce. These are the people who are suffering. The Beth Din has lost sight of this.

“My tomato sauce costs what it does because of the many crippling hidden costs over and above the Beth Din Passover fee,” he said.

Another kosher manufacturer and retailer speaking under condition of anonymity questioned whether the Beth Din had the community’s interests at heart.

“Eateries are constantly trying to cut back and streamline their businesses to the bone because it’s becoming increasingly difficult to keep the cost of kosher down for the end user. They are constantly listening to complaints by the consumer about increased food prices while doing their utmost.”

Goldstein told the *SA Jewish Report* he was saddened by this latest scandal,

considering the fact that the department had worked tirelessly to improve customer relations and ensure food prices were kept as low as possible.

The Stan & Pete saga had positive results in a vastly transformed department and a total revamp in kashrut, including a new scientific and equitable pricing model, he said.

“Our goal is for more people to eat more kosher more often. We don’t turn people away when they can’t afford the full price. In fact, we offer them various ways to remain on board because it’s in our interest to have more kosher products available for the community,” Goldstein said.

According to him, every company, no matter the size, is charged the same R32 000 annual base fee according to the new scientific pricing model. This is the standard fee applied across the board before other expenses come into play, for example the number of factories and products.

“People can apply for a special discount. We don’t turn people away, we understand times are tough, especially during COVID-19 when we have offered payment holidays and alternative payment

options,” he said.

In the case of Honeyfields, he said, “The company had been included in no less than five alerts over the years which we consider way beyond the acceptable norm. The situation became untenable.

“Our community trusts that our stamp can be relied on, and when we have tried multiple times to work with a company and it still refuses to work with us, we are left with no choice.

“Sadly Mr Georghiou has taken a shot at our reputation, and we take this seriously. This is why we have decided to take legal action,” he said.

When a company asked for financial assistance, the department would “go out of its way on a case-by-case basis to offer a discount or phase-ins over multiple years to make it fair and equitable”, Goldstein said.

“Our approach is to benchmark against the world’s best kashrus agencies, and we are seeing that we are more than 50% less than other international agencies. So, you would need to question how some overseas hechshers can offer their services at such low costs, and whether it’s sustainable.”

## Norwood blaze raises fire awareness



TALI FEINBERG

A home in Norwood was engulfed in flames and almost completely destroyed on Monday evening. Though it’s not known how the fire started, the ZAKA fire containment unit (FCU) ensured that it didn’t spread to other houses.

An eyewitness in the area, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the homeowners were away at the time of the fire. “I smelled smoke, and the neighbourhood WhatsApp group said the house was alight. By the time we got there, we could see huge flames. It all happened so fast, and the inside of the house was totally gutted. If the homeowners had been there,

lives may have been lost.”

Photographs of the scene show massive flames stretching into the night sky, with nearby trees and homes that could easily have caught alight.

Said ZAKA’s Kayla Ginsberg, “The fire was eventually extinguished by the fire department, which arrived quickly and managed it superbly.”

ZAKA’s head of operations and head of the FCU, Josh Green, said that this incident showed the need for fire safety and awareness in every home. “We never think it will happen to us, but if it does, it’s too late to get a fire extinguisher or install a smoke alarm.”

Continued on page 14>>>



Shabbat times this week		
Starts	Ends	
17:57	18:48	Johannesburg
18:43	19:37	Cape Town
17:49	18:41	Durban
18:07	18:59	Bloemfontein
18:14	19:08	Port Elizabeth
18:04	18:57	East London

Appliance Repairs on Site

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

Call Jason  
082 401 8239 / 076 210 6532

FREE QUOTATIONS



WE ARE HIRING!

The Torah Academy Primary School is looking for a qualified, passionate

Intermediate Phase  
Secular Teacher!

The ideal candidate would be:

- SACE Registered
- able to start January 2021
- able to work 20 hours per week

If you believe you are what we are looking for, please send your CV to [hr@torahacademy.co.za](mailto:hr@torahacademy.co.za)

\*Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted

# Keeping matric students safe and sane during finals

OPINION

DR SHERI FANAROFF



Matrics across the country didn’t expect the disrupted year they found themselves in. While some embraced online learning and extra study time with fewer disruptions, many have found it extremely challenging with missed teaching time and lost teacher contact.

Add to this forfeited opportunities such as cancelled matric dances, disappointing online valedictories, and irretrievable sporting and cultural “lasts”, and we have a group of students who feel hard done by, anxious, and unmotivated.

With the threat of COVID-19 putting them into quarantine or isolation, and the risk of missing an exam meaning that they may not matriculate, let’s consider what we can do to help our matrics.

### Health tips

Make sure that students get enough sleep. At this age, they should have a minimum of six to eight hours of sleep a night – particularly the night before an exam. Chat to your doctor about melatonin if your matric student struggles to fall asleep at night and wake up early in the morning.

Eat healthy, regular meals and snacks to keep energy levels up.

Make time each day for exercise (even if it’s a short run/walk around the garden or a quick refreshing swim).

Stay well hydrated, and drink lots of water. Avoid excessive caffeine, particularly in the evening. Energy drinks and Bioplus might give a short burst of energy, but they can make students jittery, have a negative effect on sleep, and generally cause a slump as they wear off.

Only use stimulants such as Ritalin and Concerta if there is a definite diagnosis of ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) or ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) and they have been prescribed. These are schedule 6 medications, and can cause adverse effects.

Make time for relaxation every day – meditate/ chat to friends/watch a tv show/or do an enjoyable activity.

Vitamins and immune boosters are a good idea. I recommend Vitamin B (a Neurobion injection works well if they are really run down), Vitamin C, Vitamin D, and Zinc. Alternatively one good multivitamin such as Centrum or Supradyn is a good option.

### Reduce outside exposure

Shield matric students from exposure that will put them at risk of either contracting COVID-19 or becoming a close contact of someone who has been infected. If they do get exposed or infected, they will need to be in quarantine or isolation for 10 to 14 days. This will mean they miss out on writing exams, and may not be able to matriculate with their class.

Matrics and their families should practice stringent hand hygiene, social distancing, and mask wearing.

They should carefully consider whether it’s worth the risk of joining any parties or large gatherings, particularly in indoor venues, for the next few weeks. Remember that infected people may shed virus and be contagious for up to 72 hours before developing symptoms.

Don’t let the threat of COVID-19 quarantine or isolation ruin plans for university or gap years in 2021.

In every setting, they should ask themselves, “If someone who is at this gathering calls in a couple of days to say they have contracted the virus, will I be considered a close contact?” This means they should avoid close contact (within 1.5m) for extended periods (more than 15 minutes) with anyone outside of their immediate household.

If family members have outside contact, then in the home, the matric student should be considered a high-risk individual and should stay apart from the rest of the family (1.5m away) and wear a mask if not in their own room. When eating together, sit at a distance of at least 2m, preferably outside, or shield the matric student behind a Perspex screen. When travelling in the car as a group, consider wearing masks and leaving windows open.

Some schools are making accommodation for infection, and might allow healthy quarantined students to write in a separate venue. Some schools

are even providing a venue where students who have tested positive but are well enough to write are allowed to attend.

If students develop any symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, headaches etc, consult your doctor about whether they should be tested for COVID-19.

### Mental health

This year, more than ever, matric students need the unconditional support of their parents and families. Expect moodiness and grumpiness from your teen. Try to remain a calm and reassuring source of comfort.

Matric exams are highly stressful and pressurised, creating anxiety and nervousness in even the most laid-back of students.

Teenagers do need their friends – encourage them to connect electronically or to have COVID-safe interactions, sticking to one or two friends, distanced, outside, and wearing masks.

It’s important to get the balance right – short but enjoyable breaks from studying will lead to more productive study time.

Limit time on social media. It can become hugely time consuming and addictive to scroll through Instagram or YouTube, leaving much less time for revision. Encourage students to put their phones in another room to minimise distraction while studying.

Phones should be switched off and preferably in another room once students have gone to bed. Try to do something other than having screen time before bed so that the mind can switch off.

Reassure your matric student that the results of exams aren’t as important as they seem at this point in their life. Nobody will ask them in job interviews how many distinctions they got in matric.

If your matric student is really struggling with anxiety or panic symptoms, speak to a psychologist and your GP about treatment options.

The next few weeks are going to be particularly tough. Don’t let the threat of COVID-19 quarantine or isolation ruin plans for university or gap years in 2021. Stay vigilant, socialise safely only when necessary, and hold out until the end.

• Dr Sheri Fanaroff is a GP in private practice in Johannesburg.

SPRING "All IN" SPECIALS

Multifocals

Usually R7000 now R2799

Single vision

Usually R4000 now R1799

includes photochromatic  
+ anti reflective coating + cool frame

011 440 9001 063 915 0722

eyecare@theopticalstudio.co.za

Optical Studio

VEHICLES WANTED



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

Arnold Orkin 082 823 7826  
AUTO AFRICA

## Torah Thought

### Start at the beginning with strength and purpose

I always feel very emotional saying farewell to the sukkah at the end of the festival. For a week, we have been sheltered in G-d’s embrace, the flimsy walls and permeable roof symbolic of His protection under all circumstances. Now it’s time to come out and face the world. It also means that the season of holidays is drawing to a close. For almost a month we have been hopping from festival to festival, from fast to fast. Now it’s back to the day to day grind without the spiritual injection associated with this month of Tishrei.

This past Shabbat afternoon, as Shemini Atzeret was drawing to a close and Simchat Torah about to begin, I felt this more than ever. There was a certain finality in leaving the sukkah, in facing the real world again. The frenetic pace of the past few weeks took us all away from the real world. It was about how to

celebrate high holidays in these most unusual times; whether to attend synagogue or to stay home; if and how to host guests in a sukkah; how to dance on Simchat Torah without being allowed to sing. We focused on the special observances of special day after special day, and were preoccupied with how this could best be done in current circumstances. It felt good to be in Hashem’s embrace.

Now, it’s out into the real world. Understandably, we may be slightly apprehensive about facing this world post the holiday season. For six months, we have grown accustomed to our actions being dictated by guidelines; for the past month, we were also spiritually spoon-fed and our deeds directed by rules and ritual.

Now we’re on our own. The government has relaxed lockdown regulations, leaving our health and that of our communities in our hands and

up to our common sense. Likewise, on the religious front, we’re alone, needing to nurture our relationship with G-d on our own steam.

This is the energy of the Shabbat we are now facing: Shabbat Bereishit (in the beginning). It’s known by that name because we start the new cycle of Torah readings with Genesis Chapter 1. But it’s also a new spiritual beginning for each of us as we implement the gains of previous weeks into our daily life and set ourselves on the correct religious path ahead.

Buoyed by the energy of Tishrei and its festivals, let’s face the year ahead with the many uncertainties it brings. Let’s begin with a new *bereishit*. We all know how important beginnings are, and how a good start affects the road ahead.



Rabbi Yossi Chaikin, Oxford Shul

South African

Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

ceo@sajewishreport.co.za • Advertising Britt Landsman: 082 292 9520 – britt@sajewishreport.co.za

Editor Peta Krost Maunder – editor@sajewishreport.co.za • Sub-editor Julie Leibowitz

Journalists Nicola Miltz • Tali Feinberg • Jordan Moshe • Editorial co-ordinator Martine Bass

editorial@sajewishreport.co.za • Proofreader Kim Hatchuel CEO Dani Kedar

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, Benjy Porter.

Advertisements and editorial copy do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff and board of directors. Tel: 011 430 1980.



The SA Jewish Report subscribes to the Code of Ethics and Conduct for South African Print and Online Media that prescribes news that is truthful, accurate, fair and balanced. If we don’t live up to the Code, within 20 days of the date of publication of the material, please contact the Public Advocate at 011 484 3612, fax: 011 484 3619. You can also contact our Case Officer on [khanyim@ombudsman.org.za](mailto:khanyim@ombudsman.org.za) or lodge a complaint on their website: [www.presscouncil.org.za](http://www.presscouncil.org.za)



# In a major shift, Facebook bans Holocaust denial

BEN SALES – JTA

Facebook has announced that it will now ban any posts that deny or distort the Holocaust, a landmark change from its previous policy.

For years, Facebook and its chief executive, Mark Zuckerberg, defended Holocaust denial as a misguided but legitimate form of expression. In 2018, regarding Holocaust denial, he said, “I don’t believe that our platform should take that down because I think there are things that different people get wrong.”

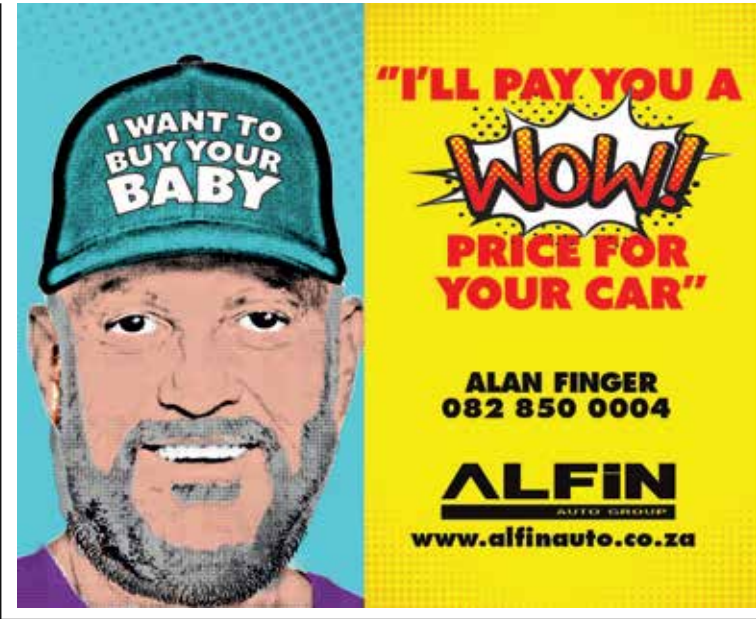
election that analysts and government agencies fear will spark violence from white supremacist groups.

This summer, the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and other civil-rights groups organised a boycott of Facebook in which 1 000 companies, including major corporations, paused advertising on the site for at least one month in protest against its lack of action against hate speech, including Holocaust denial. The Claims Conference, which co-ordinates restitution and reparations

how to combat antisemitism since 2016, and has held daily meetings leading up to this policy change, said Yfat Barak-Cheney, the group’s director of international affairs.

She said her organisation preferred engagement with Facebook rather than external activism because, through her meetings, she had witnessed the social media giant gradually move toward banning Holocaust denial.

“We have flagged to them Holocaust denial, over and over, as an issue on the platform, as an issue in principle that needs to be recognised as antisemitism and hate speech,” Barak-Cheney said. “Holocaust denial isn’t studying and discussion about historical facts. It’s a tool to spread hatred against Jews.



other genocides like the Armenian or Rwandan genocides.

“Normally this process would be the other way around,” with Facebook spelling out rules before announcing a new policy, Barak-Cheney said. “Here, because of the importance of the issue and how prevalent it has been, it decided to make the announcement, but it has a lot of hard work ahead of it on making those boundaries.”

The new policy comes after Facebook tightened its restrictions on other forms of antisemitism and hate speech. Last week, Facebook announced it was banning all groups and pages promoting QAnon, the antisemitic conspiracy theory. In August, Facebook banned posts about Jews controlling the world as well as other forms of hate speech.

In a speech last year at Georgetown University, Zuckerberg said, “I’m proud that our values at Facebook are inspired by the American tradition, which is more supportive of free expression than anywhere else.” During the George Floyd protests this year, Facebook allowed a post by President Donald Trump, who has personally courted Zuckerberg, that said, “When the looting starts, the shooting starts.” Twitter flagged the post as glorifying violence.

“I know many people are upset that we’ve left the president’s posts up, but our position is that we should enable as much expression as possible unless it will cause imminent risk of specific harms or dangers spelled out in clear policies,” Zuckerberg wrote in a post defending the decision.

Reacting to the new policy, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum addressed the issue of freedom of expression, saying in a statement, “Freedom of speech is vital to our democracy, but it doesn’t require any organisation to host antisemitic speech that can potentially foment violence.”

Facebook has also been criticised for its perceived lack of action regarding political disinformation campaigns during the 2016 election. It has taken more action this year to combat such activity.

“There’s a company ethos for Facebook about the issue of information and not removing information from the platform,” Barak-Cheney said. But regarding Holocaust denial, she said, “I think they realised it’s just been too much, and they needed to do something about it.”



Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg

That approach garnered a widespread outcry from scholars and antisemitism watchdogs.

On Monday, Zuckerberg wrote in a Facebook post that he now believes banning Holocaust denial “is the right balance”.

“I’ve struggled with the tension between standing for free expression and the harm caused by minimising or denying the horror of the Holocaust,” he wrote. “My own thinking has evolved as I’ve seen data showing an increase in antisemitic violence, as have our wider policies on hate speech.”

The change comes after months of activism by anti-discrimination groups pushing Facebook to change its policies on hate speech in general, and Holocaust denial in particular. It also comes amid rising antisemitism in the United States and Europe, and weeks ahead of a presidential

payments for Holocaust survivors, organised a campaign called #NoDenyingIt, in which Holocaust survivors appealed directly to Zuckerberg via video to take action against Holocaust denial.

Other Jewish organisations worked in consultation with Facebook to persuade the site to ban Holocaust denial. Facebook’s statement credited the World Jewish Congress and American Jewish Committee with advice on the new policy.

It also cited a recent poll showing a lack of knowledge about the Holocaust among Americans younger than 40. The poll found that more than 10% of respondents believed Jews caused the Holocaust, while half of respondents said they had seen Holocaust denial online.

The World Jewish Congress has been speaking to Facebook about

news, we also would note that platform decisions of this nature are only as good as the companies’ enforcement,” read the statement by ADL Chief Executive Jonathan Greenblatt. “Facebook now needs to reassure the global community that it’s taking meaningful and comprehensive steps to ensure that Holocaust deniers are no longer able to take advantage of Facebook’s various platforms to spread antisemitism and hate.”

Facebook’s announcement of the new policy didn’t define what constitutes “content that denies or distorts the Holocaust”. And the company said it would “take some time to train our reviewers and systems on enforcement”, and that deletion of Holocaust denial “cannot happen overnight”. It told Bloomberg News that the policy applied only to Holocaust denial, not to denial of

“Freedom of speech is vital to our democracy, but it doesn’t require any organisation to host antisemitic speech that can potentially foment violence.”

The changes on Holocaust denial and other forms of discrimination reflect a larger shift in Facebook regarding how it deals with freedom of expression and the combating of hate speech. Zuckerberg, invoking the First Amendment, has consistently said that he favours allowing a broad array of speech regarding politics and other issues, even as a chorus of voices has asked him to do more to prohibit bigotry and disinformation.



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**

**SYDENHAM | R 2 299 000**

Three huge bedrooms plus study and two lovely bathrooms (MES). Spacious lounge and dining room leading onto exquisite large entertainer's covered patio. Well-manicured garden with sparkling swimming pool. Large well fitted kitchen. Garaging for 4 cars plus double carport and loads of off-street parking. Staff accommodation. Walled and excellent security. Genuine seller

🏠 3 🚗 2 Web Ref: RL68253  
Joel Harris 082 926 0287 *National Sales Consultant of the Year*  
Laureen Shalpid 083 789 0229

**FOR SALE**

**GLENHAZEL | R 5 900 000**

Double storey cluster offers a secure lifestyle. Situated in central Glen Hazel in a 24/7 access-controlled complex. This home offers 3 large interleading reception areas leading onto a large covered patio with pool and garden. Large eat in kosher kitchen, with walk in pantry. Guest loo. 4 north / east facing bedrooms and 3 bathrooms (MES) upstairs.

🏠 5 🚗 3 Web Ref: RL68336  
Joel Harris 082 926 0287 *National Sales Consultant of the Year*  
Laureen Shalpid 083 789 0229

**FOR SALE**

**WAVERLEY | R 1 500 000**

A tasteful & stylish renovation – large open plan downstairs area with 3 clearly defined zones that merge seamlessly, modern high gloss kitchen, guest cloak, fitted study cleverly housed on the upstairs landing, 2 bedroom en-suites, top fixtures & fittings, 2 parkings, secure well manged complex.

🏠 2 🚗 2 Web Ref: RL68409  
Chrissie Hammer: 082 568 0440

**FOR SALE**

**MORNINGSIDE | R 1 799 000**

Modern and Magnificent 2 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom Apartment, tucked away in the heart of Morningside. Spacious and sophisticated with beautiful flow and finishes. 2 Large bedrooms with gorgeous en suite bathrooms. Stunning kitchen leading to spacious living / dining area and opening onto entertainers patio. Complex lap pool and gym. Safe and secure / 24 hour professional security. 2 covered parking bays plus ample visitors parking. Invest or just move in! Lock up and go!

🏠 2 🚗 2 Web Ref: RL65789  
Sandra Luntz: 083 679 1247



# Farber lands top SRC position at Wits

JORDAN MOSHE

When student activist Gabi Farber heard that she had landed a position on the University of the Witwatersrand’s (Wits’) Student Representative Council (SRC) after elections last week, she thought she was dreaming.

Not only had she become the first Jewish student in more than two decades to take a position through the African National Congress (ANC)-aligned Progressive Youth Alliance (PYA) at Wits, she was also the second-most popular candidate amongst student voters.

“I’m still shocked by the fact that I got in,” Farber told the *SA Jewish Report* this week. “I doubted myself so often. It was an incredible moment to realise that after a long and often hostile journey, I’d made it. I have been given the chance to make a difference in the lives of all students on campus.”

Her success comes after a campaign that goes back months, entailing a tremendous amount of grit, determination, and no small amount of backlash. This was primarily because of Farber’s choice of party, one with a history of being aligned with the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement, in spite of initially being conceived as a progressive platform.

A proud Jew and Zionist, Farber’s identity didn’t sit too well with a few party figures.

“Because my Zionism is a key part of my religious identity, there were people who believed I was bringing a Zionist agenda into the party, and who opposed me running in the election,” she says. “Some people forced the issue to the forefront when it was never about Zionism.

“I got a lot of flak, and there were calls from some for me to step down.

“There were party members affiliated with the

Zionist Christian Church [ZCC] who were never questioned or attacked, and I felt targeted,” she says. “It was hard to see how many people out there were trying to stop me, and it got very difficult.”

In spite of the pressure, Farber could count on support from within and beyond the Jewish community, with both her PYA comrades and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) helping her to push against the hatred.

“I can’t deny my Zionism because it means I deny my Jewish identity,” says Farber. “If I stepped down it would be dangerous, as I would set a precedent for other Jews who want to get involved. I’ve always believed in justice for both sides of the conflict, and want to see both Israel and Palestine live in peace within their own states in their respective homelands.

“This was never about Zionism for me, it was about serving students.”

It was these students who evidently saw her commitment to their plight, given that they rallied and helped her to secure the second position on the SRC.

“I got involved to help others, and it’s because of the students who voted for me that I’m getting the opportunity to do so,” Farber says. “I’m still overwhelmed by appreciation for all those who supported me, on campus and beyond. The SAJBD, South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS), and students at Wits were there for me every single day. They stood up for me and gave me strength.

“They believed in me when I often didn’t believe in myself.”

Zev Krengel, the vice-president of the SAJBD, says Farber’s victory needs to be recognised for the accomplishment it truly is. “People don’t realise that these things don’t happen quickly or easily,” he says. “This was a long and difficult process.

“There was always a relationship that existed

between the ANC and South African Jewry under apartheid,” he says. “Jews were involved in the fight, and it wasn’t until the 2000s that anti-Israel lobby groups hijacked the relationship. The country became obsessed with BDS, and almost forgot what had been. That’s what we’ve seen over the past 22 years.”

Farber’s success illustrates a vision of the ANC and South African Jewry finding one another again, Krengel says.

“Farber is a proud Jew, woman, and South African. She embraced the ANC, and it embraced her. To me, this was like lost partners finding each other after years apart. Gabi has allowed this to happen.

“There were detractors in the PYA who didn’t want to see that relationship return. They got very ugly, and to the credit of Gabi and her comrades, they stood shoulder to shoulder and fought the hatred in the interest of students.”

It’s shown by the fact that Farber took the second highest number of votes, Krengel says. “That shows that the average student at Wits is happy to see a white, Jewish, Zionist woman in leadership. This victory shows us that there remains a place for Jews in South Africa and at Wits if we just engage.”

Benji Shulman, the director of public policy at the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF), agrees.

“Something like this hasn’t happened at Wits for more than two decades,” he says. “It shows that Jewish students can be part of a university campus in any capacity – it’s also their university after all.

“Gabi’s hard work is a testament to her beliefs, and her victory marks a turning point on campus which



Gabi Farber

allows for greater engagement of Jewish students.”

Kayla Ginsberg, a member of the SAUJS national executive, says Farber’s success paves the way for Jewish students to be involved in student politics.

“We repeatedly engaged with the PYA on the need for Jewish inclusivity, and for our views to be represented as students present on campus,” she says. “It has rightly realised that it needs to ensure that its students are represented and protected, and issues on our continent dealt with, before it devotes endless energy to a far-removed conflict that means little to it.

“Gabi has shown the PYA that Jewish students want to – and are capable of – contributing to student politics and life in a big way. This may seem minimal, but the practical ramifications are massive.

“Campus is finally a much safer space for Jewish Zionist students, and I’m incredibly proud that we have managed to create and foster that.”

Although Farber will be assigned her SRC position only on Friday, she is ready to effect change on campus

“Our job as the SRC is to support students and ensure they succeed,” she says. “I want to push to make sure that Wits becomes safe for women, that we support those struggling with mental health, and ensure the academic success of every student. We’re all responsible for one another on campus.

“I really hope that other Jews will follow my lead. As Jews, we need to see that we have an obligation to change society, and that change really starts on a university campus. There’s so much that needs to be done, and Jewish students need to realise that they are equipped to help.”

# Restriction and risk-taking – pandemic fatigue sets in

TALI FEINBERG

While most people understand the dangers of taking risks during the COVID-19 pandemic, many of us are throwing caution to the wind in situations where we could be more careful. Drive past any restaurant in Glenhazel, Sandton, or Sea Point, and it’s obvious that this includes many members of our own community. What are the psychological reasons for this, and how can we enforce stricter codes of conduct?

“People are fatigued. They are tired, bored, and stuck, and it’s hard to stay in a state of anticipatory anxiety,” says Judith Ancer, a clinical psychologist in practice in Johannesburg. “Worse, there’s little clarity about the size of the issue and what’s really happening. In South Africa in particular, unless one is directly affected, many people didn’t perceive it to be as serious as it was made out to be.

“Just like people choose not to wear seat belts or have safe sex even though they know there is evidence that this can protect them, in this case, it’s also very hard to affect behavioural change. Our capacity for denial means that people feel it won’t happen to them.”

In addition, people are suspicious of the motives of leaders, and, “If you don’t trust, you don’t listen. For young people in particular, we know that the brains of teens and young adults are primed to value reward over risk. So they go for the ‘reward’ of partying, seeing people, and feeling normal, even if it puts them or others at risk,” says Ancer. However she notes that it’s not only young people who are taking risks – people in all age groups are doing so, even those middle aged and older.

Ancer surmises that it would be difficult to enforce another hard lockdown in South Africa, “unless bodies were piling up and intensive-care units were full. In the absence of a ‘great catastrophic event’, people are just too cynical. We essentially don’t operate on facts, but on emotion and fear.”

While the virus is expected to be in our lives for an extended period, “There is some psychological value in learning to live with it rather than cloistering ourselves. This means to live sensibly, take precautions, and not give in to peer pressure.”

She has heard people say they were at gatherings where no one was wearing a mask, so they removed their own, even if it made them feel uncomfortable – and they did it to make others comfortable. “You shouldn’t have to apologise for keeping safe and keeping your loved ones safe. Just like not getting into a car



Judith Ancer

with a drunk driver, people need to have the courage to speak up, do what’s right, and not be shamed or seen as neurotic and paranoid.”

Finally, Ancer notes that, “It’s hard and painful to imagine risk. We all need a level of ‘healthy denial’, otherwise we will be paralysed by fear that disaster is around the next corner. It’s a natural human instinct that gets us through.”

Dr Shana Saffer, a Johannesburg psychiatrist, agrees with Ancer that “there are two huge motivators responsible for people behaving as they do: fear and denial. Fear of death and contamination motivate people to act with caution. Denial encourages people to act callously or impulsively. If you introduce other motivators, such as scientific evidence and trust in people who supposedly have the knowledge and experience, it leads to an ‘informed’ decision-making strategy rather than more impulsive behaviour.

“As with any serious threat, when the trigger is witnessed and tangible, one tends to treat it with appropriate caution,” she says.

“When people don’t see or feel danger, their behaviour changes accordingly. Even with a serious threat still around, it’s still possible to start to behave less cautiously. We adapt to a situation that has no end in sight.”

According to her, this adaption is a “neuropsychological behavioural response. On a basic level, it can be explained with smell – when one enters a place with an extremely displeasing smell, the instinct is to run away. But if one is forced to stay, after a while one doesn’t notice the smell, and isn’t affronted by it.

“This is because we undergo a biological mechanism called ‘down regulation’. Basically the ‘severity’ of the environmental threat becomes ‘downplayed’ en route to the brain because it’s something that’s not going away. There is less urgency required, and the central nervous system is informed of this.”

Saffer points out that being on high alert has caused secondary medical and mental-health issues. “The incidence of suicide attempts has risen threefold in certain studies. Added to the decreased ease of releasing tension through usual methods – like gym, sport, and socialising – ultimately the tendency is to adapt.”

There are, of course, many who are being vigilant for the greater good, and many who don’t want others to suffer the way that they or their families have suffered. But for those who are letting down their guard, setting short-term goals or enforcing

compliance within certain time periods or spaces is one way to encourage them to remain vigilant.

Psychologically, what would motivate people to be more careful at this stage? “It depends where one is personally in consciousness and belief, and whether the ‘ask’ is in line with or contrary to ‘group psychology,’” says Saffer.

“On an individual level, actions are reinforced when they lead to either positive outcomes or avoidance of punishment. This is basic ‘reward’ psychology – even lab rats easily learn to push a lever for a treat, or to avoid an electric shock.”

She therefore suggests using incentives as a way to enforce compliance. This is something that communities or families could take on, and is a positive way of ensuring long-term behavioural change as the pandemic continues with no end in sight.

Otherwise, a punishment of sorts could work effectively, if it’s enforced by those in authority. “When one can break rules with no consequence, there’s zero incentive for most people to follow,” she says.

A moral or ethical appeal doesn’t always work because of what is known as Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, which shows that people must have their most basic needs met before considering ethical obligations. So, if people are concerned about having enough money to keep a roof over their heads and food on their table, they are unlikely to care about changing their behaviour for the sake of others.

“Even in a society where basic survival isn’t an issue, how many people recycle over concern for future generations? How many put community or common interest before themselves and their immediate reward, or even consider a personal future reward over a present desire?” asks Saffer rhetorically.

“It comes down to different levels of personal consciousness. For the most part, people are law-abiding or socially responsible and will abide by rules. Essentially, people find their own internal compass of what works for them individually, and what is socially acceptable in their community.”

While religious communities can play a role in enforcing compliance, they also “may choose not to act in accordance with a rule if it conflicts with the belief or moral value of the group”, says Saffer. This is why it’s important that the community tries to encourage compliance as part of community culture, and that those in authority lead by example.



Dr Shana Saffer



# Time to ban Iran from the Olympics for abuse of athletes

AVI MAYER – JTA

On Saturday, 12 September, Iranian authorities announced that 27-year-old wrestler Navid Afkari had been executed. Although officials claimed that he had been hanged, BBC Persia reported that the wrestling champion’s family was permitted only to see his face, and that his nose was broken, raising suspicions that he had been tortured to death. Afkari had previously told relatives that while in prison, he had been hung from the ceiling of a torture chamber, beaten with an iron bar and a baton, and had plastic pulled over his head in order to suffocate him “to the very brink of death”.

Afkari was sentenced to death twice in connection with the murder of a security guard during anti-government protests in Shiraz in 2018. He and his brothers, Vahid and Habib, had participated in the protests and were arrested shortly thereafter. Charged with “insulting the supreme leader” and “waging war against G-d”, Afkari vehemently maintained his innocence. In spite of glaring inconsistencies in the evidence presented against him, his own claims that his confession to the murder was obtained via torture, and appeals by sporting associations and human-rights groups around the world, his conviction and death sentence were upheld by Iran’s Supreme Court. His brothers were sentenced to 54 and 27 years in prison, respectively.

Afkari’s sham trial and execution are a stark reminder that Iran’s abuse of its own citizens extends to all segments of Iranian society – even its athletic community. Whereas other countries view their sportsmen and women as the embodiment of national values and ideals, Iran’s maltreatment of its athletes represents a distillation of the very worst elements of life under the ayatollahs.

Like Iranian women more generally, female athletes bear the brunt of the regime’s oppression. The nation’s only female Olympic medallist, Taekwondo competitor Kimia Alizadeh, fled the country in January this year, calling herself “one of the millions of oppressed women in Iran”. Female athletes are barred from competing in a range of sports, prevented from even attending sporting events as spectators, and required – like all Iranian women – to wear a hijab in public, including while competing.

Alizadeh is far from alone. Dozens of athletes from a variety of fields have fled Iran due to government pressure or discrimination. In September 2019, Saeid Mollaei, an Iranian judo fighter, escaped the country for Germany after revealing that Iranian officials had forced him to lose matches so as not to compete against Israeli Sagi Muki. Boxer Mobin Kahraze and powerlifter Amir Mohammad Shahnnavazi fled Iran for Austria and France, respectively, after suffering discrimination due to their shared Baluch ethnic identity. And earlier this year, world-class Iranian chess referee Shohreh Bayat sought asylum in the United Kingdom after a photo surfaced of her without her state-mandated hijab at a competition in Shanghai, drawing threats of arrest. She later revealed that she has Jewish roots. “All my life was about showing a fake image of myself,” she told the *Telegraph*. “I knew I couldn’t tolerate it any longer.”

Iran’s abuse of its own athletes represent a clear violation of basic human rights. They also contravene the Olympic Charter, the set of rules and principles to which every country that participates in the world’s largest sports event must commit. Indeed, the charter reads like a charge sheet against the Iranian regime; there seemingly is nary a clause that Iran hasn’t violated in its campaign of oppression and intimidation. From statements about the Olympic spirit of “friendship, solidarity, and fair play” and the “principle of equality of men and women” to the obligation to “promote safe sport and the protection of athletes from all forms of harassment and abuse” and the prohibition against “discrimination of any kind”, Iran’s outrageous conduct puts it squarely at odds with both the letter and the spirit of the rules governing the Olympic movement.

My organisation, the American Jewish Committee, has launched a campaign to bar Iran from participating in the 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, to take place next year in Tokyo. Thousands



A portrait of Iranian wrestler Navid Afkari during a demonstration on the Dam Square in Amsterdam

of people from 39 countries – including Iran – have already lent their voices to this effort. We must send the Iranian regime the message that it can’t be part of the Olympic family so long as it continues to harass, persecute, and kill its athletes in flagrant violation of both basic human rights and the Olympic Charter.

Unfortunately, the International Olympic Committee, which had condemned Afkari’s killing, has thus far ignored the growing calls for action against a regime that has consistently demonstrated its blatant disregard for the values of the Olympic movement.

There are precedents aplenty. South Africa was banned from the Olympics for decades due to its apartheid regime. In 2000, Afghanistan was

barred from participating in the Sydney Games due to its discrimination against women. Over the past decade, Kuwait has been suspended from Olympic activities on several occasions due to government meddling in its Olympic Committee.

The time has come for Iran to join their ignominious company.

It’s too late for Afkari, but if we can compel the Iranian regime to think twice before abusing its athletes, perhaps we can save the life of another promising fighter for a better Iran.

*The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author, Avi Mayer, managing director of global communications at the American Jewish Committee.*

# Independent living for senior citizens



## SCALE DOWN IN SIZE – SCALE UP IN COMFORT AND PEACE OF MIND

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.

### CHOICE

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 the 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!**

### VALUE FOR MONEY

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)  
**WE CAN’T WAIT TO MEET YOU!**  
**011 485 3800**  
**www.gardenplace.co.za**  
**info@gardenplace.co.za**



## Rise above the clamour about kosher

The Beth Din’s kosher desk is at the heart of a community storm this week, which has taken us all by surprise. I certainly haven’t seen anything close to this hubbub since March 2018, when Stan & Pete’s kashrut licence was revoked after unkosher chicken was found in the caterers’ kitchen.

I must say, I was gobsmacked by the ugly things our community members have said about the Beth Din on social media. It appears as if a lot of resentment has built up specifically towards the kosher desk.

I believe Rabbi Dovi Goldstein, who runs the kosher desk, to be a man of integrity and someone who has a real vision for making kosher more appealing and accessible. I also know that since the Stan & Pete debacle, he has been determined not to take any risks with what’s kosher and what’s not. I imagine the kosher community want nothing less than this, considering how devastating it was when there was even a suspicion that people had been eating *treif* food at functions when they thought it was strictly kosher.

Having said all that, there are a number of people dealing directly with kashrut and the Beth Din who are coming out of the woodwork with serious complaints this week.

It all started with one man who produced a statement this week after his licence was revoked by the Beth Din. He emerged guns blazing at the Beth Din, and made some serious allegations regarding finances.

The Beth Din retaliated, saying it was going to get legal advice, and wouldn’t take the allegations lying down.

Initially, it looked like a spat between the Beth Din and one company, which it ultimately still is, however many who pay a substantial amount of money to the Beth Din to ensure that their products are stamped kosher don’t seem to be happy.

It all appears – from their accounts – to boil down to finances. There are claims that the Beth Din charges are exorbitant and unaffordable. Sitting at my desk, I can’t actually debate whether they are unusually high or not, as I wouldn’t know. That I leave it to our intrepid investigative journalist, Nicola Miltz, who wrote our front-page story.

However, I can certainly understand the pain of high fees – warranted or not – from a business and consumer perspective. Today, thanks to COVID-19, we have all had to tighten our belts. This has been a year in which most of us can no longer afford to spend willy-nilly. We have to be conscious about what we spend our hard-earned money on. So, if we see a bottle of sauce that appears to be overpriced just because it’s kosher, we’re unlikely to want to buy it.

And if you’re the person whose company makes the sauce and you have to put up the price because of the fees you have to pay the Beth Din, you too aren’t likely to be happy about it. This makes sense.

The question is, though, are they too high? Can the Beth Din lower its premiums? Is there something that can be done to find a happy medium?

Surely, in this case, everyone concerned wants the same thing. It’s about more kosher products being available to the community at the most reasonable and attractive prices. Surely it’s about the concept of being kosher, and kosher food being accessible to everyone in the community.

So, while I totally understand that tempers are flaring, allegations are being thrown around, and people are being aggressive and defensive, it doesn’t help anyone. All it does is put us under a pressure cooker, divide the community, and exacerbate the problem.

What we need to do is find a fair and amicable way of sorting this out. If there is a chance of the Beth Din charging less, then it should do so. If there is some way around some of the costs, then let’s find it.

The bottom line is that every single person in this community who wants to buy kosher food is affected by this situation because someone has to cover the costs, and inevitably they land on the consumers’ tab. That’s how it works!

Right now, many are having to go without meat, never mind sauces or chocolates and other delicious niceties in order to eat kosher. Then there is the threat of opening a second hechsher provider or even getting hechshers from international organisations.

Frankly, I understand why people are willing to go this route, but we pride ourselves in having one central place with strict regulations to provide hechshers. Do we really want to be divisive about this?

I don’t think so. I don’t think it will solve anything. We are a small but united community, and we may get snotty and aggressive with each other at times, but we have to sort it out.

The discord and ugliness is inevitable, but it’s how we sort it out that makes us who we are. It’s getting together and finding an amicable solution that works for everyone that takes us from run-of-the-mill to an exceptional community.

We have just had Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. We have made our apologies, and decided how we want to live our lives. Nobody wants to live with this unhappiness and anger.

Let’s make a plan, and rise up above the noise and anger!

**Shabbat Shalom!**  
**Peta Krost Maunder**  
**Editor**



## Ridin’ with Biden for the sake of Americans

OPINION

WAYNE SUSSMAN



In the run-up to the United States elections, nuance is something rare and exotic. I speak to family and friends in key American swing states, and they are shell-shocked by the outrage and animus on the airwaves, on news networks, and in the papers. The adverts that attack President Donald Trump and his Republican Party or Vice-President Joe Biden and his Democratic Party don’t soften or let up, they harden and increase. The vitriol and anger keeps going up a notch.

Before seeing the impact of this election on us on the southern tip of Africa, let’s do something my late father always taught me: to not just negate and dismiss the other side, to not just attack your competition, but understand what makes them popular, and why they are a success.

In 2016, Trump, a reality TV star and alleged business titan, used his fame from *The Apprentice* and his telegenic artistry to dismantle Republican blue-blood and former Florida Governor Jeb Bush and the youthful Senator Marco Rubio in the Republican primaries.

Both he and Senator Ted Cruz, a right-wing evangelical, ripped through the establishment of the party. What propelled Trump over the line was his ability to activate white, working class, non-college educated voters.



These were the voters who were let down by Barack Obama and by George W Bush, and the voters who were seeing their jobs shipped off to Mexico and to China. They included voters who felt that they were being pushed to the back of the queue, and others who felt that their culture was being mocked by liberal elites.

Trump found a new market of voters and on election night in 2016, shocked himself and the world with the most unlikely of victories to win the Electoral College and become president.

Hillary Clinton, the Democratic candidate in 2016, also gave Trump a helping hand in that election. She failed to campaign in the swing state of Wisconsin, a state which rejected her during the 2016 Democratic primary.

In September 2016, she also infamously referred to Trump’s supporters as a “basket of deplorables”, and said that half of Trump’s supporters were “racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic”.

“Rule number 3” in politics is that you never attack voters. Even though Trump’s Manhattan values are way out of sync with his base in Pennsylvania and Florida, Trump has delivered when it comes to appointing conservative justices to the United States Supreme Court.

In November 1972, Biden became the second youngest person to ever be elected to the Senate, representing the tiny state of Delaware. A few weeks later, tragedy would strike when his wife, Nelia, and daughter, Amy, were killed in a car accident.

Biden would go to work in Washington DC and take the train back to put his boys to bed each night, to be there for his family. Biden also stutters.

There was a heart rending segment during the Democratic primaries where Biden met a young boy who stuttered, and gave him advice on how to work through this impediment.

It then transpired that there are hundreds of kids with stutters across the country who Biden personally checks in on and to this day, coaches and guides.

Biden has always played up his links to Scranton, Pennsylvania, a town which embodies working class America. He has positioned himself as someone who has working class credentials and is an ally of the economically depressed communities of the country.

Tragedy would again strike Biden when his son, Beau Biden, succumbed to brain cancer. Beau was seen as Joe’s heir apparent in Delaware politics, and a future star of the Democratic Party. The grief over Beau’s passing ruled out Joe’s challenge to Clinton in the 2016 Democratic primary.

Bernie Sanders loomed large in both the 2016 and 2020 Democratic primary. The Jewish socialist Vermont senator had a bitter duel with Clinton in 2016, but has a much more cordial relationship with Biden. This is part of Biden’s appeal. The man might be closing in on 78, he might make gaffes, but he is immensely likeable. He appeals to traditional African American voters, and he appeals to Sanders’ supporters. He also appeals to the coastal elites and has standing in the forgotten post-industrial towns of America. Especially

concerning for the Republican party, he appeals to older voters, a group which has reliably voted Republican in the past few elections.

Independents, especially middle-class, suburban, female voters, also favour him. The final element of the Biden coalition is moderate Republicans who are willing to hold their nose and vote blue this time.

Africa in general and South Africa in particular haven’t featured much in this campaign. COVID-19, Russia, China, the economy, and jobs are far more important to American voters than our country and continent.

However, I’m reminded of a video which has been doing the rounds again in 2020. In 1986, Biden addressed a Senate committee meeting and spoke out in opposition to

apartheid and in favour of majority rule in South Africa. He challenged the Reagan administration, and lambasted Republicans for not being on the right side of history. Biden famously said, “Our loyalty isn’t to South Africa, it’s to South Africans. And the South Africans are majority black.”

I think this video speaks volumes about Biden and his commitment to our country. Biden has a 34-year track record of supporting our country and all the people who live in it.

However, what’s probably more important to consider is the welfare of America itself. I don’t think the country can continue to hold up to the continued divisions, the pulling apart, the ongoing derision of the other side.

Division has been a good tactic for Trump. It helped to propel him to the highest office in the land. It helped to energise a section of the population which felt left out, but the American people can’t continue to be the playthings of his electoral success.

America needs someone who will take seriously the threat of COVID-19, who will listen to the scientists and public-health experts. America needs someone who can reach out across the aisle and understand the hopes and aspirations of his side, but at the same time the fears and concerns of the other side.

America needs someone who can lead and inspire inner city African American youth, unemployed machinists in Michigan, new Latino immigrants, and older, retired Americans who are worried that they won’t have access to medical care.

That answer in this election is Biden.

• Wayne Sussman writes on elections for ‘Daily Maverick’. He also has a weekly spot on Charisse Zeifert’s ‘Board Talk’ on ChaiFM on Fridays just after 12:00, where he analyses the US elections.

*Vote now*

**FOR YOUR  
ABSA JEWISH ACHIEVER  
2020 NOMINEES**

Go to  
**[www.jaa2020.co.za](http://www.jaa2020.co.za)**





# Ancient Torahs in local shuls tell story of Jewish endurance

JORDAN MOSHE

When Judaica collector David Sussman heard about a century-old Sefer Torah being kept by a non-Jewish Polish man living in Krakow, he knew that it belonged in Jewish hands.

After extremely careful planning, the Torah was smuggled across the Polish border, flown out of Germany, and returned to its rightful place in the Aron Kodesh of Johannesburg’s Chabad of Sandton Shul.

Beyond those written by local South African *sofrim* (scribes), our community

possesses Torah scrolls whose rich and remarkable histories can be traced back to Eastern Europe. These are inextricably intertwined with the lives of Jews who arrived in the country from Poland, Lithuania, and other countries.

Although a number of such Torah scrolls ended up on our shores, many of their vibrant histories remain unknown or have been lost over time. As admired as the ornately carved wooden handles, painstakingly written script, and beautifully designed slipcovers may be, many of them possess stories we may never know.

Thankfully, there are some exceptions.

From nail-biting rescues to clandestine concealments in travel suitcases, Torah scrolls have arrived in South Africa with stories which are often beyond comprehension.

For instance, one of the Torah scrolls at Sydenham Shul comes from Krakenowa, Lithuania, and was saved from certain destruction after the local Jewish population was expelled from the region. Commissioned by the family of Cherne Stein in the early 1900s, it was left behind when the family was exiled in 1914. Today, it’s owned by Stanley Seeff, a Sydenham congregant whose father bought the Sefer Torah in 1979.

“It’s really part of the family,” says Seeff. “My late father bought it from Israel Stein, a descendant of Cherne. They were close friends, and my father saw the tremendous value in the history of that Torah.”

According to information passed down, the Torah was saved by Stein when she hired a horse and cart to get her back to Krakenowa from Ponovez, where she and her family were waiting to board a train. Undaunted by the 30-mile (48km) journey, she valiantly rode to her hometown, and returned safely with the Torah wrapped in her shawl. The family kept it throughout their years in Russian exile before it came to South Africa.

Also hailing from Krakenowa is the Torah owned by the family of Tina Kallmeyer, whose great-grandfather, Eli Josselowitz, brought the Torah hidden in his suitcase when he arrived in the country from Lithuania. A carpenter by trade, Josselowitz crafted the handles of the Torah himself, carving his name into the wood together with that of his wife.

“I didn’t really know much about the family Torah until I was an adult,” Kallmeyer says, “It probably arrived here in the late 1880s when my great-grandparents arrived, and was later passed down to my father and then to my brother and nephew. It was initially lodged at Jeppe Shul, then in Emmarentia, and then at Sydenham Shul, before arriving at Pine Street Shul where it stays today.”

“Although we know little about its history, my family has always treasured it. It’s been part of our lives.”

Sussman’s escapade took place in 1999, three years after he and his wife visited Poland for the first time and resolved to save pre-Holocaust Judaica.

“We landed up buying a business in Poland,” Sussman recounts. “The chief executive was a Catholic man, and he used to scout out Judaica for me among locals so that I could get it back into Jewish hands.

“He called me one day and spoke of an 80-year-old Catholic man who had a Torah in perfect condition. I was sceptical that it was really in a good state, but I wanted to get it out of his hands, so I arranged to buy it from him.”



The Torah rescued by David Sussman in a new mantel

and take it,” he said. “He did just that.”

With the Torah successfully acquired, Sussman arranged for it to be smuggled out of the country using his truck drivers, who hid the Torah under samples, and drove across the border into Germany. It was there that Sussman collected the Torah, and flew with it in his arms to South Africa.

“I arrived on a Sunday morning and called my rabbi and friend, Yossi Hecht, of Chabad of Sandton to tell him that the Torah had arrived,” Sussman recounts. “He arrived with sofer Rabbi Chaim Klein that night.

“We cleared the desk, and opened it up. The look in their eyes is one I’ll never forget. It must have been the same look Abraham had when he was told Sarah would have a baby. They were absolutely enthralled.”

To their amazement, the Torah was, indeed, in perfect condition. Written half in Polish on Polish parchment and half in Russian on Russian parchment, the scroll was scribed in 1908, making it almost a century old at the time. Today 112 years old, the Torah is a fundamental part of the community at Chabad of Sandton.

The story of a Torah in the ark at Victory Park Shul can be traced back to the village of Punia, Lithuania. Known as the Gamsu family Torah, according to family legend, it arrived in South Africa in the late 1800s wrapped in a tallit and conveyed on a cart drawn by a donkey to the town of Nigel with Nachum (Nathan) Gamsu.

“Nathan became the mayor of Nigel after he and his family arrived on the far East Rand around the time of the Boer War,” says Beverley Lutrin, Gamsu’s granddaughter. “They brought a Torah with them, keeping it in their home and running services for the small Jewish community in a dedicated room.”

The Torah was later moved to a shul built in the area before being moved to the Victory Park Shul years later when the community dwindled. Although used by the shul, it remains the property of Lutrin’s family.

Along with those at Sydenham, Chabad of Sandton, and Pine Street, this Sefer Torah remains in use by the community, proof of Jewish mettle.

“The Torah speaks to the survival and endurance of the Jews under the direst circumstances,” Sussman says. “The Torah of the Jewish people has not only survived but thrived. No matter how much they’ve tried to destroy us, they haven’t got it right. A Torah will always endure.”

## Lees is more for KDVP’s new principal

JULIE LEIBOWITZ

King David Victory Park (KDVP) Primary School’s new principal, Kevin Lees, describes himself as a traditionalist in terms of teaching and learning, but also unconventional and flexible.

“If COVID-19 proved anything, it’s that we can’t simply rely on tried and tested methods of education,” he says. “It has brought some positive changes like blended learning and the use of technology.

“The flexibility it brought was also positive, as was the re-examination of key aspects of the curriculum, making us focus on the essentials. COVID-19 will be with us for some time, but I hope that when things get back to normal, we won’t ignore what worked, and lose that reflection and movement.”

Lees takes over from Rabbi Ricky Seeff, who has been appointed general director at the South African Jewish Board of Education. He may have been just a week in the job, but his commitment to the school and enthusiasm for everything education is palpable.

He was appointed in March, though he started his tenure at the beginning of October. It was a bombshell month for educators, with schools suddenly locked down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and teachers having to adapt overnight to online teaching. Lees saw out the storm in his former post as head of Theodor Herzl Primary in Port Elizabeth.

Lees says he believes we shouldn’t “sweat the small stuff”. He isn’t obsessed with hair length or uniforms, though he stipulates that children must be “well presented”. That was another interesting change wrought by COVID-19 – when children were allowed to go to school in civvies.

“Children should be given a level of flexibility to learn in a different way,” he says. “My previous classes were allowed to experiment with flexible seating, though admittedly it didn’t work for everyone – and sometimes, some children just need to be given a break when needed.”

It doesn’t undermine how seriously he takes the job. “Teachers aren’t merely facilitators,” he says. “We play a massive role in the lives of children. Teaching and learning must evolve. We must incorporate methods and curricula relevant to the 21st century.”

Lees has been an educator for 22 years, first at St George’s Preparatory in Port Elizabeth, followed by a stint in London, then becoming head of Theodor Herzl in 2012, where he doubled enrolment during his tenure. The career educator, who also has a degree in theology, says he felt an immediate connection with the philosophy, ethos, and approach of Theodor Herzl.

The ability to adapt and be flexible are strengths of Jewish schools, he points out, which aren’t tied up with unnecessary tradition, and have a critical-thinking culture. So, too, is an intimate connection between teacher and child, leading children to feel safe and secure. This is a particular strength of KDVP, by virtue of its size and teacher-child ratio.

Like Theodor Herzl, KDVP Primary School is small – with about 300 pupils. It allows the principal to know every pupil and parent and have an “open-door” policy, creating a sense of community, and making it easier to manage.

“We doubled enrolment at Theodor Herzl, but I



Kevin Lees

wouldn’t go bigger than that,” Lees points out. Other strengths are that there is greater participation by all children in sport and the arts. “KDVP is known for its whole-school dramatic productions,” he says, “this is impossible at bigger schools.”

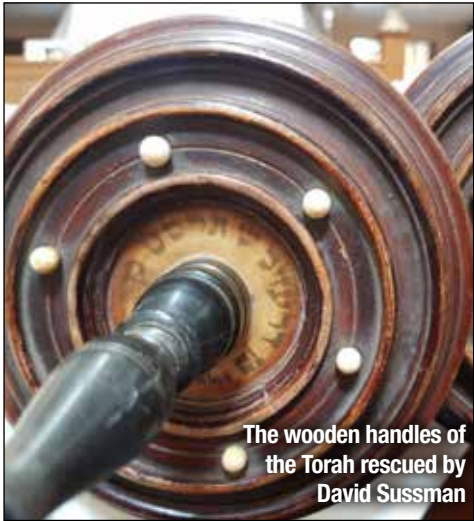
Though he’s not Jewish, he believes religion plays a beautiful and significant role in education. An environment like King David leads to reflection, critical thinking, and social responsibility, which is what sets our community apart. Children at King David are brought up to see themselves as part of a community, not just as individuals, and this is critically important. To this extent, he’s looking forward to working with the vibrant and closely connected Jewish community in Gauteng.

Lees is aware that he is filling big shoes in taking over from Rabbi Seeff, who was an inspiring leader and made many positive changes to the school. “Rabbi Seeff isn’t lost to the system,” he says, “we will lean on him.” But he points out that as a career educator, perhaps he brings a different lens to the job. “There is a debate among principals about the value of teachers running schools,” he says, “but if you have spent time in the classroom, it influences your perspective. Fundamentally, you must be motivated by a love for children, and be willing to listen to those around you.”

Lees is an educator and a parent – he has children who are enrolled at King David, so he is uniquely equipped to see things from both perspectives.

He has outlined four main tasks for himself in the next year. First, he wants to familiarise himself with the school, tuning into its culture, the board, and the community. He stresses that he will be careful about making changes before he has done so. He hopes to build trust and confidence among the community. Second, he will identify areas of concern by walking around and interacting with people on the ground. Third, he emphasises the continued fallout of COVID-19, ensuring the continued success of blended learning. The pandemic’s emotional impact on children is still to be felt, and he aims to address this too. Fourth, Lees is prioritising the building of partnerships and networks – educational and in the Jewish community – in Gauteng, where the community is particularly vibrant.

Finally, he may just learn some Hebrew. “I was cornered by a teacher at Theodor Herzl, who said she would teach me Hebrew, but I don’t have a gift for languages,” he comments. “Though, in a sense, it’s given me a sense of what the children go through.”



The wooden handles of the Torah rescued by David Sussman

According to the information gleaned, the Torah had been dug up from the ground by the elderly man after he’d witnessed a group of Jews bury it decades before. When they never returned, he exhumed the scroll, and stored it in a cupboard. Sussman instructed his employee to visit the man, ask his price, and pay whatever he demanded. In spite of initial refusals, Sussman persisted.

“I told my guy to go back there and tell them it doesn’t belong to them, pay them,



# Don't bank on youngsters' loyalty when managing their money

JORDAN MOSHE

Young people don't limit themselves to traditional ways to do their finances and banking. They do their homework and forge their own paths when it comes to managing money.

So says Ronen Aires, an entrepreneur and the founder and chief executive of Student Village, a student marketing and graduate-development specialist, following recent research he conducted titled "Banking on the future". Aires maintains that young people aren't following the financial habits of their parents, although they are making conservative yet flexible decisions. The younger generation is characterised by a desire to mitigate financial risk, but don't count on their loyalty when they don't see it as being in their interest.

"Having watched youth over the past 20 years, it's clear that they are a lot more sussed than their parents," says Aires. "While they are certainly more conservative with their money, they're clearly determined to be a lot savvier and to find ways to manage their finances." Through his research project, Aires worked closely with students between the ages of 18 and 24 (falling into the generation group known as Generation Z) to understand what their spending priorities are, and how they handle their money. He engaged with about 400 youngsters on subjects including banking, finance, telecommunications and more to understand their perspectives.

His findings suggest that young South Africans born after 1996 are far more flexible than previous generations. "Younger South Africans are always looking for options," says Aires. "They won't limit themselves to one bank or service provider the way their parents did. "In the past, parents would take their children to open an account at the bank they banked with. While it still happens, the youth are less likely to remain in an exclusive relationship with a bank as was traditionally the case. They're open to options that work better for them, and are willing to shop around based on their needs."

This is also true of telecommunication services. Aires says prepaid cell phone plans are more popular than contracts

among youngsters because they afford greater flexibility, enabling users to switch service providers depending on offerings like data bundles and coverage. Ease of use is also a factor, with simpler registration and sign-up far more enticing. When it comes to saving, the younger generation typically believes in short-term goals rather than going in for the long haul.



"We saw a lot of saving for short-term goals like rainy day accounts, end-of-year holidays, or big purchases," says Aires. "Youngsters are all about saving now for later with a foreseeable goal in sight. Where they do invest, it's typically outside of South Africa, given the flexibility overseas savings can offer."

Risk mitigation is key among youngsters, he says, and they're far more credit cautious than their parents. "A few generations ago, everyone had store accounts, leveraging credit wherever it was offered. Many youngsters saw their parents get into trouble, and have become somewhat credit shy, which is a good thing.

"They still spend their money after payday at the end of the month, but mitigating uncertainty and avoiding riskier investments is part of their approach." Even their expenses have become short-term, with property purchase less favoured than renting. Says Aires, "There's no longer that absolute need to own property. In the new phase we're entering, we may see younger people preferring not to own cars or houses but opting to rent them instead. It all speaks to flexibility as a massive driver, not just as a way of working, but in terms of having more options."

At the same time, a belief that money is the answer to most anxiety persists among the youth, and their flexibility also comes with a caveat that they won't remain loyal to a brand or company which they believe doesn't serve them.

"When we ask students what they

need more of, money is generally the answer," Aires says. "They may be more conservative, but they hold on to the notion that money can make anxieties go away.

"For years, millennials pushed for flexibility, and they met a lot of resistance. COVID-19 showed us that flexibility actually works. However, Generation Z wants flexibility and more certainty in finance, without committing to anything themselves and while expecting commitment from brands and companies.

"Youngsters want their financial relationships to be treated like a marriage while they treat them like a Tinder relationship. It's asymmetrical".

Aires' findings play out among the Jewish community in both Generation Z and its preceding demographic cohort, Generation Y.

"Money is transactional in that it represents what it can give you," says 24-year-old, third-year accounting student Meir Spector. "It has whatever value you place on it. For me, it's about experiences and things I can share with other people.

"While I do save and invest, I don't believe in saving at the expense of missing out on what life has to offer. It's not about hoarding but living life while making sure there is enough money in case something happens. I invest outside of South Africa, which is about putting aside something just in case."

Similarly, 17-year-old student Faryn Isakow believes money isn't just a material asset but something which offers a degree of peace of mind.

"I get excited when I have some money in my card," she says. "Knowing that I probably earned that money myself by selling my old clothes gives me a feeling of accomplishment, so each rand I spend feels a little scary to let go of."

"Investment matters to me as it's important for your future. You aren't only living and working for the present and the near future, but for the far future and your future family.

"I want to do as much as I can to ensure I'm comfortable when I become an adult and a mother," she says.

Risk aversion is also prevalent among youngsters.

"The best investment really depends on the person and what they're looking for," says 26-year-old tech entrepreneur,

Marom Mishan.

"I'm not highly invested in individual stocks because since it is not my full-time job, I can't do it properly," he says. "Rather, I try to engage in ventures where I can add value and have some degree of control, such as investing in my own company which

creates AI [artificial intelligence] and data solutions for corporates as that is where I have the most influence and knowledge.

"My preference fits with my knowledge and expertise as an AI entrepreneur. I prefer to invest in what I know as that's a way to manage risk."

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HIGHLANDS HOUSE, also known as THE CAPE JEWISH AGED HOME

**NOTICE is hereby given** that the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**, in terms of clause 7.1.1. of the Constitution, will be held via electric video conferencing (ZOOM) on **MONDAY, 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020 at 17h30**.

You are invited to register your intention to attend at <https://bit.ly/JCC-AGM>

In terms of Clause 7.1.5.4, the Management Board shall comprise 10 members.

In terms of Clause 8.4, the following members of the Management Board shall retire:

Dr Terry Berkow  
Mrs Moonyeen Castle  
Dr Howard Chait  
Mr Glen Heneck  
Mr Herbert Maltz  
Mr Michael Novos (*ex-officio* for one year)

Except for Moonyeen Castle, they however make themselves available for re-election.

The following members remain on the Management Board until the next AGM:

Mr Saul Helman  
Mr Lew Heilbron  
Mr David Myers (Chairperson HH Residents' Committee)

*Any further nominations should be e-mailed to residents@highlandshouse.co.za by no later than 12 noon on Wednesday, 21st October 2020.*

Audited Financial Statements for the year 2019 are available on request by e-mailing [residents@highlandshouse.co.za](mailto:residents@highlandshouse.co.za).

FRANK SOLOMON HEARING CENTRE

Have a love at first sound experience.

Phonak Audéo™ Marvel

A new all-in-one solution that improves your hearing in everyday life and even in the noisiest environments.

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

- Affordable for Pensioners
- 2-Year Warranty
- No Follow-Up Charges
- Latest Technology
- Small and Discreet
- Extensive Wireless Communication Portfolio Available
- Supplements for Tinnitus

Treatment approved by the American ENT Association

We are COVID-19 compliant

**SPECIAL PRICE FOR PENSIONERS**

**CONTACT US TODAY:**  
(011) 849-6256  
082 953 4628  
**Fairmount**  
6 George Ave,  
Sandringham  
Additional branches in Benoni and Germiston



## EMERGENCY CARE OFFICER

### PLAY YOUR PART

Save lives in the Cape Town Jewish Community and join the much-loved CSO Medical Team!

#### Responsibilities include:

- Respond to medical emergency calls during work hours; available standby shifts on nights and weekends
- Ongoing team management and training
- Co-ordinate with Head of Operations for the ongoing management and innovation of the dispatch system
- Ensure ongoing clinical governance within the Medical dept.

Email Loren Kolevsohn at [loren@ctjc.co.za](mailto:loren@ctjc.co.za) for a detailed spec and application form

Minimum ILS-qualification required  
**Amazing opportunity to live and work in Cape Town!**

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: 21ST OCTOBER 2020



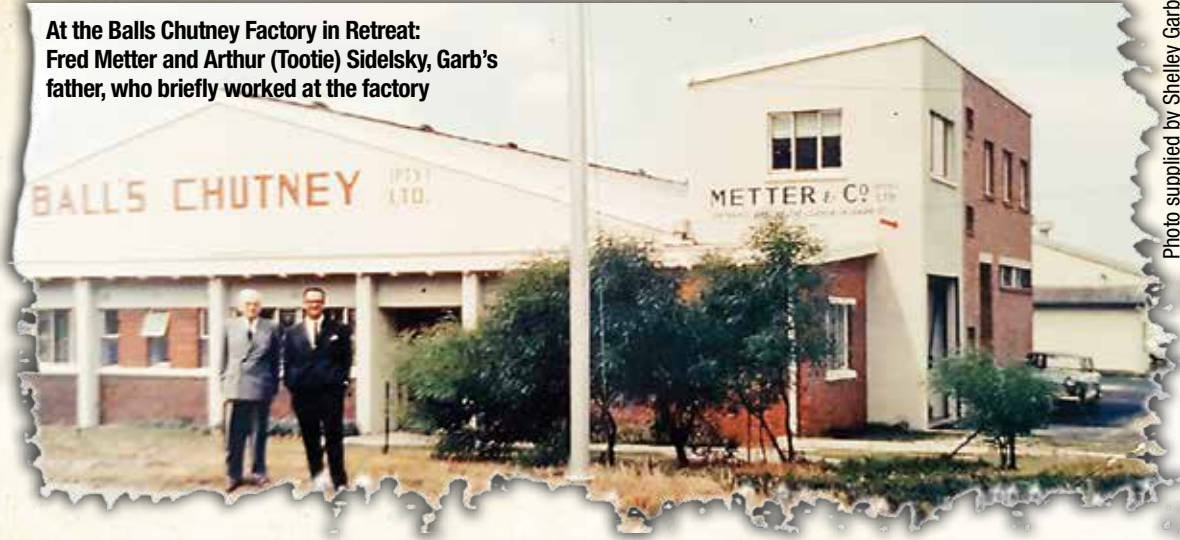
# The Jewish connection to Mrs Balls Chutney

TALI FEINBERG

Mrs H.S. Balls Chutney is an iconic South African brand and taste that’s enjoyed around the globe, but its success began in Cape Town thanks to Jewish businessman Fred Metter.

“My grandfather took a chance on it,” says Shelley Garb, speaking to the *SA Jewish Report* from Cape Town, where Metter built the original factory that produced the chutney until the 1970s. “He was involved in every aspect of the product. He chose the original eight-sided glass bottle, and the oval label. He did all the administration, and made all the decisions. He was a clever man, and the success of the factory is attributed to him.”

The story has been in the news because an article on H.S. Balls Chutney that appeared in an Afrikaans women’s magazine from 16 years ago recently started re-



At the Balls Chutney Factory in Retreat: Fred Metter and Arthur (Tootie) Sidelsky, Garb’s father, who briefly worked at the factory

Photo supplied by Shelley Garb

circulating on Facebook. “I never saw the original article, but when it reappeared on Facebook, it had completely the wrong facts and didn’t mention my grandfather at all. I was completely outraged, and decided to research the facts.”

Garb went to her aunt, Helen Bliden, who worked in the factory

office and “lived the brand all her life”.

“The story is that Amelia Ball [nee Adkins] came to South Africa from Canada, and started making the condiment on primus stoves in her home. Her husband was Herbert Saddleton, and women would take their husband’s initials in those days,

so she marketed it as Mrs H.S. Balls Chutney. She sold it at church bazaars as she really needed the income.

“It was very popular, and she soon needed a reliable commercial outlet, so she and her husband approached Fred who, at the time, had a business in Bree Street called Metter & Koenigsfest. It was later shortened

to Metter & Co. They represented several overseas brands such as Tuborg Beer, Cherry Herring, and Martini Vermouth.

“Fred took a chance on the product, and started to sell it on the Balls’ behalf. He quickly realised how popular it was, and that it needed to be produced on a much larger scale. Together with Amelia Balls’ two brothers and some businessmen he knew, they built the factory in Retreat and moved their Cape Town offices there as well. My whole family went to work there, including both my parents and my aunts,” says Garb. “It’s a part of my family’s story.”

She has vivid childhood memories of playing on the boxes in the factory and taking my school friends there on an outing. “However we couldn’t handle the smell of the vinegar and fruit in the big vats!” Everyone in the family enjoys using the chutney in their own kitchens to this day.

“My grandfather steadfastly refused to put the product into plastic and later, when Brooke Bond changed this, sales plummeted, proving him right all along. The chutney is still one of the few glass bottles on shelves today!” she says.

“By the seventies, the factory had grown too large for those running it to handle as independent manufacturers. Dealing with major supermarkets wasn’t easy due to price cutting and competition. They started to receive offers from large food conglomerates to buy them out, and when the offer was high enough, they sold.”

Metter continued to work in sales and manufacturing, but chutney remained an important part of the family’s lore and identity.

When Garb spoke about it on 567 Cape Talk radio this week, a caller phoned in to say she had worked at the factory and even remembered when Garb was born. She shared that her husband, an artist, had drawn a little logo that she took to Metter, and he liked it. “That logo still appears on the chutney’s bottle cap today!” says Garb.

Sadly, it’s unclear if Amelia Ball ever benefitted directly from her chutney’s success. According to an interview with Brand South Africa in 2009, her great-grandson, Desmond Ball, said, “Amelia’s youngest son, Herbert Saddleton Junior, sold his share of the business to Metter. But it remained a family business, with the three brothers Harry, Harold, and Ernest retaining their share.”

“I used to go to the factory and work there in the holidays,” he says. “Edward Ball, my uncle, was the manager.” Ball said it was Metter who thought to create the peach flavour of the chutney, which was then added to the line-up.

Garb says Amelia Ball lived in Fish Hoek for decades, and at the age of 97, she was attacked in her home during a break-in. “She didn’t live long after that. They say that if she hadn’t been attacked, she may have lived a lot longer.” It’s a tragic end to a legendary life, and Garb hopes that both her grandfather and the woman behind it all – Amelia – get the recognition they deserve when people look back on this South African success story.

# Jewish exhibition reveals mother’s past life

JORDAN MOSHE

When American lawyer Michael Leventhal saw a photograph of his late mother, Beba Epstein, as an 11-year-old on the front page of the *New York Times* in 2017, he was shocked.

It led to him and his family discovering parts of his mother’s life they knew nothing about. It also heralded the beginning of the New York-based YIVO Institute for Jewish Research’s unique online exhibition, which aims to present the personal experiences of Jewish individuals who lived through seismic historic events.

Back in 2017, Leventhal received a call from a family friend who told him to check out the *New York Times*. He didn’t know what to expect.

“One of my mother’s best friends had received a call from her grandson about an article she might be interested to see,” Leventhal told the *SA Jewish Report* this week. “He didn’t know it had anything to do with us. When she saw it, she thought she recognised our mother, and emailed it to us.

“My sister and I looked at the picture together and thought, ‘My G-d, that’s our mother in the *New York Times*.’”

YIVO had discovered more than 170 000 documents in Vilnius, Lithuania, having previously believed they were destroyed by Nazi forces. Among these was the journal of a young Epstein, written in Yiddish, offering a vibrant account of her family life in pre-war Vilna.

Those working at YIVO believed Epstein had perished in the Holocaust, and while Leventhal knew she had survived, the accounts captured in the journal illustrated a part of his mother’s life she’d never spoken about.

“Mom hadn’t told us very much about her childhood,” says Leventhal. “We had photos of her as an infant, in her twenties, and then post-war – nothing in between. When we saw that photo of her, we saw someone we knew almost nothing about. We were blown away.”

Leventhal reached out to YIVO’s chief executive, Jonathan Brent, to find out more about the astonishing discovery, receiving a copy of his mother’s journal and an English translation of her writing in the latter part of 2017.

Since then, the story of Beba Epstein became the

focal point of the virtual exhibition. It’s the first of an envisioned series of similar personal historical explorations offered by YIVO.

Meticulously overseen by curator Karolina Ziulkoski, the virtual museum offers visitors the opportunity to engage with Epstein’s story and Vilna’s history, blending the personal childhood antics of a young girl with broader historical context in an engaging way.

“We wanted to develop a platform that had no physical counterpart,” says Ziulkoski, an experienced transmedia developer. “We didn’t want to replicate a museum online, aggregating



The cover page of Beba’s autobiography

Photo: YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

major features and trying to emulate an in-person experience. This was made to be solely online and provide something altogether different.

“Usually, history is presented in a macro view,” she says. “The thinking becomes that things happened in a vacuum, having no connection with real-live people. In this project, we aimed to use Beba’s story to relate personal history to broader history, and teach people about what happened through her eyes.”

This platform enables learning around family life, war, immigration, global context, and other areas. Ziulkoski says the idea was to use Epstein’s story to relate to many other areas beyond it, and give educators the tools to teach about several other areas without being limited to the Holocaust.

YIVO’s chief of staff, Shelly Freeman, says that schools across the United Kingdom, the United

States, South America, and elsewhere have been making use of the resources.

“This exhibition avoids academic heavy material and is made to be accessible,” says Freeman. “It’s focused on school-age children and has potential for classroom learning, but it can be used to go beyond that. It deals with relevant issues today, touches on universal themes across the board, and offers micro and macro history through the eyes of a young girl.”

The project is the latest step in YIVO’s digitisation initiative to make European Jewish history more accessible to Jewry across the globe.

“You can’t make up what we have in the collections at the YIVO institute,” Brent told the *SA Jewish Report*. “There are about 23 million documents, the largest collection to have survived World War II. It’s a treasure that tells the story of the Ashkenazi Jewish world, one which most Jews, sadly, don’t know.”

Letters, diaries, plays, musicals, municipal records, speeches, and more are featured among the documents housed at the museum, collectively telling the story of European Jewry before and during the Holocaust.

Because of the collection’s relative inaccessibility to those beyond the United States, the YIVO team committed to creating the online portal through which Jews the world over could interact with the artefacts and reconnect with their history.

“Even if you visit the museum, you often have no idea what you’re looking at behind a glass display,” says Brent. “We wanted this history to be accessible, helping people around the world to connect with their heritage and themselves. We’ve digitised about 1.5 million pages already, and we’re determined to do more.

“The collection is a Jewish treasure, and we want to help people connect to their past and the worlds they thought are no more.”

This is certainly the case for Leventhal, who says that the journal’s discovery has enabled him to deepen his connection to his late mother.

“When my mother passed away in 2012, I thought I’d never be able to learn any more about her,” he says. “But then this journal fell out of the sky, and it was something of a miracle. Although I knew my mother, I didn’t have a full understanding of her. I’ve been granted so much insight onto who she really was as a person.

“Mom was complicated and suffered a lot of Holocaust damage,” he says. “She had a hypochondriac’s bent to her, and used to get attention when she complained about not feeling well – it drove me crazy. I always attributed it to the war, but when I read in her journal that she had behaved like this to get attention as a girl, it all made sense. This is who she always was.”



# Solly Krok just getting started with ending hunger

TALI FEINBERG

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa, iconic 91-year-old South African businessman and philanthropist Solly Krok launched an initiative to combat the hunger and poverty that he says “mushroomed” under the economic hardship that lockdown created.

Ahead of World Hunger Day on 16 October, Krok told the *SA Jewish Report* he now hopes to take his initiative to other countries, with the vision of creating food security locally with international support.

Called Keep the Wolf from the Door, Krok kicked off his initiative by walking 91km to mark his 91st birthday. Three months later, the initiative has distributed 4 200 food parcels to vulnerable families, having a positive impact on more than 16 800 people. Donations have come from individuals and institutions and have ranged from R30 to hundreds of thousands of rand.

But that was just the beginning of the initiative, in spite of donor fatigue, an unending pandemic, and the enormity of hunger in South Africa and globally.

“This is a ‘pregnancy’ – the initiative hasn’t actually been born yet,” Krok quips. Ultimately, he envisions putting structures in place where companies, factories, restaurants, communities, families, youth, and individuals make combating hunger a way of life. This could range from restaurants and factories needing a licence that enforces the contribution of wasted food, to a small levy on companies to contribute towards combating hunger, to individuals putting aside a little to feed one child for a month.

He is full of quirky and exciting ideas, such as encouraging children and teens to form “Red Riding Hood” clubs – keeping with his theme of a wolf at the door. “They could raise as little as \$18 [R297] a month,” which would go towards combating hunger. He also envisions a “Keep the Wolf from the Door” logo being stamped onto food produce, to remind people that not everyone can put bread on the table, and to contribute in any small way they can.

Krok believes that many small initiatives and contributions from many people is the basis of making a big impact. He sees how South Africans “just don’t have the resources” to donate huge amounts, but almost everyone has the capacity to give a little. And by expanding into other countries, he hopes to share the load.

“Every ten seconds, a child dies from hunger somewhere in the world,” says Krok. “Conservative estimates are that since the end of March, 2.2 million South Africans face perpetual hunger with 21% of South Africans reporting that someone in their family has gone hungry in the past seven days, and in households with a child, 15% report that a child has gone hungry in the past seven days.”

Keep the Wolf from the Door uses all

donations as a “hand up, not hand out”, says Krok. “We aim to both give and grow food.” The organisation is working in partnership with Afrika Tikkun, which has assisted marginalised people for the past 25 years,

education and planting food gardens that provide long-term sustainability,” says Krok. Already, potential young farmers are being trained, with more being identified every month.

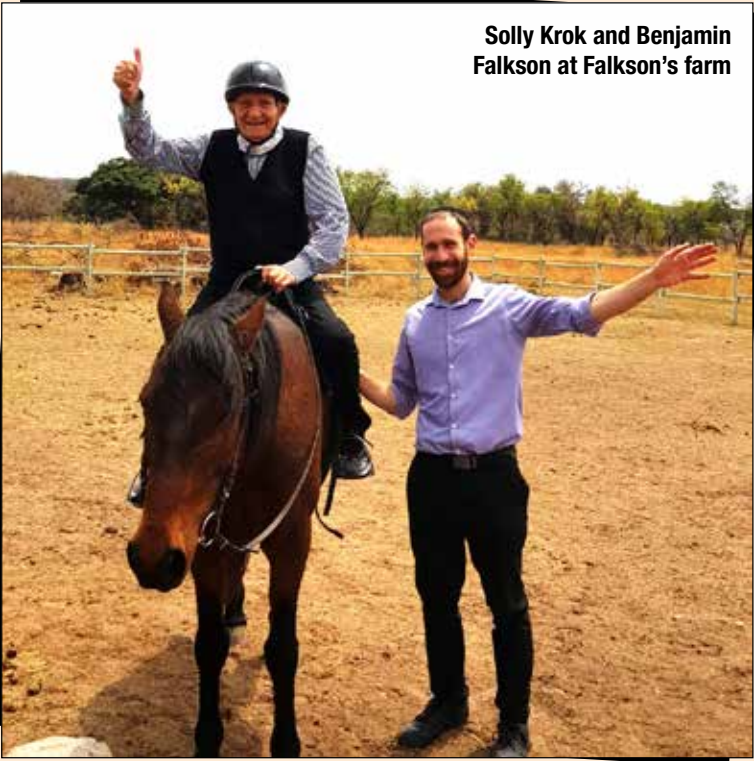
However, he wants his organisation to also be its own separate entity, so that donors recognise its unique role and don’t feel that they have already contributed if they have given to other organisations.

Krok is still walking at least 1km a day for his own well-being, but he envisions starting a club that encourages senior citizens to walk with him and in turn, raise awareness about hunger and food security

“We need to teach the world that every time we eat, someone else is going hungry,” he says. “As they say in Yiddish, “*Vos du tust far yenem tust du far zich alein*” (What you do for others you do for yourself).”

He hopes members of the community will encourage one another to give, and as the pandemic stretches ahead, combating hunger will become an automatic response. “To me, world hunger is the much bigger pandemic,” Krok says. “Even in America, one in nine are on the breadline. And while it doesn’t seem obvious, Jews are also struggling to put bread on the table. I get calls every day.

“In the end, we cannot live in isolation from the challenges our world is facing,” he says. “Each person must say to themselves, ‘Thank G-d I have a meal.’ If you are able to contribute, be thankful you can give, and that you aren’t knocking on doors.”



Solly Krok and Benjamin Falkson at Falkson's farm

and Siyakhana, which establishes model food gardens and offers accredited training for emerging community leaders to develop sustainable food gardens and livelihoods through social entrepreneurship.

“This programme is feeding vulnerable communities in the short term while it assists them to become self-sufficient through



THE UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN - JOHANNESBURG BRANCH

The Union of Jewish Women Johannesburg is looking for a special, dynamic and passionate person who will fit into our UJW family as

OFFICE AND PROJECTS MANAGER

The Office and Projects Manager’s role will encompass administrative, project management, staff management and marketing responsibilities.

RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Managing the day-to-day running of the organisation;
- Overseeing all projects of the organisation;
- Producing marketing material;
- Managing social media;
- Producing written proposals and reports.
- Seeking additional opportunities for UJW involvement;
- Liaising with individuals across multiple levels.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor Degree with 3 years community service experience;
- Strong project management, administrative and organisational skills;
- Strong interpersonal and staff management skills;
- Excellent spoken and written English;
- Excellent computer literacy skills with proficiency in Word, Excel and Adobe products;
- Social media skills;
- Self-motivated, confident and outgoing;
- Understanding of the Johannesburg Jewish community, knowledge of kashrut, festivals and Jewish culture;
- Compassion for elderly, commitment to poverty alleviation and empowerment;
- Willingness to visit townships;
- Own car and valid driver’s licence.

This is a full day position. Fridays until 13.00, closed on all Yomim Tovim. Starting date January 2021.

Please send CVs to [ujw1053@gmail.com](mailto:ujw1053@gmail.com) Closing date: 30 October 2020

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

south african

# Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

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

# VOTE NOW!

## We want to find the best Shofar blower in all of South Africa



The winner will be determined by the most unique votes received and will receive a beautiful Kudu Shofar!

GO TO:  
[www.shofarcompetition.co.za](http://www.shofarcompetition.co.za)



**MIRAH LANGER**

"It's not as simple as saying, 'Oh I've got X genitalia, so I'm this'. It's not cut and dry like that; none of it is," says Jacqui Benson, a Jewish and LGBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual), activist recently elected to the Cape

Ancer says that while there is currently hype about



Ultimately, says Ancer, "it's about looking at each person in their story."

Tomson says that she sees “all of us, as members of the LGBTQIA+ community, not as flawed or broken, but as being created, like all of humanity, *b’Tzelem Elokim* – our diversity is an expression of divinity, not an affront to it.”



**Dr Anastacia Tomson**

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

www.sajr.co.za

**We're getting the  
Jewish community  
back to work!**

**If you're looking for a job,  
or looking for new staff,  
the SA Jewish Report  
wants to help you!**

If you're looking for a job,  
complete the online form and  
we'll advertise your services - free  
of charge - in the SA Jewish Report.

**GO TO: [bit.ly/jcomeback2work](http://bit.ly/jcomeback2work)  
to complete the online form**



# Shimoni questions assumptions of ‘Litvak DNA’

TALI FEINBERG

While our Lithuanian background forms the very basis of South African Jewish identity, a leading historian of South African Jewry, Gideon Shimoni, says the actual numbers of “Litvak” immigrants may be exaggerated.

“An accurate calculation of the Litvak-origin percentage of South African Jewry is evasive,” Shimoni said this week at a virtual conference hosted by the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Cape Town and the University College London Institute of Jewish Studies titled “Jews in South Africa: New Directions in Research.”

“The truth is that the purported Litvak descent of South African Jewry has never been conclusively confirmed.”

He also questioned the assumption that the Jews who were disproportionately involved in the struggle against apartheid were motivated by Jewish values. “I found that attributing a formative influence to Judaic values is scarcely credible,” he said.

He was speaking at the opening session of the conference, which is intended as a springboard for a new generation of research on Jews in South Africa, according to the organisers.

Shimoni said he wasn’t implying that the current picture of Litvak heritage was badly distorted, and there was evidence that there was a prevalence of Litvak immigrants. “However, upon closer examination of the historical

foundations of the community’s institutions, it becomes apparent that the description ‘a Litvak colony’ is an oversimplification.”

He attributed much of the confusion and uncertainty to the definition of what exactly ‘Litvak origin’ is. “This is because ‘Litvak’ identity isn’t clearly congruous with geo-political borders in Eastern Europe.”

He pointed out that, nowadays, people tend to attribute all the positive and unique qualities of South African Jewry to the community’s Litvak heritage. “The most significant of all the special qualities is the strength and cohesiveness of [the community’s] ethnic identity,” including “the extraordinary prevalence of Zionism in South African Jewry.”

However, in his research, he found that the explanation for this “lies more in the nature of South Africa’s societal environment than in the Litvak heritage”. Noting that Jews didn’t have a sense of belonging with the English, the Afrikaners, or a general South African identity, their Zionist and Jewish identities strengthened more here than in places like America, where “a new, overarching American identity exerted a powerful magnetism”.

Shimoni discussed how the foundations of the community were laid by Jews coming from England and Germany as well as Lithuania.

“Although prior to the outbreak of the Anglo Boer War, more than half of the estimated 24 000 Jews in South Africa were East Europeans, there were also about 7 000 Anglo-Jews and about

3 000 more who hailed originally from Germany, but who, in many cases, had lived in England for a time before coming to South Africa,” he said.

“They came during the 19th century, and it was they who established the institution of the organised community, not only before the East Europeans began to come, but also concurrently with their immigration waves. They had established the first congregation in Cape Town as far back as 1841, and even in the Transvaal, they were the founders and leaders of the main synagogue congregations. Most communal institutions were already in existence by 1910, and they bore the imprint of the Anglo-Jewish forms, rather than those of the Lithuanian shtetl.

“Thus, the pulpits of the major synagogues were occupied mainly by ministers trained in Britain. In the mother community of Cape Town, for example, this applied to the Reverend Philip Bender and in later years, Rabbi Israel Abrahams. Moreover, the mode of prayer in the major synagogues was modelled on the United Synagogue in London.”

What can be said with full confidence about a “Litvak stamp” on South African Jewry is that “a considerable percentage was of Litvak origin, but

what percentage is not known exactly,” Shimoni said. Immigrants brought with them a strong ethnic and Zionist identity. “In addition, with ‘*misnagdi* orthodoxy’ [derived from the Vilna Gaon] being the dominant mode of religiosity in the Litvak region, they modified this into what can be characterised as ‘lightly-observant, if not non-observant, orthodoxy.’”

Shimoni isn’t convinced that the disproportionate involvement of Jews in the struggle was guided by Jewish values.

He found that, if anything, there is a conflicting relationship between Orthodox Jewish religiosity and liberal or radical convictions and actions. He explained that it was more likely that their choices were based on seeing themselves as “outsiders” in relation to the community or even their families, noting that “the autobiographical record of almost every Jew who became involved in the radical opposition in South Africa provides evidence of alienation”.

Professor Antony Polonsky, who took a radical stance as a student in the 1950s, responded to Shimoni’s presentation, saying this made sense in his experience. “Essentially, in my case

it was a revolt against my parents, who were liberals,” he said.

“In our eyes, their liberalism was a higher form of paternalism [people in authority restricting the freedom of those subordinate to or dependent on them]. The way we saw it, was that it was a class problem, not a racial problem, and Jews had a role to play in uplifting the workers.”

Shimoni said that one factor that influenced Jewish radicals was a home environment where an East-European-born leftist spirit prevailed. “A secondary factor noticeable in the lives of some radicals was exposure to the Zionist youth movements, particularly Hashomer Hatzair.”

Anecdotally, he refers to an interaction with the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, who battled with the idea that Jews in the struggle weren’t motivated by Jewish values, even if in a very indirect way. The professor said he found that “current collective memory isn’t receptive to my analysis and conclusions”.

“My intentions are regarded by some as an attempt to disparage Judaism. The truth is, as a strongly identifying Jew, I too would love to credit Judaism and so-called ‘Jewish values’ with a major role in motivating opposition to apartheid. But this isn’t borne out by the evidence.”

Because of these discrepancies between the “collective memory” of the community and historic research, Shimoni suggested that future research on South African Jewry should include “historical research on collective memory itself”.



Gideon Shimoni

KING DAVID PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Places are filling up fast for 2021

- 18 Months - Grade R
- Call us to make an individual appointment to see our schools

KD PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL LINKSFIELD  
011 480-4600  
messiass@sabje.co.za

KD PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOL VICTORY PARK  
011 466 7880  
romainl@sabje.co.za

MINNIE BERSOHN PRE-PRIMARY  
011 783 8888  
mandi@sabje.co.za

KD ROSABELLE KLEIN NURSERY SCHOOL WAVERLEY  
011 440 4980  
levycaron@sabje.co.za

South African Board of Jewish Education

KING DAVID

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

south african

Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

www.sabje.co.za

Ask the Titans of Industry

Do you have a question you've always wanted to ask a business Titan?

Are you looking for some advice on starting a business, finding new clients, marketing, tax, finance, start-ups, or human resources? Ask us the question and tell us who you want to answer it. We'll do our best to get you the answer from one of the Titans of Industry.

GO TO:

<http://bit.ly/AsktheTitans>



# Life lessons from South Africa’s most optimistic ‘ad man’

TALI FEINBERG

It's not often that a business book can be described as a “riveting read”, but Mike Abel has achieved this and more with his first book, *Willing & Abel: Lessons from a decade in crisis*. Beginning at what some would see as an end point, Abel chronicles his family’s decision to emigrate to Australia, and then to return to South Africa a year later when they realised they had left for all the wrong reasons. He writes how his return was also to take up the opportunity to start M&C Saatchi Abel, the only M&C Saatchi advertising agency in the world to bear another name. The book then takes the reader on a rollercoaster ride of successes and challenges, both personal and professional, that demonstrate how it’s possible to achieve anything you set your mind to when failure is simply not an option. Speaking to the SA Jewish Report ahead of the book’s launch, Abel says, “Initially, the book started out as a way to celebrate the tenth anniversary of M&C Saatchi Abel with one very clear purpose – to be useful rather than a brag book. But then the pandemic gripped the world, and we realised that while the country did in fact need something useful, it needed to be more than an agency book, something more personal and real. So with that shift, the book went from being a history of the agency to stories and lessons from my three decades in advertising, and what I had learned

from my mentors and co-founders.” Abel chronicles the challenges of the early days of his agency, from having no chairs or tables, to battling for clients, to bringing his team on board – whether that meant pitching to them on aeroplanes or convincing them also to return to South Africa after emigrating. He writes about turning the advertising industry’s cut-throat culture on its head, the behind-the-scenes action of working with clients like Nando’s, and how being a “force-for-good” is the best way of doing business. In all this, he simply never allowed failure to be a possibility. “When you start a new business in the midst of a financial crisis, an overtraded economy, and an industry which is watching you and waiting for you to fail, you have to go in with the intention of only succeeding,” he says. “When my partners and I founded M&C Saatchi Abel, we did so with the intention of creating an ‘international airport to land dreamliners, not small propeller planes’. So in my mind, M&C Saatchi Abel was always going to succeed because we wanted it to. There were tough times, but what has never changed is our intention to create one of most successful marketing and communication agencies on the African continent and beyond. That doesn’t mean we haven’t had many sleepless nights, but failure was simply not an option. We just tethered

ourselves to the mast, and rode out the storm.” One chapter that stands out is when Abel tells the story of a health issue, from his first instinct that something was wrong, to the brave choice he made to keep it at bay. “That was an incredibly emotional chapter for me to include, and one I debated about including, as I have never wanted it to become something I’m defined by or known for,” he says. “But the truth is that the incident has played a big part in how I view the world, and it describes to people exactly the way I choose to approach life. I couldn’t exclude it as that would be dishonest of me and would seem as though I have something to hide. “And while there is an inherent vulnerability that comes with it, there is also a strength in that vulnerability – to show that at the end of the day, we’re all just people who have been dealt different hands and have found ways to navigate them,” he says. “Ultimately, if that chapter inspires one person to change how they see a situation and helps them to move forward, then that vulnerability has helped someone.” Abel says the book is for everyone. “A student who is looking for what to do, a business person trying to navigate rough waters, a start-up trying to find out how to deal with conflict, or simply someone who is looking for inspiration and motivation. A lot of people will think that it’s a business book or an autobiography, and to be honest it’s both, and so much more. The way I choose to describe it is like a recipe book, filled with many tips and tricks in life.” Writing the book was “both enlightening and emotional, as often it meant going back to good and sometimes bad times. But as they say, there’s no success without failure”, he says. For him, the toughest part of the process was making sure that the book was “always more than just some stories ... [a book] that’s useful and can add value to anyone reading it. That process required a lot of questioning, conversation, and evaluation. So it was a very introspective, but rewarding process, and it helped to have great people around me who helped direct the book and gave honest and professional feedback.” After going through the emigration process and realising that South Africa was where he belonged, his advice to anyone considering leaving the country is, “Make sure you really understand the reason that you’re going. In the book, I speak to a quote from Nelson Mandela,



Mike Abel

‘May your choices reflect your hopes and not your fears’. While I thought that emigrating would bring new hope and opportunity, the truth is that I was leaving out of disillusionment and fear, and once that was clear to me and my wife, we knew that we could return home to South Africa where we belong. People under-value the importance of ‘home’ and over-value the importance of sedate predictability.” At a time of so much loss, Abel hopes the book will give people “Hope, inspiration, and a reason to believe. I want people to know that a crisis doesn’t mean despair or failure, and that it’s possible to move forward if you just change your focus and perspective. I’ve often told people around me during this time that ‘nothing positive ever came from being negative’, and *Willing & Abel* is really a testament to that. I want the book to encourage people to stand up and put one foot in front of the other, as that is the way life is lived. Slowly, daily, and enjoying the actual journey, not just waiting for a promised destination.” And really, it’s just the beginning. His agency has managed to navigate the pandemic, and “we’re keeping an optimistic viewpoint, making sure that we continue to partner with our clients and help them to drive the resurgence of our economy. We will continue to play our part in pushing for an inclusive economy and a sharing culture. The only way is to keep flying our planes against those head winds, and keep the airport ready and focused, and in doing so, also land a few more dreamliners along the way.”

## Norwood blaze raises fire awareness

>>>Continued from page 1

Green said a fire can rapidly destroy an entire home. “If the fire is in the ceiling, then the house will be burning before you know about it – unless you have a smoke alarm. In addition, a lot of older houses’ ceilings are made of wood. The ceiling can crash into the house and the fire itself can become combustible. That means that the temperature becomes so hot, the smoke and chemicals set everything alight.” In an incident like this house fire, the unit would be called to the scene by the homeowner, people in the area, or other community organisations. In this case, the joint ZAKA and Community Security Organisation (CSO) control room was notified. “We dispatch within minutes with our trailer, and determine where the closest fire hydrant is, which we connect to our hoses. We run things until the fire department arrives. That means evacuating the residents and neighbours, spraying down nearby houses, securing the area, and containing the fire as much as we can. “We aren’t firefighters, we only contain the fire, or put out small fires if we can. We leave

the big firefighting to the fire department. Two weeks ago, we ran hoses from a fire hydrant for an entire city block. This greatly assisted the fire department when it arrived, as it had limited water and didn’t need to waste time finding the hydrant. It plugged in, and had unlimited water to fight the fire.” Green said the unit had responded to numerous incidents since it was formed in August this year, and that people didn’t realise how common fire could be. The unit will be running more awareness events for the community, and hopes also to do programmes in schools when COVID-19 restrictions ease. “Fire is preventable,” Green said. “Smoke alarms save lives. Every home should also have a fire extinguisher, fire drills, and an exit plan in place. It’s important to store household items carefully, like not putting the lawnmower next to the gas canisters. It’s also vital to switch off devices during loadshedding. We hope you never need us, but if you do, we’re here 24/7.” In cases of active fire, contact the ZAKA FCU control room on 086 18 000 18. Email [info@zaka.org.za](mailto:info@zaka.org.za) for any assistance with fire-safety equipment or fire-safety plans for your family.

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](http://www.bdo.co.za)



© 2019 BDO South Africa Services (Pty) Ltd.



www.kia.co.za



25945 OLD FRIENDS YOUNG TALENT



**ALL THE LUXURY AND COMFORT YOU'RE USED TO,  
AT A PRICE YOU WON'T BE.**



The Power to Surprise

**UNLIMITED  
KILOMETRE**  
  
**5 YEAR  
WARRANTY**

There's more luxury and style in the KIA Sorento, for a lot less than you'd expect. Add to that KIA's Unlimited Kilometre, 5-year warranty and an unrivalled reputation for quality\*, and you'll understand why the KIA Sorento makes sense, for all the right reasons.

Find out more at [www.kia.co.za](http://www.kia.co.za).

\*Ranked #1 for quality for 6 consecutive years, J.D. Power Initial Quality Survey



**A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies**

## INNER VOICE

Howard Feldman

At times like that, we should be grateful that we are held to a higher standard and grateful for the reminder.

The facts are as follows: the area is home to 2.8% of the population, but had 17.6% of the positive cases in the week

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

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

## UCT CONFERENCE OPPOSED TO UNSUBSTANTIATED CLAIMS AND ANTISEMITISM

Any inconsistencies, unsubstantiated claims, or indeed politically-driven partialities in Hunter's paper will be probed and challenged, just as they

Though it shouldn't need emphasising, University College London and the Institute of Jewish Studies reject antisemitism in any form, whether related to Israel or not. Should that line be crossed at the conference, it will be dealt with robustly. – **Shirli Gilbert, Professor of Modern Jewish History, Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies, University College London**

**CONCIERGE SHOPPING SERVICE**  
orders@kosherworld.co.za