

■ Volume 25 – Number 36 ■ 21 October 2021 ■ 15 Cheshvan 5782

south african Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

www.sajr.co.za

Book a Table Now

Painting a
Masterpiece
of
HOPE

GALA EVENING WILL TAKE PLACE ON 7 NOVEMBER 17:00 SAST
SEND BOOKINGS TO: rsvp@sajewishreport.co.za or phone Britt: 082 292 0520



Absa
jewish achiever awards

2021

A graphic for the 2021 award, showing the year "2021" in large white numbers, with a gold star and a small figure of a person standing on the number "1".

Absa
jewish achiever awards

2021



Painting a
Masterpiece
of
HOPE

We invite you or your company to join us at the 2021 glittering gala dinner and purchase:

A Virtual Table for 10 people

This includes a gourmet meal for 10 people (5 couples) which will be delivered to you and your guests' homes on the day of the event
@ R40 000 ex VAT

or

Virtual Seats (per couple)

This includes a gourmet meal for two people @ R8 000 ex VAT

Each gourmet package delivered to your home contains:

A Michelin star quality gourmet kosher meal like you have never experienced before! A pre-dinner drinks pack including sparkling Italian Prosecco, designer placemats and kippa.

An exclusive invite to the digital red carpet.

An exclusive invite to the digital event as a live participant.

SEND BOOKINGS TO: rsvp@sajewishreport.co.za or phone Britt: 082 292 0520



South
African
Jewish
Report
www.sajr.co.za

Europcar

THE KIRSH
FOUNDATION

**mann
made**

russelkaplan rka
auctioneers



18K white gold stud earrings set with 2.4ct yellow cultured radiant cut diamonds and 132 white diamonds
SOLD R26,000



Julius Paul Schmidt-Felling, Cavalier, bronze and ivory on marble base
SOLD R12,000



Vintage Gottlieb's El Dorado Pinball Machine, with key, manufactured by D Gottlieb & Co
SOLD R18,000



Le Corbusier, Totem, colour lithograph, signed, 1963
SOLD R46,000



south african Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

■ Volume 25 – Number 36 ■ 21 October 2021 ■ 15 Cheshvan 5782

www.sajr.co.za

Teen vaccinate, or not teen vaccinate? Not a question, say doctors

TALI FEINBERG

As the news broke that South Africa would allow children aged 12 and up to get vaccinated with a first Pfizer shot, some parents were thrilled but others expressed fear, uncertainty, even anger.

"As the daughter of a polio survivor and the mother of an asthmatic child, I feel strongly that we need to get vaccinated, not just for ourselves, but for others," says Vanessa Levenstein, a copywriter at Fine Music Radio in Cape Town. "My son, Sammy, is 14 and my daughter, Safra, is 17, and this past Shabbat, we all said how grateful we were that the vaccine was now available to them. I feel we are privileged to have it."

Her husband, Jonathan Musikanth, an attorney, agrees. "We look forward to giving our children some sort of normality again," he says. Levenstein adds, "We're living in a society with huge social inequalities: someone living in a crowded Manenberg flat cannot self-isolate if they get infected. The only way to stop the spread is through the vaccine roll-out. 'If I'm not for myself, who will be for me? And being only for myself, what am I?' The words of Hillel still ring true."

The *SA Jewish Report* asked parents on Facebook what they thought, and a mother responded, "The judgement and anger towards people who don't want to be vaccinated is extreme and frightening." For this reason, she asked to be quoted anonymously.

"My children are healthy and have been exposed to COVID-19 and didn't have any symptoms," she said. "I don't feel that I need to vaccinate them against something that I feel isn't dangerous to them. They didn't have any symptoms, so I don't feel I need to protect them from dying. The fact is that nobody in the world knows the long-term effects of this vaccine. I'm not willing to risk it."

"It's all well and good saying we should do it for herd immunity, but I won't allow my children to get vaccinated to protect others when they don't need the protection themselves," she said. "Also, I don't feel that 12 year olds are old enough to make a decision about

this. My kids would agree."

Asked how she felt about her children navigating a post-COVID-19 world unvaccinated, she said it was "a huge concern".

"I'm concerned that their freedom will be taken away because of this. However, is that a good enough reason

inflammatory syndrome while others can suffer from 'long COVID'.

"There are so many myths and misconceptions about vaccination and they need to be dispelled," he says. "As a doctor on the frontline, it's a 'no brainer' to me that my daughter and children over the age of 12 should

This compares with 67 per million after the vaccine. The condition is self-limiting and easily treatable, and it's crucial to avoid exercise for up to a week post vaccination in order to decrease the chances of its occurrence.

Widespread vaccination is a critical tool to help stop this pandemic. The question shouldn't be if you'll vaccinate, but rather when."

Jeffrey Dorfman, associate professor in medical virology at Stellenbosch University, says "the arguments for vaccinating children are very strong in countries such as South Africa and the United States where there's still a lot of COVID-19 transmission and the potential for more waves. Children may be at lower risk of severe COVID-19 disease than adults, but not zero. In the United States, more than 63 000 children have been hospitalised since August 2020, and more than 500 have died. More than 4 000 have been diagnosed with multisystem inflammatory syndrome, which is dangerous."

"Additionally, the vaccines in use prevent many COVID-19 infections – not 100%, as we all know about breakthrough infections, but even for the Delta variant, vaccination prevents about 70% of infections based upon current studies," he says. "That's enough to matter to the people around children who are vaccinated, and may be enough to stop or reduce school outbreaks. Vaccination will certainly reduce the risk of a child bringing a COVID-19 infection home to vulnerable adults. It's certainly not unheard of for children to bring an infection home from school resulting in the death of a caregiver, and this is tragic and preventable."

"Additionally, I know of cases of children who were asymptotically infected and had to move away from vulnerable grandparents," he says. "It was scary for the people involved. The children had no symptoms and were tested only because they had a COVID-19 positive contact. Were the contact not known, they would have continued to live with the grandparents, who would have been at risk. Even children who have had COVID-19 can have it again, and a large study from Kentucky in the United States shows that vaccination further reduces the risk of

Continued on page 2>>



to go against what I wholeheartedly believe to be the truth about the vaccine?" she asked. "I don't believe that by not vaccinating kids, I'm putting anyone else's life in danger."

Johannesburg pulmonologist and parent Dr Anton Meyberg told the *SA Jewish Report*, "This is definitely a scary and emotive time in our lives as parents. It's one thing to vaccinate ourselves, the adults, but now we are being asked to trust science with our own children. Whereas we know that children definitely don't get as sick as adults, they definitely can still get sick [from COVID-19]. And some get severe multisystem

be vaccinated. As parents, we have the responsibility of safekeeping and caring for our children, and vaccinating them allows us to do this. No doubt by vaccinating our teens, we're protecting their parents and grandparents, but we're also making sure that schools can remain open and our children can lead almost normal lives."

"The most documented side effect in children after the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, mainly in boys 16 to 30 years of age, is myocarditis [inflammation of the heart muscle]," Meyberg says. "Males aged 12 to 17 are more likely to develop myocarditis within three months of catching COVID-19 at a rate of 450 per million infections."

ChevrahKadisha

GET YOUR TEEN THE VACCINE

Plenty parking | Free

Bookings: www.jhbchev.co.za/vaccine

Walk-ins welcome: 85 George Ave, Sandringham



Spencer Schwartz from You Realty
Residential Property Sales and Rentals (countrywide)

	Starts	Ends
Johannesburg	18:00	18:51
Cape Town	18:48	19:42
Durban	17:53	18:45
Bloemfontein	18:11	19:03
Port Elizabeth	18:15	19:13
East London	18:09	19:02
Jerusalem*	17:24	18:35
Tel Aviv*	17:42	18:37

*1 hour ahead of SA

You. Want To Know What Your Home Is Worth? Get your free, professional desktop valuation report from me today.
Spencer Schwartz • 084 524 4616
spencer@yourealty.co.za
Realty

Appliance Repairs on Site

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

Call Jason
082 401 8239 / 076 210 6532

★ FREE QUOTATIONS ★



SAVOY PHARMACY PERCELIA PHARMACY

MONDAY – FRIDAY

8:30am – 6:00pm

SATURDAY:

9:00am – 1:00pm

LAST SUNDAY

OF THE MONTH

9:00am – 1:00pm

☎ (011) 885-1200/1

savoy@medicarehealth.co.za

MONDAY – THURSDAY:

8:30am – 6:00pm

FRIDAY: 8:00am – 4:30pm

SATURDAY: CLOSED

SUNDAY

AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS:

9:00am – 1:00pm

☎ (011) 640-4321/31

percelia@medicarehealth.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

AFFORDABLE RANGE FOR PENSIONERS

CONTACT US TODAY:

(011) 849-6256

082 953 4628

Fairmount
6 George Ave,
Sandringham

Additional branches in Benoni and Germiston



VEHICLES WANTED



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

☎ Arnold Orkin 082 823 7826
AUTO AFRICA

2 SA JEWISH REPORT

Rome mayoral candidate accused of antisemitism loses election

A candidate in Rome's mayoral election who was accused of making an antisemitic observation about the Holocaust was defeated on Monday, 18 October.

Enrico Michetti, the centre-right candidate, earned between 37% and 41% of the votes in the runoff election on Monday, according to the Guardian, trailing behind Roberto Gualtieri, the centre-left candidate, who earned between 59% and 63% of the vote.

Michetti came under fire for an article he wrote last year in which he asked why the Holocaust had received more attention than other instances of mass murder, suggesting the answer lay in the fact that victims of other genocides "didn't own banks".

Leaders of Rome's Jewish community condemned Michetti, who eventually apologised.

Toddler taken off life support against parents' wishes

A two-year-old Jewish girl was taken off life support in the United Kingdom on Monday in spite of her parents' objections.

Alta Fixsler of Manchester, England, had serious natal complications that made her dependent on life support from birth. When medical authorities at the hospital where she was treated wanted to take her off life support, her parents, both Haredi Orthodox Jews, took them to court, claiming that taking the child off life support would violate their religious principles.

Judaism commands the preservation of human life, though rabbis have diverging opinions about taking patients with incurable ailments off life support.

The High Court of London ruled in May that ending Alta's life would be in her best interest, as experts said she felt discomfort but couldn't recover or feel pleasure.

Teen vaccinate, or not teen vaccinate? Not a question, say doctors

>>Continued from page 1

COVID-19 re-infection. We aren't going to get on top of COVID-19 unless we use the tools at our disposal. As a society, we can't afford serious lockdowns and have to use less disruptive tools. Vaccines should be high on everyone's list."

A third mother expressed mixed feelings about vaccinating her teenage sons. However, after reading a letter by Johannesburg family physician Dr Sheri Fanaroff, she has decided to go ahead with it. In the letter, Fanaroff laid out all the questions and concerns to show that "the risk of getting COVID-19 infection far outweighs the risk of vaccination in teenagers. I can say without hesitation that I will be relieved to have my own teenagers at the front of the queue to get vaccinated this week so that they can return to a more normal lifestyle."

She explained amongst other points that "vaccination reduces the risk of teenagers dying: the virus was the fourth leading cause of death for those aged 15 to 24 and the sixth leading cause for those aged five to 14".

Torah Thought

True kindness

Our sages teach of the obligation of every Jew to ask, "When will my actions reach those of our illustrious patriarchs and matriarchs?" We see the prototype of kindness at the beginning of this week's Torah reading, when Abraham and Sarah display remarkable hospitality towards three strangers travelling through the desert. Abraham bows down to each of them, and presents a more elaborate banquet than Bill Gates served this week at his daughter's wedding – each guest received his own tongue. Why was this necessary? One tongue would have been sufficient. Why does Abraham go to such lengths to make each of the guests feel like a king? What motivated Abraham's behaviour?

The Midrash describes Abraham's meeting with Sheim, the son of Noach. Abraham asks Sheim, "What



A British judge rejected a petition by the girl's parents to have her moved to a hospital in Jerusalem. Attempts to make Alta an American citizen also didn't succeed in time to prevent her death.

Kosher food finally available at British parliament



More than three years after a similar push was denied, kosher and halaal food has been made regularly available at the headquarters of the British parliament, where about 11 000 people work, hundreds of them Jewish or Muslim.

The launch on Tuesday, 19 October, follows a push that two Labour legislators – Charlotte Nichols, who is Jewish, and Zarah Sultana, who is Muslim – began in 2019, the Jewish News of London reported.

It was approved in 2020, but implementation was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The kosher meal provider is 1070 Kitchen, a catering service based in London under the supervision of that city's rabbinical court. Its name refers to the year in which the first written record of Jewish settlement in England was authored.

• All briefs supplied by JTA

Rabbi Danny Sackstein,
Sunny Road Kehilla



beings around them. Avraham and Sarah's kindness wasn't simply to help those less fortunate than themselves, they saw the divine spark in every human being, and they treated their guests like royalty, impressing upon them their own self-worth and uniqueness. Their kindness was designed to uplift people, to raise them up to recognise their inner greatness.

This is different to how most of us see others. We usually have zero tolerance for those who are slightly different to us in any way. We need to follow the example of our patriarchs and matriarchs in doing true acts of kindness by seeing G-d's presence in the world, identifying the divine spark in ourselves, and recognising it in others.

South African
Jewish Report
The source of quality content, news and insights

Editor Peta Krost Maunder – editor@sajewishreport.co.za • Sub-editor Julie Leibowitz
Journalists Nicola Miltz • Tali Feinberg • Junior Reporter Saul Kamionsky • Photographer Ilan Ossendryver • Editorial co-ordinator Martine Bass – editorial@sajewishreport.co.za
Proofreader Kim Hatchuel Advertising Britt Landsman: 082 292 9520 – britt@sajewishreport.co.za • New business development manager Laura Kaufman laura@sajewishreport.co.za • Design and layout Bryan Maron/Design Bandits – bryan@designbandits.co.za • Distribution Sandy Furman
Subscriptions Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860 525 200 • Board of Directors Howard Sackstein (Chairperson), Dina Diamond, Herschel Jawitz, Shaun Matisonn, Benji Porter. • Advertisements and editorial copy do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff and board of directors. Tel: 011 430 1980.



Hijacked mom warns motorists after being taken hostage

NICOLA MILTZ

A Sandton mother of two was last week taken on a joyride from hell after being hijacked at gunpoint by two attackers at her local shopping mall in broad daylight.

Nicky Sher is always vigilant when it comes to her safety. Last Tuesday, 12 October, however, she was caught completely off guard when her assailants took her hostage as they made their getaway from the Morning Glen Shopping Centre in Gallo Manor.

“It was one of my worst nightmares come true,” she told the *SA Jewish Report* this week.

“It’s a different story being hijacked and left stranded without your car, that’s horrific enough, but being forcibly taken in the car takes it to another level.”

Sher arrived at the centre at about 12:20 to do a quick shop at the centre’s Pick n Pay and Mica Hardware. She parked outside the hardware store, and remembers thinking that there weren’t the usual number of eager car guards offering to help her when she emerged with her trolley a short while later. In fact, she didn’t see any.

“I thought that I could have done with the help as I had a heavy load of parcels which needed to be put into the boot of my car,” she said.

She also didn’t see any security guards on patrol, something that went through her mind fleetingly.

After offloading her trolley, she was about to climb into the driver’s seat of her seven-year-old white Mercedes Benz CLA 200, when the two men “came out of nowhere”. They somehow forced her into the passenger side of the vehicle as one man took the driver’s seat while the other one sat behind with a gun pointed towards her.

“I started screaming for help. I screamed and screamed,” she said, but the men fled the centre at high speed with no regard for whatever was in their way, bumping into things.

“I saw a flash of a car guard and another man who I believe reported his suspicions to centre management.”

In the blink of an eye, a petrified Sher

found herself trapped inside her own car with two crazed men who threatened to shoot her if she continued to scream. The driver made a sharp right onto Bowling Avenue, driving at high speed.

“I continued to scream, I didn’t know what else to do,” she said, pointing out that in hindsight, she knows it wasn’t wise as the men continued to threaten to shoot her.

A few hundred meters after Kelvin Drive, in the direction of South Road, Morningside, she saw a metro traffic police road block up ahead, and felt hope and relief. “I thought Hashem was watching over me, and I was going to be rescued. I even tried to open the door, which caused the driver to become very agitated,” she said.



Nicky Sher

Her relief soon turned to disappointment and dismay when the police seemingly did nothing to stop her attackers from hurtling away after they had half-heartedly tried to flag the speeding vehicle down. “That’s when I knew I was on my own. Strangely, I became calm at that moment,” she said, even though her life flashed before her.

“It’s going to sound weird, but all I could think about was Mark Kopelowitz, who was murdered the day before.” (Kopelowitz was



I WANT TO BUY YOUR BOBBA!

OLD OR NEW, WE’LL PAY YOU A WOW PRICE FOR YOUR CAR.

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

killed after walking into an armed robbery taking place at his jewellery store at the Centurion Mall on Monday, 11 October.)

“I thought yesterday it was Mark, today it’s going to be me,” she said. “I tried to calm down because screaming and trying to open the car door hadn’t worked. I begged them to let me out, told them I was a mother, hadn’t seen their faces, and couldn’t identify them.”

She was forced to hand over her handbag with all its belongings inside. They wanted the pin numbers of her credit cards.

“I couldn’t remember one of them, and they said they’d shoot me if I told them the wrong numbers,” she said.

She assumed they’d drive to the nearest ATM and keep her hostage until they had withdrawn as much money as they could. Instead, they hastily stopped the car on the corner of Marlboro Drive and Lilium Street, Marlboro, and told her to get out.

She ran towards the nearest garage and frantically told the owner she had been hijacked.

It was then that she called her husband, Clifford, and her two daughters.

“It’s a family trauma when something like this happens. Everybody is shaken,” she said.

She decided to tell her story as a warning to other motorists to be extra vigilant, especially when approaching one’s vehicle at shopping malls.

She believes they targeted her for her car.

Sher took part in a Zoom security meeting with centre management last week, and relayed her story. She was told that according to CCTV footage, her attackers watched her drive into the centre and had casually followed her to see where she parked. They waited for her on a low wall in the underground parking. They wore peak caps so as not to be recognised by cameras.

“I know I had protection from above

because I escaped relatively unscathed and I’m here to tell the tale. But we get so complacent especially at the centres we go to often. It’s important to be aware of your surroundings at all times, get in your car, lock the doors, and drive away quickly without bothering with things like Bluetooth and music.”

She said that since the incident, she has been overwhelmed with support from total strangers, family and friends. “It has been life affirming.”

“BE AWARE OF RISKS IN YOUR ENVIRONMENT. IF ANYTHING LOOKS SUSPICIOUS, TREAT IT AS A THREAT AND REMOVE YOURSELF FROM HARM’S WAY.”

Shopping malls have become hotspots in Johannesburg, and this isn’t the first time that hijackings have taken place at this centre.

CAP Chief Operating Officer Sean Jammy said this week, “This unfortunate incident underlines the need for competent security to be in place in any environment we frequent. To mitigate the threat and impact of this type of incident, we encourage all community members to practice situational awareness. Ensure that your family can track you via a cell phone platform, and that vehicles have tracking installed. Try and let people know where you are, and what time you should be returning.

“Be aware of risks in your environment. If anything looks suspicious, treat it as a threat and remove yourself from harm’s way. Most importantly, create an alert as early as possible, and train your family and those that care about you to do the same.”

At the time of going to press, the centre management hadn’t responded to questions about increasing security measures.

JAWITZ

PROPERTIES

INVEST IN PROPERTY IN ISRAEL
FROM R5 MILLION

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

FOR SALE



GLENHAZEL | R 2 900 000
Border Sunningdale. This family home offers expansive open plan spaces with a travertine tiled large entrance hall come formal lounge area, with interleading dining room. Eat- in kitchen with granite tops & gas hob. Separate guest suite area with bedroom & lounge/playroom/TV room, private study & private bathroom. 3 large N/F bed with 2 bath (M.E.S). Double automated garage & plenty of off-road parking. Staff Accommodation. Good security. Electric fencing. CCTV cameras.
🏠 4 🚗 2.5
Joel Harris 082 926 0287
Laureen Shalpid 083 789 0229
Web Ref: RL81192

FOR SALE



GLENHAZEL | R 999 999
Amazing lifestyle starter or lock up and go apartment - beautifully renovated. Asking More. Pristine, renovated 2-bedroom apartment in 24 hour guarded complex. 2 Lovely renovated bathrooms (mes), lounge and dining room opening onto covered balcony, stunning kitchen, 2 covered parking's and swimming pool, tennis court and squash court in the complex. Lifestyle living!
🏠 2 🚗 2
Joel Harris 082 926 0287
Laureen Shalpid 083 789 0229
Web Ref: RL79905

REAL LIFE

Real Estate.

FOR SALE



WAVERLEY | R 4 490 000
This is no ordinary cluster – spacious doesn’t cover it. Offering 3 fabulous receptions with French doors to a covered patio that can be opened to create one massive entertainment space. Modern wood & granite kitchen, guest cloak, pyjama lounge, 3 bedrooms ensuite, pool, staff, double garage & numerous stand-out features that elevate this home to a ‘class of its own’.
🏠 3 🚗 3
Chrissie Hammer: 082 568 0440
Web Ref: RL78797

PRICE REDUCED



MORNINGSIDE | R 1 899 000
Glamorous & Gorgeous. Positioned in the heart of Sandtons Financial and Business Hub yet offering a great lifestyle opportunity. Sophisticated & Stylish, luxurious 1 bedroom, 1.5 Bathroom main en suite. Open Plan lounge, dining room, kitchenette & guest loo. Situated on the 6th floor with large glass windows throughout & magnificent views. This apartment ticks all the boxes! 1 underground parking, excellent security, exclusive restaurant, gym, rim flow pool & executive conference rooms with full wifi throughout. Furniture Option Available.
🏠 1 🚗 1.5
Sandra Luntz: 083 679 1247
Web Ref: RL78060

Book now for the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards rsvp@sajewishreport.co.za | 082 2929 520

Habonim’s return to machaneh ‘a dream come true’

TALI FEINBERG

The Habonim Dror slogan “Don’t call us thy children, call us thy builders”, rang true this week, when the Jewish Zionist youth movement announced that it would hold a machaneh this December, taking the brave step of building something new and vibrant in a post-pandemic world. Machanot were cancelled last year for the first time in decades – a huge blow to movement morale.

In a video titled simply, “We are going home”, Habonim announced on Sunday, 17 October, that after 23 months of waiting, a machaneh will finally be held at its Onrus campsite. It will be called “*Lachlom Mechadash*” (To Dream Again) because the movement sees it as a dream come true. It will be shorter (from 9 to 20 December), with fewer people, and everyone will need to be vaccinated.

Rosh Machaneh Aaron Sher explained how this dream became a reality. “From the moment our *va’ad poel* [steering committee] for machaneh was elected this year, we were thinking about how we could make machaneh a reality. After consultation with medical professionals and those who have had summer camps overseas, many permutations of machaneh were drawn up.

“Some were on the more optimistic side, and some with more conservative thinking,” he says. “Throughout this time, the South African Zionist Federation [SAZF] was holding meetings for the youth movements, the Community Security Organisation [CSO], and other community figures to discuss how machaneh could happen, often attended by [local virology expert] Professor Barry Schoub. A common point was the vaccination of adolescents. It left room for optimism for December. Without these meetings and the support of these communal bodies, December machaneh couldn’t happen.”

With the announcement on Friday, 15 October, that vaccination would open to 12 to 17 year olds in South Africa, “the *va’ad poel* and our staff were in a panic, but excited. A golden opportunity had fallen into our laps that would allow us to bring machaneh to fruition. It’s almost impossible to describe the happiness we felt.”

Asked about the impact of not having machaneh or in-person events, Sher says, “In a word, devastating. Habonim Dror thrives on in-person interaction. For generations, we have been a space for Jewish youth to come together to have fun, discuss world issues, create change, and become strong leaders. Online activities don’t bring the ‘Habo magic’ that we need to feel.”

Habonim Manhig Wayne Sussman says, “The impact of not having a machaneh last year or any major in-person events has been absolutely devastating. Not just to Habonim, but to all South African youth movements. Camps and in-person events are a core part of the South African Jewish youth experience. They’re one of the things which make our community so great, and it’s absolutely critical that our kids return to camp sooner rather than later.”

Since the announcement, he says, “I have seen a youth movement come alive. I’m seeing renewed vigour, renewed energy, which has been lacking amongst our very brave and committed youth movement leadership for the past 20 months.”

Sher says “a full COVID-19 protocol policy document has been prepared



Shomrim *channichim* enjoying *ruach* at Habonim machaneh 2019 – the last time there was a machaneh at the Onrus campsite

for our machaneh with the help of medical professionals and those who have successfully run summer camps overseas. This will be available as soon as our sign-ups are open so that all parents and madrichim know exactly how we are keeping safe before they sign up.”

Says Sussman, “Of course, we’ll also limit numbers, and we are going to launch this properly and open sign-ups only once we’ve properly engaged with community leadership and the CSO.”

“Vaccination will be required by anyone on the campsite, a negative COVID-19 PCR test will have to be presented on arrival, and general COVID-19 protocols will have to be adhered to,” Sher says. “Anyone who tests positive will have to isolate immediately and will unfortunately be sent home. Those who have been in close contact with them will have to isolate and await a PCR test.”

What will stay the same and what will be different? “Fortunately, with a vaccine blanket over our campsite, a lot of what we love about machaneh can continue,” says Sher. “There will still be *ruach* [spirit], Havdalah, the beach, and everything we love about machaneh, just with some slight adjustments.” The youngest age groups, Garinim and Shtilim, won’t be able to attend.

“Should there be a fourth wave during December, Habonim Dror is committed to ensuring that we are able to adapt or at worst cancel,” he says. “The safety and health of our campers will always come first. We will make sure that we make the correct decisions in the interest of our community.”

Says Sussman, “Of course, there’s a chance that we might have to pull the plug on this. But as long as that door is open, as long as kids know that if they get vaccinated, if they’re responsible, and if they really want to attend machaneh, we’re going to do what we can to give them best summer.”

Since making the announcement, “We have had an overwhelming response from parents, kids, *bogrim*, and *ex-chaverim* all over the world,” says Sher. “People have been reaching out offering support and services. I couldn’t be more thankful to our Habonim and Jewish communities. We’re going home.”

SAZF executive member Anthony Rosmarin says, “December machanot have, for decades, played a vital role in strengthening Jewish identity and building young leaders. Recognising the

impact that COVID-19 has had on the ability to host these pivotal annual events, the SAZF created a platform that brought together youth movements, medical and security

advisors, and stakeholders to discuss the feasibility of December machanot.

“Given the fluid nature of the ongoing pandemic, this assessment is continually

being updated and we recognise that each youth movement must come to its own determination as to whether or not to move forward with camp preparations for 2021. We are committed to providing support and advice on how best to approach this complex decision in a safe and responsible manner.”

The *mazkir* of Netzer South Africa, Jason Bourne, says “Netzer has decided that it won’t be running a full, in-person summer machaneh this year. Instead, we will be running day camps in Cape Town, Durban, and Joburg. Though vaccinations are being administered and cases are declining, we feel that there are still too many unanswered questions to have a sleep-away camp. As things unfold and more people are vaccinated, we may open a small weekend sleepover element to our day camp experience for older, vaccinated participants only.”

A community leader, speaking anonymously, says “Bnei Akiva would love to have a camp at the end of the year but it’s looking at all the medical and logistical issues. No decision has been made and over the next few days, it will explore it all carefully and come to a conclusion.”

Quick thinking keeps school safe during parking lot robbery

TALI FEINBERG

On an ordinary Monday afternoon, a criminal incident in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg meant that a nearby Jewish pre and primary school had to go into lockdown. But they stayed safe thanks to the quick and calm actions of security and staff.

Four armed men entered the parking area adjacent to Sandton Sinai Primary and Pre-Primary School at about 13:00 on 18 October 2021, and held up a private security officer and a Community Security Organisation (CSO) officer.

According to various sources, the CSO officer was hit hard on the head and had a firearm pointed at him. A teacher in the parking lot was also hit and kicked. The CSO officer still managed to alert the school to activate a lockdown. Children and staff were quickly moved to safe areas. Medical and security officials were rushed to the facility, securing it.

“We were notified by our security that we needed to ‘invacuate’ [lockdown] the school as an incident was taking place in the parking lot adjacent to the school,” says Sandton Sinai Pre-Primary Principal Shira Finkel. “We practice our evac and invac plans every term,” she says, “so we were aware of what needed to happen. Swiftly and calmly, we gathered everyone on the property into safe rooms. We weren’t there for very long. We also called CSO for backup, and notified the parents.”

Children listened to music and carried on with their day while in the safe rooms. “The kids were exceptionally calm, and did everything they needed to do,” says Primary School Principal Lara Salkinder. “Afterwards they picked up and carried on. We even had extra murals that day.”

Finkel says the children and staff were debriefed on the day by trained professionals. “Our aim was to not create any fear.”

Looking back on the moments as they unfolded, Finkel says she felt “safe and in control. I knew what I needed to do. Lara and I are both very calm in these situations. It was dealt with appropriately and now we carry on. We can’t let these things rattle us.”

She advises the community to have evacuation plans in place, and practice them regularly. “You never know how you’ll react in these situations, so it’s good to have a system in place. We slotted into it because we take security very seriously.” She’s also doing a CSO training course which has been “empowering”, and advises others, including principals, to do the same.

They are grateful to the entire community and all the organisations who rushed to assist. “We can’t be fearful, we must

just be aware,” says Salkinder.

Jevon Greenblatt, the head of operations for CSO Johannesburg, told the *SA Jewish Report* that the armed robbery took place in a parking area adjacent to the school, a sports centre, and a COVID-19 vaccination centre. He confirmed that a CSO security officer was assaulted, as was a teacher who happened to be in the near vicinity. Both sustained light injuries.

“The officer managed to alert the school to the developing situation, instructing it to activate an immediate lockdown of the facility. The quick thinking of the officer and the school staff ensured that at no stage were the children in any danger,” he says. “Medical and response teams were deployed to the school to bolster the security and treat the injured. Surrounding facilities were also secured as a precaution.”

He believes it was a criminal incident, and that the school wasn’t specifically targeted.

The incident does, however, show the brazenness of criminal elements, Greenblatt says, who don’t shy away from committing crimes at or near a school.

“It’s a potential reality that we need to be prepared for, planning our security measures accordingly. We must ensure all the necessary training, protocols, and procedures are in place to protect our schools and facilities, so if such an incident does occur, we can react decisively and appropriately.”

“Under the guidance of the CSO, this particular school treats security matters very seriously, implementing proactive measures to ensure that its children are safe,” says Greenblatt. “I believe that’s why we had such a positive outcome under the circumstances.”

Sean Jammy, the chief operating officer of CAP Security, says, “From our understanding, it was an opportunistic crime. We think the crew wanted potentially to steal a firearm or rob someone in the parking lot. CAP is investigating, and working with the South African Police Service. We hope for a positive result by apprehending this group soon.”

He emphasises that the school wasn’t targeted, and the incident had nothing to do with it being Jewish. “We take our CAP mandate to follow up on criminals seriously, and we are following up on this. In general, the Jewish school system is very well protected, and we are supportive of the CSO’s mandate to protect the schools.”

Jammy says the suburb where the school resides isn’t a CAP area, but it does border a CAP area, and the chances of something like this happening in a CAP area are significantly reduced. He encourages all communities to talk to CAP about how they can add a layer of protection to their area, saying, “Very serious crime can happen in any environment.”



Israel, The Holy Grail of Real Estate – But Can I Get a Mortgage?



Demystifying “Mashkanta” so you can
buy your dream property -
Julian Nathan, Managing Director Hold

Israel, the Holy Land and one of the world’s most popular travel destinations, is also the holy grail of real estate. Owning a property in Israel – whether for investment purposes or to make a home in Israel – is an aspiration for most, and for those who are able to invest in Israel’s real estate market, it is fast becoming a dream come true.

Once you have found your perfect real estate opportunity it is important to understand the intricacies of the Israeli mortgage system, or what is referred to as a ‘Mashkanta’ in Israel. This will help you make an informed decision when making the investment of a lifetime.



Can I get a Mortgage?

For starters, it is reassuring to know that as a foreigner investing in real estate in Israel you are eligible to apply for a mortgage.

As a foreigner:

- You can take out a mortgage of up to 50% of the purchase price in the currency of your choice – be it shekels, dollars, euros or pounds – for a period of up to 30 years or until the age of 80.
- If you are 50 or younger, you may qualify for a 30-year mortgage, and for those aged 60 and above, a 20-year mortgage (although a son or daughter over the age of 18 can mortgage co-sign a mortgage, provided they have an appropriate income.
- You can choose a combination of fixed and variable interest rates and there are ways to tailor your mortgage terms to suit your financial plans. This gives you the flexibility to choose the type of mortgage structure bundle. Although careful consideration should be put into the term of repayment, as there can be pre-payment penalties if terms aren’t adhered to.

The down payment required by a foreigner purchasing property in Israel is 50% of the purchase price - which applies to existing properties. If, however, you get in on the unstoppable growth of the Israeli property scene and look to buy a property that is part of a new development or a pre-construction project, a payment of between 15 – 20% will secure the deal. 30% -35% is then payable during the development cycle, and the balance of 50% is due on completion. This portion can be financed with a mortgage.

Don’t be concerned about the safety of your money during the development phase. The Sales Law 5734 (protection of investment) sets forth the obligation of the a developer to provide the buyer with a guarantee as a security for the return of all monies paid to him. The most common are the bank guarantees.

Generally, Israeli citizens are eligible to borrow up to 75% of the purchase price as a mortgage (depending on certain conditions, of course).

The best part about buying a property in Israel now is the fact that Israel currently has the lowest fixed mortgage rate that it has had in many years and consistently rising property prices only enhances your investment.

Make an informed decision.

As enticing as that sounds, it is critical to have all your proverbial ducks in a row before closing any deal. In Israel, a contract is binding even if your mortgage is subsequently declined. Contracts cannot easily be dissolved, so it is very important that you check your eligibility and get a pre-approved mortgage.

Sound overwhelming? We’re here to help!

As far as applying for your mortgage, it is also good to know that with Hold, the entire process can be done remotely. This is done through lawyers with a power of attorney to sign on your behalf, and we will also help you to open an Israeli bank account and deal with all the related administration.

For most people, buying a property is possibly one of the biggest investments that they will make. It makes sense to partner with someone you can trust.

Hold has been in this business for more than 25 years.

Integrity and trust are the foundations of the relationships we’ve built with clients over the years. These are the cornerstones of our business and the force behind our dedicated team.



Join our virtual Q&A
session in November.

Register by email nicci@hold.co.il

The contents of this article are designed to provide the reader with general information and not to serve as legal or professional advice for a particular transaction. Readers are advised to obtain advice from qualified professionals prior to entering into any transaction.

**CUSTOMER-FOCUSED
BROKERAGE**

**TURNKEY
SALES SERVICES**

**PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT**

Contact Julian Nathan

✉ julian@hold.co.il ☎ +27 87 551 0734

📞 +972 58 631 9754



SECURING YOUR FUTURE IN ISRAEL

Visit our website: www.hold.co.il

Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

Seeing heroes emerging

To make us all feel happier, we need to feel safe, secure, and well. And these three tiers in our lives have been battered and bruised over the past few years. However, I feel happier right now because I am seeing these needs being met again. You may be thinking that I have finally lost my marbles, but let me explain...

Our sense of wellness has been challenged severely by COVID-19, but we are well out of the third wave, and so many of us have been vaccinated. Now, we have the opportunity to get our youngsters vaccinated too. That's the best news I've heard in a long time.

I totally understand why some parents are a little hesitant to rush into vaccinating their children, but I believe that vaccination is our ticket out of this torrid coronavirus-ridden time we are living in. It's our ticket to freedom, travel, and having a semblance of our former life. I cannot imagine anyone of us is not longing for that. I sure am!

As my teenage boys said to me when I asked if they wanted to have the vaccine, "It's a no brainer, mom, we have to have it!" And apparently, I can't override their choice legally – not that I plan to.

However, I do get that some parents are nervous about putting chemicals into their children's bodies unnecessarily. Can I say, I have seen too much illness – even in young people – in the past year and a half to believe this is unnecessary. It's essential to protect your children, your other loved ones, the community, the country, and the world. It's that simple!

So, any good parent should hesitate, but don't pause for long because, as my boys said, "It's a no brainer, mom!"

The second tier I want to look at is safety. After hearing about the horrific murder of the much loved jeweller, Mark Kopelowitz, last week, I felt physically sick. I couldn't help imagining this father of four lightly saying goodbye to his family in the morning on his way to work, never thinking that it would be for the last time. They may or may not have kissed him goodbye because – as we all do – they assumed that he would be home at the end of the day, as normal. But that wasn't to be.

That's enough to shatter our sense of safety. However, there's another side to this horrific story and that's the fact that within hours, a crack team of investigators made up of our own CAP, the police, and others had culprits behind bars with evidence to take them to court.

Now, that's a huge accomplishment. You see, part of our feeling of insecurity is tied into the fact that we don't feel protected by the police anymore. However, this crack team is doing the most amazing work, particularly in our areas, and it's fighting crime in a way that it hasn't been fought for decades. They are bringing back our sense of security.

One of the worst issues regarding crime is criminals getting away with it. In so doing, they have no fear of doing it again and again, encouraging mayhem and an attitude that they are all powerful. This crack team is showing them that crime will no longer pay. They are changing the face of crime-fighting in our areas. Hopefully, their example will be followed around the country.

Isn't it amazing how it can be done with the right commitment, people, and technology?

Following on that, I would like to take you to another story we covered in Sandton this week.

An armed robbery right next to a Jewish school that could have ended in tragedy. But it didn't because of the quick thinking and action of teachers at the school and the Community Security Organisation. Their actions were so swift and calm, the nursery school children didn't even realise that they were all in their safe rooms because a real crime was happening. They were blissfully thinking it was another drill that they experience regularly.

So, those children will remain emotionally unscathed by this senseless attempted robbery.

Again, these people inspire safety and security in me. Living in South Africa, we have no choice but to accept the threat of crime. It exists, no matter how much we hate it. We just hope and pray we remain unscathed.

It is, however, essential to be vigilant and protect ourselves all the time. I know that sounds easier said than done – it is. And every one of us is going to let our guard down at some point. We're only human.

We just need to keep our guard up as much as possible and, should something happen, we must do whatever it takes to safeguard ourselves, our children, and those around us.

More and more, I'm seeing people doing just that. We may not personally be able to stop crime, but we can do our best to avoid it or use what we have learned to teach others.

Nicky Sher had a horrific experience when hijackers took her on a joyride, leaving her fearing for her life. (See page 3.) Incredibly, this brave woman has come out with her story in order to help others who may find themselves in a similar situation. She wants to warn and help them.

So, when I say that I believe these needs are being met, I really do. I see heroes emerging. I see a community gathering to put an end to the darkness in the only way we know how. I feel inspired and happy!

Shabbat Shalom!
Peta Krost Maunder
Editor



From despair to reunion – COVID-19 travel lock opens

OPINION

KIM KUR



"Please – next time he's going to kill her! Help me get my daughter away from him and to the UK so we can keep her safe!"

"It's just not fair! I can't get anyone at the embassy to answer my emails! He'll die before we get to see him!"

"My ex-wife isn't mentally stable and I have been granted full custody by the court, but I can't get a visa appointment to get my child to me in the US!"

"The South African High Commission said I should have applied for retention of citizenship but my Irish citizenship isn't through yet and now I'm stateless. Dirco and Home Affairs won't help, and my baby and I need to get home to her dad. Now what?"

"I don't have it in me to carry on! It's been nearly two years and will never end. I can't bear the pain and the hospitals are just too expensive. No one here in Malaysia cares about me! Kim, please help me!"

Daily calls like these are the reason I do what I do around the clock. I find ways to get as many as I can to their loved ones. While most are elated that holiday destinations are at long last opening up, I empathise with those relieved that they are finally in sight of an end to the desperation they've been subjected to. For them, it has felt like an eternity since COVID-19 sabotaged their lives.

The calls and messages come in so frequently, I've seldom had time to reminisce over the successes of those I've been fortunate to help. It's a blur of calming one individual after another. Each one has a story, and each story deserves to be patiently supported.

I take them on, but dare not take them in. Occasionally, I catch myself empathising too deeply, and have to remind myself that my shoulders need to remain strong to carry that person. Because later, another will need reinforcement to get through the night, and they will get past this moment.

Tourism isn't simply about Mr and Mrs Newlywed being able to go on that dream honeymoon, or the kids getting to run on the white beaches of Mauritius. For me, it's about travel agents eventually being able to feed their children; airline staff who have been sitting at home penniless getting that long-awaited call that they are needed back at work; hospitality staff at long last being able to feel the exhaustion they've missed from full hotels.

The list goes on of those who not only have taken far too many months of strain on their overdrafts, but who can wake up with a sense of pride and meaning they have long forgotten.

Embassy staff are slowly being granted permission to help as their hands are untied from the bans and regulations they had no say over. I feel for those always having to be the bearer of bad news. I know the relief of finally being able to deliver good news to the members of Community Circle Home SA for a change.

For many, it's the injustice of it all that hurts them – being forced to pay the exorbitant cost of hotel quarantine in order to get home for someone who has lost their job, or having to stay two weeks in another country simply to get to their final destination, away from work, and risking infection at each step – these are among the issues coming to an end for South Africans.

Governments are slowly peeling away layers of regulations. The opening of these countries means fuller, cheaper flights. We're seeing more cost-effective options for COVID-19 testing-to-fly allowed and in many cases, no testing at all. Right now, we're mostly able to go where we want to,

when we want to, at more affordable prices, and above all, with less stress.

For those who are fully vaccinated, the world has started to open up at a rapid pace. But for the vaccine hesitant, their choice is all but made for them as their need to get to loved ones in many cases depends on those two shots they weren't sure they wanted to have. No one should be forced into a choice like that based on travel, but the alternative is a weight they cannot bear.

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged our insatiable need for instant gratification, a need we've grown accustomed to having met. Most find the simple act of waiting their hardest battle. I wonder if we'll remember the lesson thrown our way, or slip back into old habits, forgetting to appreciate each moment afforded to us.

The United Kingdom has finally removed us from



the red list. The United States just announced that it is lifting our ban. Israel and Australia are following close behind. The vaccinated are being welcomed into more and more countries, with options for the unvaccinated fewer, but in some cases still possible with additional testing or self-quarantine. The pressure is slowly releasing. The stress of navigating the minefield of regulations is becoming easier to manage. We hold space for those who wish the country they need to open would "just get on with it". Till then, Community Circle is here to help you to take that strategic pause, work through the regulations you need to navigate, and travel with you.

For those traveling, stay safe! Airports and destinations are filling up at a time when the virus is still active. As tourism opens, countries are experiencing spikes in their numbers and at any given moment, variants or bans can suddenly reappear. South Africa still insists on a negative PCR test, which can prove difficult for those who recover from COVID-19 abroad and continue to test positive due to intermittent shedding. COVID-19 insurance cover is an essential, and I urge you to remain plausibly cautious when budgeting for trips abroad that may take an unexpected turn.

But above all, relish every new memory made with the loved ones you've missed so dearly, and spare a thought for those who will hopefully be allowed to enjoy the same thing soon.

• Kim Kur is the founder and lead volunteer for Community Circle Home SA on Facebook.

Book now for the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards rsvp@sajewishreport.co.za | 082 2929 520

Crack teamwork results in four arrests for Kopelowitz murder



NICOLA MILTZ

A crack team of investigators and crime fighters working night and day led to the swift arrest of four suspects within three days following the tragic murder of father of four Mark Kopelowitz.

Although it gives little comfort to the mourners, there is a shred of consolation in knowing that a team of dedicated, hardworking, and experienced crime fighters worked for days on end, often through the night, to bring the suspects to book. The case is still open, and more suspects are at large.

Within minutes of the murder, which took place outside Kopelowitz’s jewellery store in the Centurion Mall last Monday, 11 October, police and security agents sprang into action. The Gauteng Serious and Violent Crimes Unit speedily mobilised a multidimensional team including Community Active Protection (CAP) and other specialised intelligence units such as a tactical response team, crime scene laboratories, local police in Lyttelton, the Flying Squad, the K9 unit, and Fidelity Specialised Services.

CAP Chief Executive Mark van Jaarsveld said his organisation became aware of the incident soon after it occurred.

“It came onto our radar quite quickly. We have a sophisticated open-source collection capability set up to collect crime information across provinces on social media. As soon as we learned about the case, we communicated with the Gauteng Serious and Violent Crimes Unit with which we have established a good working relationship going back many years.”

Immediately, CAP sent field intelligence agents to the scene to try to assist police with intelligence and evidence collection.

Said CAP Chief Operating Officer Sean Jammy, “Our crime analysts work on signal intelligence such as closed-circuit television footage and other intelligence to help track the suspects. We relay this information to the SAPS.

“We were able to track the suspects using an extensive informer network,” Van Jaarsveld said. “Our intelligence led us to two suspects in Hillbrow within seven hours of the murder.”

The suspects were found in the champagne-coloured Polo vehicle (used as a getaway car during the armed robbery)

in Hillbrow at around 18:00.

Police were able to take the suspects down following intense surveillance, said Van Jaarsveld.

The team was then able to identify additional addresses and places of interest, and a third suspect was arrested after extensive surveillance the following day in Lyndhurst, Johannesburg. It’s understood he was driving a stolen vehicle which wasn’t used in the armed robbery.

“These were sophisticated criminals who knew what they were doing,” said Jammy. A fourth suspect was found later that day, at an address in Hillbrow, in possession of two guns which police believe were used in the crime.

“This is a joint-led investigation,” said Van Jaarsveld. “CAP is grateful to be able to assist police to bring criminals to book.

“We are a community, not-for-profit security organisation at the forefront of fighting crime and protecting our community. We are proud of having developed extensive capabilities not only to disrupt crime in the communities where we operate, but also to investigate it. And we have been able to develop strong relationships with the SAPS, which has helped us to target and hunt down criminals that have hurt our community.

“We are extremely thankful for the relationship we have developed over time with the Gauteng Serious and Violent Crimes Unit, which is made up of professionals who exemplify hard work and dedication.”

The same crack team has been responsible for making 262 arrests involving serious and violent crimes in the province this year, said Jammy.

“It’s mind bending to think of the impact this team is having on serious crime in the province. These criminals have been taken out of circulation.”

Since its inception, said Jammy, CAP has become a mean community funded crime fighting machine.

Van Jaarsveld who works with the police on the ground, said he had “worked in the trenches for years”.

“In order to fulfil CAP’s mandate, it’s vital to form lasting relationships based on trust, and I can’t do that behind a desk,” he said.

“We are at the forefront of protecting the Jewish community, and we have managed to develop serious expertise and relationships which we value.”

Big names, big conference, big hope for recovery

SAUL KAMIONSKY

We can’t talk about South Africa’s recovery without talking about Eskom, we can’t talk about Eskom without talking about the government, and we can’t talk about the government without talking about the judiciary.

This was the notion award-winning broadcast journalist Cathy Mohlahlana used to start the panel discussion during the 2021 South African Jewish Board of Deputies National Conference last Sunday, 17 October.

Mohlahlana moderated the discussion between Eskom Chief Executive Andre de Ruyter, Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana, and advocate Wim Trengove on the paths of hope and recovery in their respective fields.

De Ruyter painted a grim picture of the national electricity provider. “Eskom is a technically insolvent business that’s failing its customers on a more or less frequent basis with this phenomenon called load shedding, with capacity shortages beset by the legacy of corruption, and with old, unreliable plants. It’s difficult to spin a story of hope from that set of facts,” he said.

De Ruyter is encouraged by the fact that South Africa is endowed with some of the best wind and solar acreage in the world. “Our worst wind and solar acreage in South Africa is significantly better than

the best in Germany. If the Germans can make the transition to renewable energy and invest in wind and solar, surely so can we.”

Mohlahlana asked De Ruyter if Eskom could provide load shedding timetables so South Africans could start making plans for the upcoming municipal elections and December holidays.

“The Eskom system has a way of keeping me humble,” he responded. “As soon as I make a forecast, I’m proven wrong.”

Eskom’s system is old and has endured a hard life, been poorly maintained and, in some instances, suffered abuse by being run much harder than the international norm,” De Ruyter said.

“Therefore, our proposed solution isn’t to try and fix this old car,” he said. “Our proposal is to ensure that there is a transition in our generation technologies.”

He expressed concern about a recent report that identified South Africa as having double the global average carbon emissions and being the largest emitter of sulphur oxides in the world.

Godongwana is concerned about the state not knowing the results of its own actions. “It’s all very well saying that they have given so many injections for children, but what we want to know is the mortality rate. Checking outcomes is the key thing we want to do now. Has the money spent achieved the desired outcome?”

During the pandemic, the state allocated R500 billion to set up recovery programmes that would help to cushion certain sectors of the economy against the impact of COVID-19. According to the Institute of Social Justice, only about R134 billion of that has been spent.

“Most of that money is in parliament and in

publicly legally appropriated forms of adjustments. So, if it wasn’t legally appropriated forms of adjustments, it will be easy to say that it doesn’t exist.”

The lesson Godongwana takes from COVID-19 is that people and businesses in South Africa worked together without a single document being signed on how to work together. “That in itself shows that there is positive commitment among South Africans. The key question for us is how we channel that positive commitment in the right direction.”

Another positive, according to Trengove, is how the Constitution and the rule of law have evolved in this country.

A couple of decades ago, many parts of the population were sceptical or hostile to the Constitution. They regarded it as a foreign, liberal import unwelcome in Africa, according to Trengove. “I know that sentiment is still around, but the Constitution has been far more firmly entrenched and accepted by all South Africans over the past two decades,” he said.

As for the rule of law, the government launched what Trengove described as “a concerted attack on the judiciary” 10 years ago. It did this by announcing a review of the impact that the judgements of the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court of Appeal had on the transformation of society.

Trengove recounted how senior political

party officials and ministers went around making comments like, “When people go to the Constitutional Court, it’s merely to undo the government’s transformation of society.”

These weren’t just lone voices. “They were officially backed up by the government’s attack,” said Trengove. “But that attack failed, and in the past decade – the decade of state capture – the courts have prospered. The judges have asserted themselves, the rule of law, and the supremacy of the Constitution.”

However, the Judicial Services Commission (JSC) has failed South Africa in exercising discipline and in appointing judges, said Trengove.

“We have always had a range of judges, ranging from hopeless to brilliant, and that’s so in every society. But it’s important that we maintain a core of smart judges who are confident and capable. Frankly, the JSC hasn’t consistently given us those judges.

“It has, for instance, failed to appoint brilliant people – such as Jeremy Gauntlett, David Unterhalter, and Geoff Budlender. There is absolutely no rational explanation for the failure to appoint people of that kind. And it’s not an issue of racism. They have appointed many other white male judges.”

To Trengove’s mind, the lack of brilliant judges can be explained by “a resistance to intellectualism” and the identification of strong lawyers as “potential troublemakers”.

In spite of the gloom, people should stay in South Africa, Trengove said, because the rule of law is alive and well. Godongwana predicts that tackling crime is eventually going to be government’s top priority, and De Ruyter said there shouldn’t be load shedding over December as the “little lights” on Christmas trees consume very little electricity.





22-23 OCT



THE SHABBOS PROJECT IS HERE AND WE'RE READY TO KEEP IT TOGETHER!

Well done and thank you to our incredible shuls for the effort and work they've put in to create events and bring The Shabbos Project to life in our communities!

Shuls are the lifeblood of our dynamic Jewish community and this week they've organised amazing events to enable you to keep Shabbos together! Find exciting events and programmes happening at your shul!



Our wonderful shuls around the country are gearing up for a special Shabbos and have loads of events and activities lined up!

*Join a shul event near you and experience a magical Shabbat together as a community. **Please check with your shul before Shabbos, to keep up to date with any changes to the listed events.*

ACHIM

Friday night
• Join Achim for an incredible Shabbos experience! | Yeshiva Maharsha – Girls High School, 32 Livingstone Street, Fairmount

• Mincha
• Erev Shabbos concert and refreshments
• Kabbolas Shabbos and Maariv
• Message from the Chief Rabbi
• Group walks to shuls

AISH HATORAH

Shabbos day
• Walk starting point | James St, corner Edward Ave | 15h00
• Picnic | Jock Whyte Park | 15h30
• Walking to Aish | 16h15
• Mincha | 17h10
• Special Third Meal | 17h30
• Fun-filled children's service with Bingo and Minute To Win It! | 18h00
• Talk by Rav Alon Joseph: Discipline Is Freedom | 18h00
• Maariv | 18h45
• Musical Havdalah | 19h00

BAAL SHEM TOV

Shabbos day
• Shabbos walk | 15h00

BETH HAMEDRASH HAGADOL

Friday night
• Children's service | 18h00
• Kiddush – Cocktails, sushi and l'chaims | After shul (Scholars in Residence: Rabbi Yossi and Rachel Goldman)

Shabbos day
• Children's service | 10h00
• A lavish outdoor lunch | After shul (For the community)
• Third Meal followed by Havdalah – A Magical Musical Experience for the Soul | 18h00

BLAIRGOWRIE

Shabbos day
• Shabbos lunch brocha

CAMPS BAY HEBREW CONGREGATION

Shabbos day
• Guided walk in the forest | The Glen Forest | 16h00 (Refreshments served at the shul)

CHABAD OF BENMORE/RIVERCLUB

Friday night
• Celebrating the bat mitzvah of Liron Barashi
• Maariv | 18h15
• Kiddush | 19h00
• Dinner | 19h40

Shabbos day
• Exciting kids' programme
• Shachris | 09h30
• Kiddush lunch | 11h15 (RSVP)

CHABAD OF BLOUBERG – WEST COAST

Friday night
• Friday Night Live is Back! | 18h30 (Special guest: Batya Shmueli – former IDF naval officer and proud representative of Israel)

CHABAD OF FOURWAYS

Shabbos day
• Communal Shabbos lunch

CHABAD OF GREENSTONE

Friday night
• Friday night service | 18h15
• Friday night dinner | After shul (Guest speakers: Eitan and Marisa Koffler – booking essential)

Shabbos day
• Not My First Medical Rodeo | 10h30 (Shiur followed by brocha and ice-cream bar)

CHABAD OF LYNDHURST AND CHABAD OF GLENHAZEL

Shabbos day
• Third Meal Falafel and Hummus Bar | Glenhazel Shul | 16h00 (No need to book/ open to everyone)

CHABAD OF NORWOOD

Thursday
• Shabbos Project Challah Bake | 18h00

Friday night
• Shabbos Project Friday night dinner | After shul

CHABAD OF SANDTON

Friday night
• Holy Hour Happy Hour – L'chaims and Bites before Shabbos | The Shul Deck | 17h00 (For young professionals: ages 18+)
• Beautiful Maariv services with Chazzan Shmuly and the choir | 18h00 (Guest speaker: Dr Dean Gersun)
• Kiddush under the Stars | Outside Courtyard | After shul (Kiddush and Bites)

Shabbos day
• Coffee and Conversation | 08h45 (Guest speaker: Dr Dean Gersun)
• Shachris | 09h30
• Children's service | 10h30 (For kids age 4+ – prayers/games/snacks)
• Shabbat Mommy and Me | 10h30 (For kids age 0-3 and their moms – songs/ snacks/activity)
• Picnic in the Park | Woodmead Springs Park | 16h30 (Weather-permitting. Bring your own snacks)

CHABAD OF SAVOY

Shabbos day
• Picnic in the Park | Wynberg Park | 15h30 (Bring your own snacks)

CHABAD OF STRATHAVON

Friday night
• Davening | 18h00

Shabbos day
• Learning with the Chabad Yeshiva boys | 08h00 and 19h45 (Motzei Shabbos)
• Davening | 09h00
• Mincha | 16h45
• Picnic in the Park | Stellenberg Dog Park | 17h00
• Havdalah in the Park | Stellenberg Dog Park | After picnic

CHABAD OF UMHLANGA

Friday night – Shabbos day
• Full Shabbos experience Shabbaton at the guest house

CLAREMONT WYNBERG HEBREW CONGREGATION

Friday night
• Yes! Back at shul again | 18h30
• L'chaim under the Bedouin | After shul

Shabbos day
• Morning service | 09h00
• Kiddush Brocha-in-a-Bag | After shul

CONSTANTIA HEBREW CONGREGATION

Thursday
• Bat Mitzvah Club Challah Bake | 18h30
Shabbos day
• Kiddush/Brocha – Small, contained and featuring a pre-served bowl of Constantia Cholent!
• Mincha and Maariv | 17h30

EDENVALE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Thursday
• A Mosaic Evening of Crafts and Spirituality | 19h00 (Talk by Rebbetzin Gruzd)

EMMARENTIA SHUL

Shabbos day
• Unity walk from shul to congregant's home for a beautiful Summer Garden Brocha. (With Shiur from special guest - Rabbi Gidon Joffe)

GREAT PARK

Shabbos day
• Shabbat – A Taste of Redemption | 09h00
• Mystical Insights – Shabbat morning service | In the park | 09h30
• Kiddush – Clamber Club; Teens learn and soccer with Rabbi Eliyahu Sasson; Young professionals in conversation with CEO Greg Solomon, and Jono Leaf-Wright, CEO of Lions Cricket | 11h30
• Shabbos lunch – Covid-friendly | 12h45 (Booking essential – meat and chicken options)
• Personal reflections: Coreen Crown, Lance Novick, Noah Greenblatt, Romy Levy, Ron Melmed | After lunch
• Shabbat walk to the Freemans | 14h15
• Strengthening Our Faith: Simcha (Michael) Freeman | 14h45 (Dessert in the garden)
• Shabbat Melodies | Jhb Torah Institute: 26A Victoria Street, Oaklands | 16h50
• Evening service followed by Kiddush | 18h00

OHR SOMAYACH SANDTON

Friday night
• Great Big Shabbos Quiz
• Friday night dinner | After shul

OHR SOMAYACH SAVOY

Shabbos day
• Shabbos afternoon picnic | 15h45 (Community-wide afternoon in the park)
• Back to shul | 17h15
• Mincha at shul | 17h30
• Special picnic Third Meal with bagels | 17h50 (Booking essential)
• Maariv | 18h51

OHR SOM STUDENT SANDTON

Friday night – Shabbos day
• Shabbaton where university students are welcoming their friends to spend the Shabbos with us at the Sandton Shul community.

ORANGE GROVE HEBREW CONGREGATION

Shabbos day
• Brunch brocha in the garden with a guest speaker

JOHANNESBURG SEPHARDI HEBREW CONGREGATION

Shabbos day
• Shabbat lunch (Guest speaker Liat Amar Arran, please RSVP)

This coming Shabbos is THE BIG SHABBOS WALK!

Put on your walking shoes and head out with your family and friends for a relaxed walk around the neighbourhood. We'll all be on the streets together between **3pm and 5pm on Shabbos, 23 October**, so that we can meet for a *shmooze* or just give each other a big Shabbos Project wave and a special “Shabbat Shalom”, as we share in this beautiful Shabbos together!

Make sure to plan your route so you can get involved in the wonderful activities the shuls are planning, before or after The Big Shabbos Walk.

Look out for your shul's plans and the special Shabbos Project masks, available at your shul.

MILNERTON HEBREW CONGREGATION

Shabbos day
• Walk to the beach from shul | 16h15
• Mincha at the shul | 17h15
• Third Meal in shul | 17h45
• Shiur | 18h45
• Maariv followed by Havdalah | 19h40

OHR SOMAYACH GLENHAZEL

Friday night
• Tisch for the whole family | Ohr Somayach Sukkah | 21h00 (Refreshments will be served/all welcome)

Shabbos day
• Third Meal at various destinations (See details below)
• Unity davening with Na'Ar Somayach and Rabbi Abramson's Youth Minyan Shiurim (Grad Brocha/awesome kids' programme)
• Join The Big Shabbos Walk | 15h00
• Girls Bnos Programme | At OS or meet at the Altschuler home | 15h10 (5 -11 years)
• Dads and Lads – Special Mishnayos Programme, prizes and Third Meal | 17h10
• Teen girls | The Kirsh home | 17h30 (12+ years)
• Women | The Welcher home | 17h30

OHR SOMAYACH SANDTON

Friday night
• Great Big Shabbos Quiz
• Friday night dinner | After shul

OHR SOMAYACH SAVOY

Shabbos day
• Shabbos afternoon picnic | 15h45 (Community-wide afternoon in the park)
• Back to shul | 17h15
• Mincha at shul | 17h30
• Special picnic Third Meal with bagels | 17h50 (Booking essential)
• Maariv | 18h51

OHR SOM STUDENT SANDTON

Friday night – Shabbos day
• Shabbaton where university students are welcoming their friends to spend the Shabbos with us at the Sandton Shul community.

ORANGE GROVE HEBREW CONGREGATION

Shabbos day
• Brunch brocha in the garden with a guest speaker

OXFORD SHUL

Thursday
• Special Shabbos shiur (Psalm 92) | 13h00

Shabbos day
• Shabbos lunch (Booking essential)

PINE STREET SHUL

Shabbos day
• Special Shabbos Kiddush | 11h15

PRETORIA HEBREW CONGREGATION

Shabbos day
• Communal Shabbos lunch

SANDTON CENTRAL SHUL

Friday night
• Shabbos dinner (By RSVP for anyone keeping Shabbos)
• Sundowners | 17h30
• Candle-lighting meditation | 18h00
• Light up the World Together | 18h00 (Shhh! It's Batya's 40th! Let's get 40 candles in her honour – don't blow them out!)
• Vibey electrifying Maariv services | 18h00

Shabbos day
• Delicious brocha
• Coffee for Your Soul at shul | 09h00
• Joyous davening & vignettes | 09h30
• Big Walk | 16h00 (Visiting senior citizens at Willowbrook and other facilities in the area)
• Picnic | Mushroom Farm Park | 17h00
• Mincha and Third Meal | 18h00
• Maariv and melodious Havdalah | 18h51

SEA POINT UNITES
(BEIT MIDRASH MORASHA/CHABAD CENTRE SEA POINT/GREEN & SEA POINT HEBREW CONGREGATION/OHR SOMAYACH - SEA POINT/SEPHARDI HEBREW CONGREGATION)

Shabbos day
• The Big Shabbos Walk and Third Meal (Booking essential)
• Meet on the beachfront | On the grass in front of Bordeaux Flats | 16h30
• Soccer tournament/shiurim/games
• Mincha | Mincha at Weizman School | 17h30
• Seudah Picnic – A yummy picnic in a box | 18h00
• Official programme ends – but stay for Maariv and Havdalah | 19h00

SUNNY ROAD KEHILLA

Shabbos day
• Big Shabbos Walk | 16h30 (Route to follow)
• Mincha | 17h30
• Family Picnic on the Grass | 17h45

(Booking required)
• Groups of learning under the trees | 18h20 (Launching two new learning programmes)
• Maariv followed by musical Havdalah | 18h51

SYDENHAM HIGHLANDS NORTH

Friday night
• Kabbalat Shabbat | 18h00

Shabbos day
• Communal brocha in the garden (Featuring a musical kumzits with Chazzan Moshe and singers)
• Shabbos morning service | 09h00 (Guest speaker: Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein)
• Children's services with special prize for each child | 10h15

THE BASE SHUL

Friday night
• Shabbos Project for Kids: Friday night/ Shabbos morning/Shabbos afternoon and Havdalah (Loads of fun activities for all age groups)
• Young adults dinner: Dinner + Gin Bar (Booking essential)
Shabbos day
• Musical Havdalah (No charge/no need to book)
• Seudah for men | In The Base Square
• Seudah for women | At the Zulberg family
• Children's programme | 17h00
• Meet, Greet and Mingle | 17h00
• Mincha | 17h40
• Maariv | 18h45

THE SHUL AT HYDE PARK

Friday night
• Friday evening | 18h15

Shabbos day
• Shabbos morning | 09h30
• Moms and Tots | 10h45
• Picnic Lunch and afternoon walk to view our new shul building | After shul

TORAH ACADEMY

Saturday
• Shabbos Dessert Picnic | Front Lawn | 16h30

UMHLANGA JEWISH CENTRE AND SILVERTON RD SHUL
Wednesday
• UJW Unity Challah Bake | UJC | 16h30

Look out for special Shabbos Project masks, available at your shul.



Friday night
• WIZO Unity Candle-Lighting | UJC | 17h20
• Shul service/Kiddush L'chaim | 17h45

Shabbos day
• Communal lunch (Booking essential)
• Shul service/Kiddush brocha and shiur | 08h45
• Mincha and Third Meal | 17h15
• Havdalah service | 18h40

VICTORY PARK

Thursday
• Zoom Challah Bake | 19h00

Shabbos day
• Shabbos afternoon walk | In the Delta | 16h00

WEST STREET SHUL

Shabbos day
• Morning shiur | 08h30
• Shachris | 09h00
• Brocha | After shul

YESHIVA MIZRACHI SHUL

Thursday night
• Online flower arranging for your Shabbos table with The Stem Bar Florist | 20h00

Friday night
• Mincha | 18h00 (Kabbalat Shabbat with Yochi Ress/Dvar Torah with Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein)

Shabbos day
• Special children's service | 10h30 (Estee – ages 3-6/Tumbling Tigers – ages 7-12)
• “Shabbat in Summer” Panel | Piazza | 10h45 (Rabbi Wineberg, Rabbi Friedman, Rabbi Altman and Rabbi Raanan/Mizrachi Beit Midrash – Tova Goldstein (Lessons Learned from Her Surrogacy Journey)
• Horim Veyaladim | 16h30 (Exciting treats & prizes)
• Mincha | 17h00
• Communal Third Meal with drinks | Piazza | 17h30

For all you need to know about Shabbos and the Shabbos Project

theshabbosproject.org

Book now for the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards svp@sajewishreport.co.za | 082 2929 520

Israel’s vaccination rules may hinder South Africans, lobbyist says

TALI FEINBERG

Travelling to Israel may get easier soon, but with some rules that could hold South Africans back. According to former member of the Knesset (MK) Dov Lipman, from 1 November 2021, travellers to Israel may have to have a third booster shot, or have been vaccinated or recovered from COVID-19 within six months of their visit. “Those who were vaccinated more than six months ago may have a challenge in entering Israel. We are trying to influence the decision for the better,” he says.

As some time has passed since most South African Jews received their vaccines, and with no possibility of a third booster shot being offered anytime soon, this may make travelling to Israel difficult. Lipman is concerned that tourists who have access to third booster shots may be able to travel to Israel, but relatives of *olim* may be left out in the cold. Ironically, those who got vaccinated earliest may have the most difficulty, which he said is a “sad” reality.

Not all superheroes wear capes – some of them wear kippot – and Lipman is doing everything he can to stop this from happening. His organisation, Yad L'Olim, works to help *olim* thrive in Israel and lobbies the Knesset to drive government policies that provide new immigrants with the tools that they need to succeed in Israel.

Lipman did just that in a speech to the Knesset on 12 October. Addressing ministers and MKs, he said, “Right now, they are talking about a new plan. They are talking about tourists who will come from all over the world. There are countries with Zionist Jews whose family members made aliyah. And they have no ability to get the third vaccine dose. They have no ability to get it. So what’s going to happen? We’re going to have a state filled with tourists from all around the world who don’t have any special connection to Israel, and I am happy that they will come.

“But families who supported their family member’s decision to move to Israel won’t have the ability to come here. There must be an outcry from Knesset, from MKs and ministers, not to allow this to happen,” he said. “Yes, open the country to tourists, that’s fine, I have no problem with that. But let there be a plan. Actually, continue with the current policy enabling relatives who cannot get a third shot to come, and especially for there to be a true exceptions committee.

“There should be an easy to use link for those who have family weddings, Bar/Batmitzvahs or births. You cannot close the door on *olim* and their families when you are opening the door to tourists. I call on all of you to be our voices and take care of this.”

Lipman says that though Prime Minister Naftali Bennett wasn’t there when he spoke, “two MKs from his party were, and we’re now following up on what I said”. He says *olim* are already coming to him with concerns that their families may not be able to visit.

“We’re trying to make sure that they have the right balance of not



shutting the door on everyone while changing the rules. Things are still in flux regarding final decisions. I’m recommending to anyone who can get a shot [vaccine], whether it’s a booster, or their first one, or someone who has recovered [from COVID-19] last year, if you can get one, I’m recommending that. Because it will ease your ability to get into Israel after 1 November, and that would apply even if you didn’t have a first-degree relative in Israel.”

He says he spoke out because “I’m concerned that there’s no mechanism in place for first-degree relatives to visit if they haven’t been vaccinated according to Israel’s requirements.

And I believe that if people are going to undergo a full quarantine, testing, and the like, then there should be an option.

“Israel needs to be a place where *olim* know that their families can come. And yes, we have to take health concerns into account, and I’m not suggesting therefore just to open things up. But we shouldn’t rule out the possibility of families of *olim* coming. I also know that there are exceptions for weddings and births, and things like that, but the process has been complicated and not easy to use. I’d rather make it as user-friendly as possible for the benefit of *olim* and their families.”

New podcast takes us behind the scenes of the Concourt

TALI FEINBERG

Johannesburg advocate Mark Oppenheimer is so passionate about the law and the Constitutional Court, he has created a podcast that allows listeners to go behind the scenes of the most important cases in South Africa. “Constitutional Landmarks” explores everything from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) to the question of the death penalty, to Zuma’s legal battles, discussed in depth with the judges who made landmark findings and the advocates who stood before them.

“It’s a project I’ve been working on for a couple of years,” says Oppenheimer. “I wanted to interview judges and advocates who were involved in the biggest cases heard at the Constitutional Court [Concourt]. The idea is to have an eyewitness account to history. The public has become really invested in the Concourt and who sits on it, so this is to showcase the early days of the court and the big cases and figures in that court.”

Podcast episodes will be released every two weeks. “There are three prominent Jews involved [in the podcast]: Albie Sachs, Gilbert Marcus, and myself. So you get a sense of the role that Jews have played in developing our jurisprudence.”

Oppenheimer says this is especially relevant in light of the recent overlooking of Judge David Unterhalter for a position on the Constitutional Court. “Jews have played quite a prominent role in the Concourt and the development of our law, and it seems like there’s a move to stop that by denying them access. This is a reminder of the work that Jews have done.”

for the EFF [Economic Freedom Fighters] who brought the case to hold Zuma to account for irregular expenditure at Nkandla. It’s really the first time that the Concourt had ever held a president accountable. I include an extract from [Chief Justice Mogoeng] Mogoeng who was the judge in that case. He has this interesting passage where he talks about ‘the sword of justice chopping off the rotten head of impunity.’”

The second episode looks at the controversial issue of the death penalty. “I interview Johann Kriegler and Yvonne Mokgoro, who both sat in that case, and we talk about the arguments for and against the death penalty. Johan imposed the death penalty when he was a high court judge, and he talks about why people deserved to die according to the law at that time, but then when the law changed, you could no longer have a death penalty because we had a right to life. I interview Wim and Gilbert again. They acted for those facing the death penalty.”

The third episode is on litigation surrounding the TRC. “The political party Azapo [Azanian People’s Organisation] tried to stop the TRC on the grounds that it was limiting people’s access to courts. By granting perpetrators immunity, it meant that victims couldn’t sue civilly the people that had wronged them, so they couldn’t get financial compensation, and they said that was unconstitutional. I interview Albie Sachs who was one of the judges who heard that case. Gilbert is again involved in that. And there are some extracts from Desmond Tutu.”

This week, he released the next episode in which he interviewed Salim Nakhjavani, who was a prosecutor in the case against the Khmer Rouge after the Cambodian genocide. “We look at that as an alternative to the TRC process – if we had had a criminal trial process, and



Albie Sachs and Mark Oppenheimer in the Constitutional Court

He says that when conducting these interviews, he learned “an enormous amount”. “Basically, as a lawyer you really only have access to the judgements, so you can see the outcome but you don’t know what happened behind the scenes. So, it was an incredible experience to speak to people who were there. You find out things that no one else could possibly know.

“In that sense, it was a delight for me to find out the personal stories and the reasons why certain things happened. It’s kind of like being able to be backstage at a play and see the goings-on and the technical moves made by the different parties. For listeners, it’s about being able to ‘pull back the curtain’, look at an institution, and find out what really happens behind the scenes, the personal stories of the judges, and how that has played a role in the kinds of judgements they made.”

It was also a meaningful experience for the interviewees. “They really enjoyed the process, especially for those who reflected on cases that occurred quite a long time ago, or who have been retired for a long time, thinking of that era of South African history and their role in it was really important. Yvonne Mokgoro burst into tears when we interviewed her. I think it was quite powerful for her to think about why she became a judge and what her time was like at the court. And then having us reflect on it as well. She wrote the first free-speech case of the court and had quite an interesting role to play there, so her reflection on that journey was quite important for her.”

The first episode is the Zuma litigation. “I look at the contempt case and rescission application and also the Nkandla judgement,” says Oppenheimer. “I have original footage from those cases, so you can hear the judges reading out extracts from their judgements. Then I interview two advocates involved in the Nkandla case – Gilbert Marcus and Wim Trengove. Gilbert acted for Thuli Madonsela who was the public protector at the time, and Wim acted

how well it did in finding the truth of what has happened in genocide cases or in cases where states have done horrible things.”

Retired Justice Albie Sachs told the *SA Jewish Report* that he chose to be interviewed for the podcast because “the TRC was a very important phase in the life of South Africa. It had to happen, and it had to happen then to deal openly and honestly with terrible pain, acknowledge it, and move forward to changing the country. People had to come forward and talk about the terrible things they had done. It was very experiential, very emotional, and very meaningful. It didn’t solve the problems or the pain, but it made it easier to move the country forward.”

Sachs was essentially on both sides of the process, championing the TRC process even though he is a victim who suffered at the hands of the apartheid regime. “The person who organised placing the bomb that blew me up went to the TRC, and I didn’t oppose him getting amnesty. His name was Henri, and I’ve written a lot about my encounter with him and speak a lot about it. So, it’s not as though the TRC happened in 1996 and I forgot about it, it’s been a continuous part of my life.”

He believes that people should listen to the podcast and the TRC episode in particular because “the TRC was very controversial and rightly so, and there’s still a lot of unfinished business. The podcast will help people understand it better. There are many valuable different points of view. I was touched to hear my own voice at the end as part of multiple voices. The point of the TRC was to hear multiple voices, so it’s important that the podcast contains so many perspectives. The issues are deep, meaningful, and timeless.”

• The ‘Constitutional Landmarks’ podcast can be found at <https://anchor.fm/constitutional-landmarks> or www.youtube.com/c/ConstitutionalLandmarks

Farewell to the ‘heart, soul, and pulse’ of Bara

TRIBUTE

NICOLA MILTZ

It's not every day someone is buried in the section of Westpark Cemetery reserved for people who have displayed exceptional commitment to the community and humanity.

The late Professor David Blumsohn was one of them. Known as the “heart, soul, and pulse” of Chris Hani Baragwanath Academic Hospital (CHBAH) where he worked for 50 years, he was described by Rabbi Jonathan Fox this week as an “extraordinary human being, doctor, and committed Jew”.

The *SA Jewish Report* has been inundated with requests by esteemed medical colleagues, past students, and former patients wishing to write something in his honour.

In his 89 years, the humble humanitarian not only saved and touched thousands of people's lives, he changed them for the better, they said.

He devoted his life to the practice of medicine almost exclusively in the public sector, wholeheartedly serving the poorest of the poor in Soweto during and after the darkest years of apartheid.

With a mezuzah always firmly affixed to the door of his rooms at CHBAH, he told his students it was a reminder that Hashem was always present even during all the chaos and suffering.

As a principal physician and cardiologist, he headed one of the largest medical units at CHBAH.

He is fondly remembered for his encyclopaedic knowledge of medicine and his extracurricular passions which included Egyptology and hieroglyphics, even holding a doctorate in Semitic languages. Mostly, he's remembered for his kindness and compassion.

At his funeral, Rabbi Dr Dean Gersun described Blumsohn as “the ultimate mensch”.

“You only had to meet him for five minutes to be spellbound by his genuine love, care, kindness, and compassion,” he said, adding that he had “genuine care for his patients, for how they were, and who they were”.

He recalled the time when Blumsohn took off his own shoes to give to a patient who had to walk home from the hospital.

He told his students, “I’m driving home, he [the patient] has no shoes to walk home, he needs them more than I do.”

Gersun said he personally saw him take money from his wallet more than once on a ward round to give to a patient who would need fare for a taxi home.

He said students were “blown away” by his legendary ECG (electrocardiogram) tutorials, which he delivered over and over with the same excitement.

Students adopted him as their “mentor, friend, their teacher, or their *zaida* [grandfather]. His love and kindness knew no limits. Students of all races and religions became his unrelated family,” he said.

On one occasion, Blumsohn called him and a religious Muslim student doctor aside to explain the origins and connections between the Hebrew word “*shalom*” and Arabic word “*salaam*”. “Using a big brown X-ray envelope, he outlined how we all had a common origin and ancestor. Using hieroglyphics, he then explained how we could say hello, goodbye, and peace.”

After his retirement in 1997, Blumsohn continued to work at CHBAH as an honorary professor, and his door was always open to share his extensive medical knowledge with students and colleagues.

Specialist neurologist Dr Michael Huth said Blumsohn had a “limitless enthusiasm” for medicine and for the students he taught. This was



Professor David Blumsohn

overshadowed by his “unique and unmatched care for human beings”. Being an expert in hieroglyphics, he said Blumsohn would often stop him in the middle of a busy workday for a one-minute corridor discussion on the origins of words, names, or ideas in medicine or life in general.

“He made every colleague feel like his best friend and eased their burden by showering his warm glow of kindness, compassion, and humour on them. Seeing him interact with suffering patients was a moving experience and left a lasting [lifelong] impression. He lived every breath for others, and the influence of his manner with others or through

speaking to him, inspired those around him on a daily basis.”

Associate Professor Elise Schapkaitz said Blumsohn, “deplored injustice and decried the indifference shown to the plight of underprivileged patients in what he would often describe as an ‘unjust world’”.

She described Blumsohn as “a man for all seasons, with a fine sense of humour.”

“He loved chess, music, and cricket. And everything he did, he did well. He wasn’t just a player of chess but a grand master.” She said every student at CHBAH had a card with their name written in hieroglyphics from him.

“He wasn’t just my mentor on how to be a good doctor, but my role model on how to be a good person,” she said.

So many tributes were posted on Facebook.

Dr Danella Eliasov described him as one of the “kindest human beings” she had ever met. “I remember him crying outside ward 20 because there were no beds and patients were sleeping on the floor. I remember him telling me that I have an important job because a psychiatrist is a soul doctor.”

Dr Daniel Israel said his medical knowledge and bedside manner was “unique”.

Cardiologist Dr Riaz Garda said he had introduced him to his wife when she was an intern at CHBAH. “He has been close to our family for many years. During my illness, he contacted my wife about six weeks ago to offer her his unconditional support. He taught me that as a doctor, it's not how much you know, but how much you care.”

Dr Muhammad Manjra thanked him for “showing us that no matter how demanding medicine can be, no matter how many times we may get beaten, broken, and battered by an overloaded, understaffed,

and dysfunctional system, we must always be kind, empathetic, caring, and attentive to our patients. You helped us keep our spirits strong in a system designed to break it.”

Rabbi Ami Glixman from Our Parents Home said Blumsohn never missed a *minyan* or a *shiur*. Even when he wasn’t feeling strong, he strengthened himself to attend shul. In fact, right until erev Yom Kippur, he was at shul.

Blumsohn and his siblings, Maurice, who lives in Johannesburg, and Tzilla, who lives in Israel, were born and raised in Roodepoort. They grew up in an observant home and their father, who arrived in South Africa from Lithuania when he was 18 years old, ran religious services in Belfast and Nigel and later became a *shochet* (qualified to slaughter meat according to Jewish law)

Blumsohn attended Krugersdorp High School, and went on to study medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand. He married his love, June, one of CHBAH’s first radiologists, who passed away when she was young. He lived in the couple's home in Kew, Johannesburg, for about 40 years before moving to Our Parents Home about four years ago.

Maurice told the *SA Jewish Report* this week that he “couldn’t have wished for a better brother.”

“He was always wonderful. He was my closest friend and cared about others more than he cared about himself.”

He recalled that his brother was always bright, and believes he had a photographic memory.

“David was in second-year medicine when I was studying hard into the night during my matric year. He used to sit in an armchair reading large medical journals like they were novels, and get up at 21:00 and go to bed having absorbed everything. He also beat me at cricket.”

Blumsohn was published widely in medical literature, and was invited to leading international medical institutions as a visiting professor. He was the recipient of the PV Tobias and Convocation Award for distinguished teaching in 1996, and was guest speaker at the final year medical students' ball for five years, testament to his popularity amongst students. He was awarded the Gold Medal of the University of the Witwatersrand in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to the Faculty of Health Sciences, his students, and the Soweto community.

Said Huth, “In a world and a time when most heroes are only on the screen, he was a precious, real-life hero and mentor to so many.”

He had no children of his own, but his countless patients and students were his family for life.









FOR MORE INFORMATION

+972-52-7771715





Good governance, diversity, community – it’s all in a day’s work for

Many South Africans present themselves as change-makers in local government. ‘SA Jewish Report’ journalist **Saul Kamionsky** speaks to a number of candidates to find out why readers should vote for them. This is the first of a two-part series.

Paul Jacobson
Freedom Front Plus
Cape Town: Ward 54 (which includes Camps Bay, Clifton, and Sea Point)

Before entering politics, Paul Jacobson was a community activist, dealing with matters affecting his area – Sea Point through to Camps Bay. He chaired many meetings on behalf of previous councillors, met regularly with the mayor to discuss solutions to issues, and wrote thousands of messages to various city authorities, national government, and the South African Police Services.

“I orchestrated countless community walks, giving dignity to our area,” says Jacobson. “And I embarked on a massive, irate boycott campaign against the city for lack of service delivery. That was my activation, and the community suggested that I take up a more formal position.”

Out of the nine political parties he met, the Freedom Front Plus (FFP) stood out for him.

“The FFP had the same moral principles as me, was a supporter of Israel and Judaism, and would allow me to express myself without restraint. I was also incredibly impressed that the FFP was representative of the ‘Rainbow Nation’.”

In the FFP’s last meeting to elect a candidate for ward 54 for this year’s municipal elections, those present insisted that Jacobson, a local, take up the position.

He believes people should vote for him because he’s passionate about the ward. “I live in and love this area. I grew up in Camps Bay; I went to Sea Point Boys High. My children are still in Camps Bay, and I’ve got history going back to my grandparents here.”

Even his business, which produces naturally-based nutrition and alternative remedies for dogs and cats, is in Sea Point.

“I’m a businessman, not a politician. The advantage of that is you think out of the box, and come up with alternative ideas, initiatives, to deal with the challenges

that we have. Being a type-A individual, I get my teeth stuck into a project and don’t let go until it’s completed.”

After breaking his back in a paragliding accident 20 years ago, he lay in a bed for six months without being able to move his body.

“Every single night, I had faith. I prayed to my G-d, I listened to Andrea Bocelli and Pavarotti, and I imagined my toes moving.”

After four months, he got something to move and, after six years, he has got almost everything to move.

He has served in the Israeli military as a paramedic, and spent 11 years of his life living in the most remote areas of the world – from Tibet and northern Spain to Bolivia and China. “For that, you need to have the utmost respect for people’s cultures, and you’ve got to love human beings, and I do.”

Ten years ago, he formed the Humus, Gherkins Support Group. “As a proud Jew, I set this up to counteract the BDS [Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions] movement, and to encourage our Jewish folk to support Israel by buying Israeli-made products.”

As a Zionist, he takes heart from the FFP standing up for Israel in Parliament recently.

“It’s beautiful that I’ve finally found a wonderful party that will stand up for us Jews, showing our principles are no less worthy than any others, and helping to stop our Jewish people from leaving in hordes.”

What he also finds “absolutely amazing” about the FFP is that many of its officials are advocates, doctors, and academics, and leading up to the elections, it’s ignoring negativity and promoting positivity.



Sidney Anolik
Freedom Front Plus
Johannesburg: Wards 72, 73, and 74

Sidney Anolik was a member of the Democratic Alliance (DA) and the Congress of the People (COPE) before joining the FFP on 2 January 2016, becoming the lone Jew in the party.

“I was a nice Yiddishe boy walking around with a kippah at their meetings,” the former plumber recalls. “But I got plenty of respect.”

Anolik considers the FFP to be a party that’s moving forward, not backwards. “Plus, it would stand by all its ideals as it wasn’t hungry for votes,” he says.

What also appealed to Anolik was the FFP seeing the minority vote as just as important as the majority vote.

“The FFP protects the rights of minorities, such as Jews, Afrikaners, Portuguese, Italians, and Greeks. By worrying about only affirmative action and BEE [black economic empowerment], you are saying, ‘bugger you minorities’, and the principle of employing the best person for the job is superseded by colour. The FFP works completely differently.”

First, Anolik says the FFP doesn’t ask the Jewish community for money. “Let’s prove ourselves to you and if we do, then you can donate to us. This policy was a bit of an eye-opener for me.”

In addition, Anolik stresses that the FFP is a centre-to-right-wing party that believes in self-determination, economic freedom, lowering taxes, and creating jobs.

“We also believe that the taxes coming from households and businesses in each ward should go

towards that ward and fixing up the problems there. We believe that rates and taxes mustn’t be paid by pensioners whose property is worth a certain value. We believe also in smaller municipalities. We believe that Joburg should be on its own. Randburg and Sandton should have their own councils like we used to have in the old days before 1999.”

Anolik now serves as the party’s head of minority desk, a position established in 2019 to look after, protect, and help minority groups.

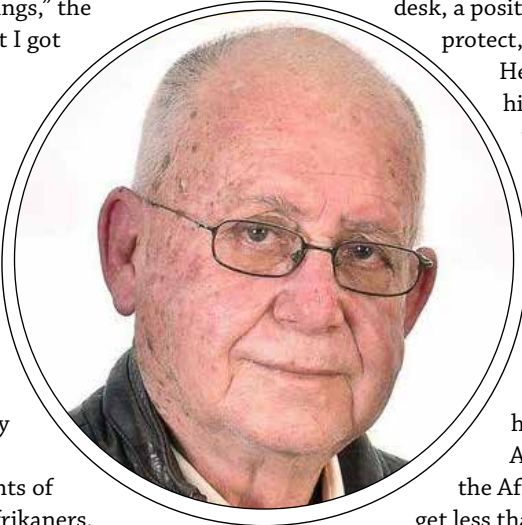
He believes people should vote for him because he’s a “people person” who lives in the community. “I know where there are potholes and where there is blocked sewage. People phone me for help and the same day, their problem is sorted out.”

He also promises to close illegal businesses. “All of us are scared to drive down Louis Botha Avenue because of all the illegal drug houses, whore houses, and shebeens.”

According to Anolik, the FFP hopes the African National Congress (ANC) will get less than 50% of the vote in the upcoming municipal elections. “If that happens, there will be a coalition, and the coalition will depend on us. If we go into a collation, we’re not just going to do what the other party says. We’ll do what’s right.”

Politics aside, Anolik is a nature-lover whose pride and joy is his Facebook page, “Magnificent Animals and Nature from all over the World”. He has spent at least 30 years working with the Jewish community.

“For many years, I provided counselling on alcohol and drugs for the Jewish community, and I serve them before anybody else. At the FFP, we support Israel 100%. We say Israel is an independent country and Jerusalem is the undivided capital. The West Bank belongs to Israel, and Jordan is the capital for Palestinians.”



Errol Anstey
Democratic Alliance
Only on the PR ballot

Since entering politics as a 14-year-old in 1974, Errol Anstey has held numerous positions in the Progressive Party, the Progressive Federal Party, the Democratic Party (DP), and the DA.

On top of that, he led a significant turnaround of the South African Habonim Dror youth movement during his 20-year spell as *manhig* (leader) of the movement. The first South African recipient of the World Zionist Organisation’s Herzl Award in 2004, Anstey also volunteered his proportional representation (PR) seat as a DA member to a newcomer for three months in 2016.

Today, he is the deputy chief whip of the DA in the council, and sits on the DA corporate executive. “I didn’t seek the leadership position,” he says. “With this being my last term, I’m hopefully going to be more involved in training and developing new councillors.”

He believes the DA has the right policies and the vision for a South Africa for all. “Wherever we govern, we govern efficiently and properly. We may make mistakes, but we fix them. And when someone is naughty or gets caught out for corruption, we get rid of them fast.”

He says the “funniest thing” is that when the ANC is at its weakest in its history since 1994, white voters are considering splitting the opposition and voting for small start-up parties.

“But the only viable option is to unite under the DA. This was one of the biggest problems in Zimbabwe. [Robert] Mugabe lasted for so long because the opposition kept splitting.”

Anstey urges voters not to lose sight of the bigger picture by changing their vote when small things upset them. “The point is that if the DA does badly on 1 November, South Africa loses, and another 100 000 people immigrate next year.”

He backs this up by using the DA-run Western Cape as an example. “The largest investment coming into this country goes to the Western Cape. We are the tourist hub, the film industry hub, the call-centre hub, the insurance hub, and most companies are relocating to the Western Cape. We have a continuous migration of the population up north to Cape Town. Our coastal cities are blooming. Property prices are soaring, and Cape Town has become a desirable place to live. We have the lowest unemployment because the DA government works. By running an efficient government, you create employment, and develop towns and cities. It’s all about well-managed municipalities. If the DA can take control of the five major metros in this country, we can turn South Africa around.”

Asked about the DA’s stance on Israel, Anstey says, “There’s no place for the Israel-Palestinian conflict in South African politics. The DA does everything in his power to make sure that’s not a focus. And, unfortunately, people are introducing the Israel-Palestinian conflict into a local government election, which has nothing to do with the conflict, or has any input or influence on that matter. The DA’s policy on Israel is exactly the same as the South African Zionist Federation and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. Every statement issued by the DA on this matter is always in line with those organisations’ statements. That’s a fact. If South African Jews want to protect Israel, the best party to do that would be the DA which has experienced the issues under the ANC.”



Absa Jewish Achiever Awards

2021

VOTE FOR YOUR ABSA JEWISH ACHIEVER 2021 NOMINEES

RSVP@SAJEWISHREPORT.CO.ZA



Book now for the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards rsvp@sajewishreport.co.za | 082 2929 520

these politicians

Nicola Jowell Democratic Alliance Ward 54

Nicola Jowell lived in an area with several severe crime incidents in 2008. Since then, she has volunteered for community safety work and is an active community activist.

"People were crying out for more policing, saying 'The South African Police Service must be more,'" she recalls.

Wanting to help look after her fellow community members, Jowell started a neighbourhood watch with two other women in July 2008.

"We grew into a huge neighbourhood watch, consisting of 1 400 members, active patrols, and an extensive licence plate recognition camera network."

Through her involvement in the neighbourhood watch, she became a member of the Cape Town Community Police Forum executive committee, and was on its board for 10 years in various capacities.

"All of that community, volunteering, and involvement meant I was dealing with civic issues more and more, and engaging with local ward councillors. I also sat on the board of the Ratepayers Association. So, it was almost a natural progression. I never decided to be a politician at any point. It just sort of morphed that way."

Around 2011, she joined the DA and attended a few meetings.

"The DA has always been the only option that aligns with my personal values. Since it took over in the

Western Cape, we've seen a marked difference in the running of this province compared to the rest of the country."

She became more actively involved in the DA in 2016, joining her local branch and chairing it from that point onwards.

"At the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019, I got heavily involved when I stood for ward councillor position in ward 54 during the by-election."

Her undertaking to the community at that time was to be on the ground and improve service delivery in the ward. "During my term, I've done exactly that. I've spent time engaging with communities. When there's an issue, I come out to see and deal with it, bringing city officials to the site. I have been very much hands-on. I've focused on communication, which was something the community was crying out for. The good relationships and partnerships I've built with the community have galvanised community organisations. I've also not been scared to tackle the big issues in an environment where people perceive city councillors as being bound by the status quo."



Last year, Jowell managed to halt changes to public transport parking rules which she believed would increase traffic and have a negative effect on the built environment in Sea Point.

"This is an indication that I'm not afraid of shying away from the hard issues as well as tackling on-the-ground issues."

One of her highlights has been to improve

the lives of the homeless in her ward. "We now have 15 dedicated field workers engaging with the homeless on a day-to-day basis. That's something that no other ward in the city has."

The ideals of one South Africa for all, fair opportunity, and diversity are important to Jowell. "I believe we should be building a society where everybody has equal access to what the person next to them has."

Tyrell Meyers Democratic Alliance Johannesburg: Ward 23 (which comprises Bassonia, Glenanda, Glenvista, Mayfield, Mulbarton, Rispark, and South View)

Tyrell Meyers became interested in politics around the age of 12. He remembers that closely following the 1994 elections made him want to understand and learn more.

About 15 years ago, he joined the DA as he knew he could make more of a difference with the support of a strong party.

By the age of 20, he had been elected as a PR councillor.

In 2017, he was elected as chairperson of the Oversight Committee for Transport. He helped to ensure that the M2 highway rehabilitation was completed on time and within budget in 2019.

Together with a South African non-profit organisation, he started early childhood development centres in two locations in Johannesburg.

Meyers stood for ward 124 in the 2016 local government elections, coming in as a PR councillor.

In the upcoming municipal elections, he's the DA's candidate for ward 23.

"I think I've got the support of my ward in the upcoming election," he says.

"I'm quite confident I'll secure it with quite a large majority."

He says people should vote for him because he's a dedicated public servant with a proven track record.

He gives an example of how he dealt with a burst pipe in Johannesburg.

"Johannesburg Water should come in and replace the pipe, but one has to phone them, saying, 'Don't forget to

replace the pipe.' That's something I shouldn't need to be doing. But as councillors, you're actually left with no choice but to step in, take ownership, and be proactive to get them to do the job. That's something I do very well, and I'm passionate about it. I've done well in ward 23 in the time I have been there."

He has managed to get roads redone, potholes filled, streetlights fixed, trees growing, and facilitated other visible service delivery. "Residents can attest to that," Meyers says.

One of the highlights of his career in politics has been his time serving as chairperson of the Johannesburg south constituency, which looks after all the wards in the area – namely, wards 23, 54, 55, 56, 57, 124, and 125.

"We've made it quite an inclusive constituency which is also more dynamic, driven, active and proactive in its approach. We actually prepare for things far in advance instead of waiting for an election. We've brought a lot of teamwork."

Meyers' motto has always been about building an inclusive constituency that's centred on teamwork.

"We've got a mix of councillors who come from different backgrounds. We've got black and white councillors, we've got Muslim and Jewish councillors, we've got gay and straight ones. We've got all these different types of public representatives and activists. And I believe we're setting the tone for an ideal diverse South Africa that provides opportunity, freedom, and diversity for all."



Paul Smit Freedom Front Plus South of Johannesburg: Wards 23 and 54

As an 11-year-old in 1977, Paul Smit started helping a political party without knowing anything about its policies.

"Later, I discovered what its policies were, and I got the hell out of there," he recalls.

He left the political scene for a while before joining the DP in 1999, becoming a councillor the following year. In 2005, he decided to convert to Judaism after seeing the remnants of the Holocaust while taking part in the March of the Living in Poland.

Smit had started to question certain principles of Christianity in 1981. Having initially struggled to find someone willing to facilitate his conversion, he hopes to finalise it in six months' time.

Although he proudly served as a ward and PR councillor for the DA (formerly the DP) for many years, he started falling out with the party over its stance towards Israel in 2013.

"That was the beginning of the end for me. I just couldn't forgive them for what they did. But I still stuck it out at the DA, giving my utmost best even if I didn't agree with everything."

In 2016, he left the DA as he wasn't well. Following a three-year break from politics, he joined the FFP because he saw it as a well-run party which fought for minorities.

In spite of being at the FFP for just more than two years, he has been selected as a councillor for the upcoming municipal elections.

"For a first-timer to actually get into an electable position is unusual because they like to keep you back to see what your capacity is. But I think my 15 years in council was partly responsible for them letting me go through."

Smit says people should vote for him because during his previous spells as a ward councillor, he was active in pushing for law enforcement on environmental issues and fought for people's rights to correct billing as well as efficient municipal services.

He recalls an example when a traffic light was

needed by a school in his ward. "We put up a five-year fight for it, and we got it. Fighting for the benefit of others has always been a passion of mine. And I hate seeing people struggle, especially the elderly."

One of the highlights of his career was when he got invited to a conference hosted by a South African disabled organisation after a speech he delivered in council on the lack of compassion towards the disabled and elderly in this country.

Smit has always been passionate about this issue. "Society will be judged by how they treat the elderly and the disabled" is one of his favourite statements in council.




"In South Africa's case, we've failed miserably," he says.



he says.

THE WHITE HOUSE GALLERY

WE BUY AND SELL ARTWORKS BY SOUTH AFRICAN & INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS



SEEKING TO PURCHASE ARTWORKS BY:

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

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

Artworks L-R: Jim Dine, *Very Lite in Japan* . Frank Stella, *Shards II* . Pablo Picasso, *21.2.69 I from Portraits Imaginaires*
- available for purchase -

A community that inspires the world

OPINION

CHIEF RABBI DR WARREN GOLDSTEIN



Over the years, so many people around the world have said to me that the Shabbos Project could only have been born in South Africa. Who can forget that ground breaking Shabbos in October 2013 when nobody in the world had heard of the Shabbos Project?

Nobody thought it possible for Jews, from all backgrounds, to unite across our differences and keep a full Shabbos. Nobody thought it possible until we, the South African Jewish community, showed everyone that it was. And so, what started right here, with us, in 2013, has since spread to more than 1 500 cities and 100 countries around the world. We showed the world how to “keep it together”. We inspired the world.

As the sun sets this Friday, in Los Angeles and London, Melbourne and Moscow, Buenos Aires and Berlin, Tel Aviv and Tokyo, Manila and Montreal, Addis Ababa and Ashkelon, Sao Paulo and Seattle, and everywhere in between – Jews from all walks of life and all levels of observance are coming together to keep one Shabbos. And it all started with us.

The Shabbos Project was born here because of so much that’s unique and admired about our South African Jewish community throughout the world. Our unity and inclusivity – the mutual respect and bonds of friendship that cut across religious and other differences – is world renown. The Shabbos Project is all about Jewish unity, and we’ve

shown the world that we don’t judge or label each other; that the only thing that matters is that we are Jewish.

Then there’s our fierce dedication to our Jewish heritage and values. The Shabbos Project was born here because as a community we have a deep respect for the Torah’s awesome, divine wisdom. And it’s the Jewish values that emerge from our Torah that have always held our community together; values that have instilled within us compassion and kindness, *derech eretz*, a commitment to community itself. Our close-knit families. Our tenacity and can-do spirit. Our creativity and boundless optimism. These are the reasons the South African Jewish community is revered around the world.

We all know the problems we face here as well. We’ve weathered a turbulent two years with the pandemic, a global challenge. But we’re also dealing with a number of local problems – the aftershocks of the July riots, ongoing load-shedding, lack of government delivery – and perhaps the biggest challenge of all, increasing financial pressure on so many families and institutions within our community.

And while there remain great challenges, it’s the very challenges we faced and overcome through the years that have brought out the remarkable resilience, strength, and creativity of our precious community. We’ve been through so much, we’ve been written off many times – and yet here we are, still thriving.

On the occasion of the ninth annual Shabbos Project, let’s step back for a moment and appreciate how special our community is. Our schools, shuls, welfare institutions, our security organisations, the abundant and vibrant Jewish life, the extraordinary Jewish infrastructure, the closeness and camaraderie, the disproportionate contribution we make to the greater society make us one the great Jewish communities in the world.

Especially at this time of the Shabbos

Project, I see the magic, beauty, and magnificence of our community. I’m not blind to our problems and shortcomings. Over these past 17 years as chief rabbi, I’ve seen us go through a lot, sometimes at our best and sometimes not. And yet, I’m so proud of our community, inspired by the way we have rallied to meet our challenges together.

On this special Shabbos of the Shabbos Project, let’s celebrate as a community and give grateful thanks to Hashem for all our gifts. Let’s celebrate our incredible achievements and the bountiful blessing of being part of this community. Let’s celebrate Shabbos together in grand style, remembering that the world looked to us for inspiration eight years ago – and it’s looking at us still.

Shabbos Project in 1 500 cities

SIMON APFEL

The Shabbos Project is once again happening this weekend in more than 1 500 cities and 100 countries around the world.

Following last year’s pivot to home-based Shabbos experiences and Zoom challah bakes – necessitated by the pandemic – this year, the Shabbos Project is close to returning to pre-COVID-19 levels of involvement.

In South Africa, events centre

COVID-19 point of view.

All across the world, things are back in full swing.

Among the new initiatives: a student from Cornell University in New York is leading a campaign among fellow students to switch off their phones for Shabbos. International youth movement EnerJew is co-ordinating the “Gift Shabbos” campaign in which Jewish teenagers in 20 cities in the former Soviet Union will bake challah and deliver it along with greeting cards and candles to

students in Jerusalem, Madrid, and Porto.

The Global Jewish Pen Pal Program is organising a challah bake for its community of Jewish pen pals of all ages living around the world. Beit Issie Shapiro, Israel’s pioneering leader and innovator in the field of disabilities, has launched an accessible Shabbos-themed digital platform to help children around the world learn about Shabbos in an engaging and exciting way.

And Zehud, which provides online Jewish education to children in isolated Jewish communities across Europe, is hosting a Zoom challah bake for families from all 57 regions where it’s active.

In Prague, Czech Republic, a community Shabbaton will include Shabbos dinner at a local kosher restaurant, a children’s prayer workshop, and a havdalah concert at the Lauder Jewish day school. Cali, Colombia has an all-week programme, including a flower workshop for women, cocktail class for men, and a Thursday night pizza bake, followed by a central Shabbaton for the community. And in Birmingham in the United Kingdom, four very different organisations – Aish UK, Chabad,

Jsoc, and the University of Birmingham Chaplaincy – are joining forces for a special student challah bake.

In Israel, where the Shabbos Project has been a real unifying force in society, a group of women in Kochav Yair have organised a street kiddush for the entire yishuv for people of all levels of observance to get to know each other better. In Eilat, open-invitation Shabbos dinners are happening at four central locations across the city. In Karnei Shomron, members of the religious Bnei Akiva and secular Tzofim youth groups have joined forces to arrange a Shabbos gala dinner for soldiers from the local battalion. And, the residents of

Raanana will be providing hot, homemade Shabbos meals to Magen David Adom first responders. Finally, a group of Israel-based influencers on Instagram, from diverse backgrounds and varying levels of observance, are publishing a series of posts to bring awareness of the Shabbos Project to a younger audience.

Meanwhile, a woman in Park Potomac in the United States is going door to door in her neighbourhood, inviting anyone with a mezuzah for Shabbos. Organisers of a challah bake in Lisbon, Portugal are using the proceeds to distribute Shabbos meals to Jewish families in need. And in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia, four families new to the Shabbos experience are hosting Shabbos dinner – they’ve invited all their neighbours and have received a special Shabbos kit to assist them with the preparations.

Other highlights include a glow-in-the-dark challah bake in Toronto, Canada; Guatemala reopening its shul for special Shabbos services after a two-year hiatus; a Shabbos dinner run by and for university students in Nice, France; and a Shabbaton for high school learners in Montevideo, Uruguay.



Getting stuck in at a challah bake in Johannesburg, 2018



Musical havdallah in San Salvador, El Salvador, 2019



Rafi and Shai Zagey carrying Shabbos boxes



The
South African
Gold Coin
Exchange
THE MARKET LEADERS



GIRL WITH A PEARL EARRING €250 ½ KG SILVER COIN

The Monnaie de Paris pays tribute to some of the most beautiful works that have been made or exhibited in France since 2017. As the first piece this year, they have chosen to honour the renowned painting by Johannes Vermeer "Girl with a Pearl Earring."

This spectacular coin boasts the artwork in an actual depiction on the obverse, in full colour surrounded by an engraving of the real frame that completes the artwork illusion. Featured on the coin is also the artist's name, his birth and death dates and the year the coin was minted. The reverse of the coin is common to the series released by the Monnaie de Paris, depicting several views of many major French museums.

AN EXCLUSIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH MONNAIE DE PARIS



.....
AUTHORIZED
DISTRIBUTOR
.....

VISIT US AT: THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD COIN EXCHANGE HEAD OFFICE - 4TH FLOOR, ATRIUM ON 5TH, SANDTON, JHB · BROOKLYN MALL · SANDTON CITY · WALMER PARK · EASTGATE · SOMERSET WEST · GATEWAY MALL OF THE NORTH · LIBERTY MIDLANDS MALL · PAVILION MALL · CANAL WALK · V&A WATERFRONT

SHOP ONLINE AT [SCOINSHOP.COM](https://www.scoinshop.com) | CALL 011 784 8551 | T'S & C'S APPLY

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Making us count in the conversation

Let me introduce myself. My name is Karen Milner, and I'm the newly elected chairperson of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD). I look forward to engaging with all of you through this column, and welcome any feedback, comments, and input.

It's my pleasure to start my tenure by announcing the results of the elections of the SAJBD national positions:

- Shaun Zagnoev – national president
- Mary Kluk – national vice-president
- Zev Krengel – national vice-president
- David Kuming – national treasurer
- Marc Pozniak – national vice-chairperson (Gauteng)
- Rael Kaimowitz – national vice-chairperson (Western Cape)
- Susan Abro – national vice-chairperson (KZN)

Our elections took place last Sunday, 17 October, as part of the SAJBD's biennial national conference, and it's an amazing privilege for us to begin our term of office on the back of such an inspiring and thought-provoking event. The Board's national conferences are typically a hybrid of past, present, and future, where reflecting on the events of the previous two years goes hand in hand with assessing current realities and looking to the potential challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. This conference was no exception, addressing issues of real substance while also showcasing what the Board has done on behalf of its constituency.

We were honoured to have an exceptional panel, comprising Finance Minister Enoch Godongwana, Advocate Wim Trengove, and Eskom Chief Executive Andre de Ruyter to address the critical challenges facing our country – the economy, the rule of law, and electricity. None of the speakers attempted to airbrush the sobering reality of the difficulties ahead, but they also relayed a message of genuine

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

ABOVE BOARD

Karen Milner



hope. This message was reinforced as we learned about the remarkable work done by the recipients of our communal leadership awards – the Kirsh family; Professor Barry Schoub; Dr Richard Friedland; Uriel Rosen (the initiator of the Hatzolah COVID-19 Wellness Programme); and Vivienne Anstey. We are humbled and inspired by their example. They showed the truth of Margaret Mead's profound words, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Upholding Jewish civil rights remains the core mandate of the SAJBD, but its mission includes leading the community in being an active, identifying part of society. By addressing at our conference such critical issues as the economy, the role of the judiciary, and the Eskom question, we helped ensure that the community, in spite of its small number, continues to be a dynamic part of the national conversation. I congratulate all those who helped to put this very successful event together, and in particular, our superb professional staff team headed by Wendy Kahn. The widespread media coverage that the conference generated, together with the interest shown in such recent Board events as the #MakeUsCount pre-election debates, also shows how our community continues to be regarded as a significant voice

I thank my colleagues for the trust they have placed in me, and look forward to working with them in protecting and promoting the welfare of our vibrant, resilient Jewish community.

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

Don't vote, don't complain

The conversation would go something along these lines. "Mrs Feldman," they would say, on seeing my late grandmother, "You are looking too wonderful!" A pregnant pause would follow as she contemplated the horror of what had been said. "Really?" she would finally answer, lips pursed, eyes narrowed, "You should only know how terrible I feel."

And then, just to prove her point. Or to make them suffer, she would tell them. Complaint by complaint. Ailment by ailment, punctuated with a detailed description of her matching medication. At a family function, my grandmother would find desserts "too sweet" and the band too loud. She was never happy with where she had been seated, and there was always someone who didn't greet her appropriately.

She wouldn't have it any other way. Because complaining made her happy.

Whereas our generation might not complain about the same things, we're hardly different. Social media is a complainer's dream, where at a whim and at any time, we have the ability to slate, moan, and denigrate anything or anyone we choose. The "Hello Peters", Google Reviews, and Facebook groups all provide fertile environments for anyone having a bad experience or simply a bad day. Because like it or not, complaining makes us happy.

It does, however, have its limits. And there are conditions attached to our ability and right to complain. We might, for instance, not be happy with the state of our roads, or the water pipes or electricity, but we forfeit the right to complain about them if we choose not to vote in the forthcoming municipal elections. No one will stop us, and maybe no one will even know, but

INNER VOICE

Howard Feldman



electing not to participate in the choosing of representatives for our neighbourhoods and cities renders our complaining voices silent on a moral level.

The refrain of, "There's no one to vote for" isn't only inaccurate, it's also lazy. The options might not be perfect, but each presents an opportunity for change and improvement.

The decision not to vote is a vote for the status quo. Which means that it's affirmation that things are just as they should be. It means that the roads are pristine, that our water sparkles and is reliable, and that our lights switch on with the predictability and consistency of high school Charidy callers. It means that everything is just as it should be. Because, why else would anyone choose not to choose?

In conversations with the leaders of the Democratic Alliance, Action SA, and the African Christian Democratic Party, each told me the same thing: this election is all about service delivery. It's about selecting the party and person who has the highest chance of getting the job done.

It might be true that there's no perfect party and no perfect candidate, but then it might be worth choosing the one that's the least imperfect of them all. Failure to do that will result the loss of the right to complain about all the things we love to complain about.

Which would make our grandmothers very unhappy.

KDL boys paint Mzansi purple



King David High School Linksfield boys join thousands of men in purple Speedos for Johannesburg's Hollard Daredevil Run to raise funds for cancer

King David High School Linksfield boys ran through Johannesburg in purple Speedos on 15 October to raise funds for prostate and testicular cancer awareness and screening.

What started 12 years ago with one brave soul running through peak hour traffic in a Speedo to raise awareness about cancer, has become a nationwide phenomenon in which runners take part dressed only in a purple Speedo.

Usually held as a mass participation event in Johannesburg, last Friday was the first ever COVID-19-edition Hollard Daredevil Run 2021 to take place around the country, which meant smaller groups and more social distancing.

"Since 2009, the Hollard Daredevil Run has attracting thousands of brave men from all walks of life to do their part to raise awareness about male cancers," said Heidi Brauer, chief marketing officer at Hollard.

"It takes courage to strip down to a Speedo and run in public – but that's the whole idea," she says. "The Hollard Daredevil Run challenges South African men to confront male cancers head-on by showing

that they're not afraid to run in a Speedo, not afraid to talk about cancer, and not afraid to get checked."

Prostate cancer is the most common male cancer. According to global research, one in every six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime, with the risk of prostate cancer increasing with age. Early diagnosis can mean a 95% chance of being cured.

The uptake by so many high schools and universities this year reinforced the power of young men rallying together to spread important cancer awareness messaging. This is particularly relevant given that testicular cancer is the most common cancer in young men aged between 15 to 39, and can affect men of all races. The survival rate of Stage 1 testicular cancer can be as high as 100%, making early detection and prompt action vital.

All proceeds from the run go to the Cancer Association of South Africa and the Prostate Cancer Foundation of South Africa.

To donate further funds towards cancer awareness and screening initiatives, go to www.daredevilrun.com.

The Bible is fascinating, says Grade 10 who got 100%

"I have spent countless hours over the past year delving into the stories of the Tanach," says Jake Weinstein, a Grade 10 student at King David Linksfield who last week achieved 100% at the Paul Abelman National Chidon Hatanach Bible Quiz, winning the competition.

Students from across South Africa participate in the annual quiz, which consists of three rounds, each round testing the knowledge of about 80 chapters. The top achievers fly to Israel, where they compete against a couple of hundred teens from across the world, with the syllabus covering 400 chapters. After a preliminary written test, the top 16 finalists are selected to participate in the International Chidon Hatanach (Bible Quiz) final, which is a televised highlight of Yom Ha'atzmaut.

"Please G-d, I will be able to represent King David Linksfield and South Africa next year at the international competition in Israel. I encourage as many King David students as possible to participate in the quiz and engage in the exhilarating learning."

In recent years, South Africa has had finalists reaching the international finals every year and winning the diaspora final quiz twice.



Jake Weinstein

Yeshiva Primary elects mini city counsellors



Bini Sassoon



Tali Smookler

Yeshiva College Primary School recently announced the election of Bini Sassoon and Tali Smookler as mini city counsellors for 2022.

King David High Schools had an ad-Venture weekend

Sabbatonim may have been prevented by the pandemic, but King David School's Venture educational programme for Grades 10 and 11 managed to replicate the Encounter experience in an action-packed few days recently.

Students heard Rabbi Benji Levy, an inspirational educator who came from Israel for the event. They also learned from some of the best rabbis, rebbetzins, and educators the community has to offer. They also enjoyed an escape room and illusionist show.



KDL students score in national maths competition

Two King David Schools students were honoured at the South African Mathematics Foundation awards ceremony on 16 October. King David Senior Primary Linksfield Grade 7 student Noah Greenblatt won the Senior Primary division of the South



Aaron Pearlman



Noah Greenblatt

African Mathematics Foundation competition, a national maths problem-solving competition written over three rounds with just under 800 schools participating. King David High School Linksfield student Aaron Pearlman came eighth in the Grade 8-9 division.

Hatzolah’s invasion tour brings freedom back

PERSONAL STORY

HERSCHEL JAWITZ



I’ve never thought of us as the invading type, we’re more “people of the book”, but for five amazing days, even if in our own minds, we invaded the roads of the Overberg region on the 2021 Hatzolah Cape Invasion Tour.

As a first-time invader, and yes, I have to say it, in a COVID-19 year, I wasn’t sure what to expect and how I would feel being in a hotel for five days with a group of guys, many of whom I didn’t know, and riding in a mask-less peloton. This was in addition to the real fear of whether my “pins” (legs) would hold up for the 500km of riding and more than 5 000m of climbing that was necessary to claim a full invasion.

What I hadn’t taken into account was the “Hatzolah factor”. Here is an organisation whose mission it is to care, keep our community safe, save our lives when called upon to do so, and in doing so, to help create “a future that looks brighter together”.

In some respects, the riding was secondary. The operation to keep the invaders safe in all aspects was the real show, and the stakes were high for Hatzolah, which has been our knight in shining PPE (protective) suits throughout the pandemic. And what a show it put on! Led by rosh riding, Mark Kruger; rosh logistics and anything else you could think of, Sharon Newfield; and rosh medical, Yudi Singer, the Hatzolah team of Bernard Segal, Justin Gillman, Albert Ndlovu, and Sisqo Buthelezi were simply exceptional. I can tell you from personal experience that to have Segal following you in a red ambulance and then pull up next to you and offer you a “red ambulance” (an ice-cold Coke) when you’ve been dropped by the group is really quite remarkable.

As were the unbelievable marshals who worked the traffic and kept us moving safely in every direction, and our bike mechanic, Sylvester, who kept our Dogmas, Canyons, and Treks rolling smoothly on the open road. An essential function for a group full of Jewish bike mechanics.

Global teen-led organisation, BBYO, launches in SA

South Africa’s newest Jewish youth organisation, BBYO, led by teens for teens, was launched at King David Schools this past week.

A proud affiliate of the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF), BBYO spans more than 60 countries with 70 000 members worldwide. It had its roots in the United States in 1924, when Jewish teens, who were excluded from joining

The riding was exceptional. From the spectacular descent into Gordon’s Bay to the golden fields of the Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, from Pringle Bay to Villiersdorp and Hermanus, we were treated to the best of our beautiful country.

One of the biggest challenges for the invaders, on top of riding and climbing, was to return from the invasion weighing less and not more than when we started. Avron of Avron’s in Cape Town made sure that was



almost impossible. The food was top class. How do I know? No one complained.

Not everything was smooth sailing. On day three, one of the more accomplished riders in the group, who was beginning to glow like a lava lamp, discovered that he had been *shmeering* himself with sanitiser and not sun block, but even that was quickly fixed.

And just when it couldn’t get any better, it did. Each evening, we were treated to a virtuoso performance of Pavarotti, Bocelli, and beautiful *chazonis* from one of – actually probably the only – multit talented rider on the tour, Ezra Sher.

I almost forgot. How do you know you’ve



Special Offer!

Corner lounge suite (various colours)

Save R1000

R8999



Leather Uppers Recliner

Save R1000

R6999

Shabbat Shalom from I-deal Furnishers

Furniture: Lazy Boy, Linea Classica Alpine & Grafton

Beds: Sealy, Simmons, Rest Assured & Contour

Appliances: Bosch, Defy, Samsung & LG

011 887 5456 | 011 440 9571

Nathan: 082 854 5706

Midways Mall, 280 Corlett Drive, Bramley Gardens

Monday to Friday 8:30 – 17:00

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

From the COVID-19 tests that were required from all riders prior to arriving at Arabella, to the dedicated dining area, to the support teams and riders who made up the invading party of 2021 in a COVID-19 year, it almost felt normal. Like we were back.

This year’s tour was as much about the riding as it was about re-claiming just a little bit of our freedom that has been taken away from all of us over the past 18 or so months. It was about being careful, which allowed us to be carefree. It was about being part of a remarkable community of riders supporting the remarkable organisation that Hatzolah is. There aren’t many quotable quotes when one thinks of Arnold Schwarzenegger, but when it comes to the Hatzolah Cape Invasion for 2022, one springs to mind. “I’ll be back!” May the wind be at our backs.

• *Herschel Jawitz is on the board of the SA Jewish Report.*

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

T L 6816/2

© 2019 BDO South Africa Services (Pty) Ltd.

MANY MORE SPECIALS IN-STORE

KosherWorld

TRULY KOSHER



64⁹⁹

VIOLIFE VEGAN GREEK WHITE CHEESE 200G

The Shabbat Project
KEEPING IT TOGETHER



Feigels
EST. 1968

Yummy!



69⁹⁹

TENDERCHICK GRADE A WHOLE P/KG



66⁹⁹

I&J YANKEE CLIPPERS 800G



34⁹⁹

MIKE & IKE THEATRE BOX ASSORTED FLAVOURS 141G EACH

Fish platter

219⁹⁹

Chopped Herring 500g

49⁹⁹

Kichel 175g

59⁹⁹



42⁹⁹

FRY'S BURGER SPICED VEGAN OR TRADITIONAL 320G EACH

VISIT
Hometown
Pharmacy
Where the pharmacist knows your name



53⁹⁹

MONTAGU GINGER SLICES 250G



17⁹⁹

MONTAGU DATES PITTED 250G



37⁹⁹

OFF THE STICK ICE LOLLIES 8'S ASSORTED FLAVOURS EACH



13⁹⁹

CADBURY SLAB ASSORTED FLAVOURS 80G EACH



11⁴⁹

SIMPLY DELISH JELLY SUGAR FREE PINEAPPLE OR STRAWBERRY 7.5G EACH



26⁹⁹

CROSSBOW POPCORN 1KG



6⁴⁹

TRIGZ CORN CHIPS ASSORTED FLAVOURS 28G EACH



35⁴⁹

ORIS SIFTED FLOUR 1.8KG



49⁹⁹

INA PAARMAN BAKE MIX ASSORTED FLAVOURS 580G EACH



33⁴⁹

BOKOMO RUSKS DOUBLE CHOC 450G



62⁹⁹

KLEINE DRAGEN NATURAL SWEET RED OR WHITE 750ML EACH



46⁹⁹

CAPE JEWEL GRAPE JUICE 750ML



97⁹⁹

EFRAAT GRAPE JUICE MUSCAT 1L



14⁹⁹

PECK'S FISH PASTE ANCHOVETTE 85G



30⁹⁹

MRS BALLS CHUTNEY PEACH 470G



5⁹⁹

ORLI CANDLE 24 HOUR



11⁴⁹

REFRESHHH SOFT DRINK ASSORTED FLAVOURS 2L EACH



134⁹⁹

BACKSBERG PINOTAGE 750ML



27⁹⁹

GLAD UTILITY BAGS MEDIUM 25'S



49⁹⁹

ORLI CANDLE TEALIGHT 4 HOUR 50'S



16⁹⁹

SPIC N SPAN ASSORTED FLAVOURS 750ML EACH



27⁹⁹

OK CLING WRAP 30M

KOSHER **AT** EVERYDAY PRICES

CONCIERGE SHOPPING SERVICE
orders@kosherworld.co.za

Actual offers may differ from visuals shown. We reserve the right to limit quantities. While stocks last. E&OE

Offers valid till 27 OCTOBER 2021 or while stocks last

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