

■ Volume 25 – Number 37 ■ 28 October 2021 ■ 22 Cheshvan 5782

south african Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

www.sajr.co.za

Absa
Jewish Achiever Awards

2021

Vote Now

FOR YOUR
ABSA JEWISH ACHIEVER
2021 NOMINEES

<http://bit.ly/VoteJAA2021>



South
African
Jewish
Report
www.sajr.co.za

Europcar

THE KIRSH
FOUNDATION

mann
made

Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2021 Nominees



ABSA BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD - FROM COVID TO HOPE

Awarded to a Jewish person who has played a critical leadership role in business during this period.



ABSA PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE - FROM COVID TO HOPE

Awarded to a Jewish person who has achieved national recognition and acclaim in their profession during this period.



ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

Awarded to a Jewish person who has a proven track record in entrepreneurial ventures.



EUROPCAR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

Honouring the leadership, success and overall contributions of distinctive Jewish women in business or in the broader South African community.



For a full list of nominees, and to vote, visit
<http://bit.ly/NoteJAA2021>



Cartier 18k yellow gold and stainless steel
quartz chronograph wristwatch
SOLD R46,000



Dutch 17th century Baroque
"Bahut" cabinet, circa 1680
SOLD R30,000

Clarice Cliff Bizarre large
Lotus pattern jug
SOLD R6,500



Walter Whall Battiss, Career Bird, silkscreen, signed
SOLD R18,000



south african Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

■ Volume 25 – Number 37 ■ 28 October 2021 ■ 22 Cheshvan 5782

www.sajr.co.za

New Miss SA caught in anti-Israel crossfire

NICOLA MILTZ

Newly crowned Miss South Africa, Lalela Mswane, is looking forward to taking part in the Miss Universe pageant later this year despite the sinister forces trying to prevent her from going to Israel, where the competition is to be held.

The graceful beauty has found herself in the middle of controversy just a few days into her reign following calls by local anti-Israel lobbyists to boycott the 70th Miss Universe competition, due to be held in Eilat in December.

The 24-year-old Bachelor of Law graduate from the University of Pretoria is bracing herself for further calls by Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions activists as the glittering pageant draws closer.

This week she told the *SA Jewish Report* that the Miss South Africa pageant had transformed her life and she looked forward to repeating this at Miss Universe.

"I found it empowering with so many positive things to take away from it. I also met nine other talented and wonderful fellow Miss South Africa 2021 sisters who made the journey so incredibly amazing. I look forward to repeating this at the Miss Universe pageant in December – to challenge myself once again, to learn and to meet women from around the globe who want to give back."

She said she wouldn't be the woman she is today had it not been for the women who had invested in her. "It's only natural that I pay it forward. I aspire to be an empowered woman who inspires other women."

Mswane was crowned Miss South Africa on Saturday, 16 October, at the Grand Arena, GrandWest, in Cape Town. Calls for her to boycott the Miss Universe pageant started even before she took possession of her new car or settled into the luxurious Miss SA Sandton apartment.

The Miss South Africa organisation said it wouldn't get involved in a "political war of words".

Stephanie Weil, the managing director of Nine Squared Communications & Events, which owns the rights to Miss South Africa, told the *SA Jewish Report*

she had nothing further to say.

Mswane who comes from the rural village of KwaSokhulu in Richards Bay in KwaZulu Natal is an inspiring role model. She said she hoped to make an impact on unemployment through her initiative #BeReady, which offers services and training to youth to equip them to start their own enterprises.

Last week, Mandla Mandela, the grandson of the late former president, Nelson Mandela, called on Mswane to snub the Miss Universe competition.

In a statement that he shared on Instagram, Mandela accused Israel of being an apartheid state and claimed the country "violates the fundamental human rights of the Palestinian people and commits crimes against humanity".

He called on countries to "bolster efforts" to isolate Israel and cut all ties, and urged all African countries to withdraw from the Miss Universe pageant.

Former Miss Iraq, Sarah Idan, criticised Mandela's calls for a boycott in a video posted on various social media platforms.

"All I can say is: how dare you?" Idan said in the clip, addressing Mandela. "How dare you, as a man, try to tell an organisation for women and women empowerment what to do? This is an opportunity that millions of women dream of having, to go on the world stage and represent their people, their nation, and their culture. Not governments, not politics, and definitely not your

political agenda."

Idan also criticised Mandela for using the term "apartheid" to "attack Israel", arguing that the word has been used against Israel by "radical Islamists, terrorist organisations, and the Iranian regime, all of whom hate women and women's rights".

"Please allow Miss South Africa to go and experience Israel up close, on the ground, and let her be the judge for herself," she said. "I'm positive, just like me, she will be shocked to see that the Israeli government consists of Muslims, Jews, Arabs, [and] Christians. Those people not only get to vote on policies, but they're also part of the Knesset, have political parties, and some of them are even Israeli ambassadors to the world."

Idan concluded her video by telling Mswane, "I hope that you will enjoy your trip, and learn not only about Israel, but about other beautiful countries. This is what the Miss Universe pageant is about."

Idan, who is Muslim and was the first Miss Iraq in 45 years, received death threats and was forced to leave her home after posting a selfie on Instagram with former Miss Israel, Adar Gandelsman, at the 2017 Miss Universe pageant with the caption "Peace and love from Miss Iraq and Miss Israel."

Mandela responded to Idan's video with another rambling statement in which he questioned her "blind spot" support for Israel and her "lack of moral fibre" and asked, "Don't Palestinian women also have human rights?"

Idan told *The Algemeiner*, "I'd like to warn beauty queens to prepare for an army of bots that will probably harass their social media posts while they're in Israel with hashtags 'end the occupation' and 'free Palestine'. They shouldn't worry, those aren't even real people but fake accounts used by a few propagandists to intimidate them. This is a cheap tactic to silence them. Just keep doing what you are doing. Stay confidently beautiful."

Reeva Forman, the honorary life vice-president of the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF), said Mandela shouldn't be allowed to undermine the empowerment of South African women. "He must cease his attempts to undermine the empowerment of women, to harness it for his long-standing hateful anti-Israel agenda," said this former model and 1983 Businesswoman of the Year.

Forman said his call to boycott the pageant "should be dismissed as eroding the aspirations of South African women who wish to shine on the international stage."

The SAZF said that Israel regularly hosted international sporting and cultural events, including Eurovision and the Giro d'Italia, and that more countries in the region are signing peace agreements. "Furthermore, FIFA has recently spoken of hosting the World Cup in the country. Israel is a thriving multicultural democracy, and accusations that it's similar to the former South African government are beyond ridiculous. In fact, one of Israel's recent entrants to Miss Universe is a woman of Ethiopian descent," the statement read.

Forman said that Israel had also actively been involved in the fight against gender-based violence in South Africa, supporting women's shelters and organisations teaching young girls how to defend themselves against attack.

"Mandla Mandela is no poster child for women's rights, specifically his well-publicised failure to honour his commitments to previous relationships, along with other public indiscretions. We encourage Mandla to follow in his grandfather's footsteps, who visited Israel himself and brought home a message of peace and dialogue to all concerned," she said.



Miss South Africa Lalela Mswane

GIVE OUR RESIDENTS A FANTASTIC DECEMBER AND WIN BIG

Buy a Raffle Ticket - Join the Club!



1ST PRIZE



2ND PRIZE



3RD PRIZE



Selwyn
Segal

WWW.JHBCHEV.CO.ZA

36ONE
Asset Management

Appliance Repairs on Site

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

Call Jason
082 401 8239 / 076 210 6532

★ FREE QUOTATIONS ★

APARTMENT TO RENT FROM 1 DECEMBER 2021

LINKSFIELD PLACE, OPPOSITE KING DAVID LINKSFIELD SCHOOL

2 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom, Lounge,
Dining room, Large enclosed balcony
Second floor, very well maintained, lift in building,
underground parking, good security.
Lovely gardens, communal pool and braai area.
Asking R12 000 per month

CONTACT ROS: 082 850 8385 OR SANDY: 082 888 8878

ROSH CHODESH Kislev courtesy of



Novis Inc.

Attorneys & Conveyancers

"The Sunday Lawyers"



Over 17 years of personal and professional service in property
law, wills, deceased estates, and pre-nuptial contracts.

Shabbat Mavarachim: Parsha Chayei Sarah
Rosh Chodesh is on Friday the 5th November

TEL: (011) 440-2340/1 @E-MAIL: steve@novisinc.co.za



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 RANGE
FOR PENSIONERS

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

Treatment approved by the American ENT Association

We are COVID-19
compliant

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

A giant has fallen: the passing of John Moshal

TALI FEINBERG

Though he hailed from the smaller Jewish community of Durban, the impact of philanthropist and communal patriarch John Moshal was felt across the length and breadth of the South African Jewish community. His death at the age of 81 in London on Tuesday, 26 October, is an unquantifiable loss, but he leaves a legacy that will reverberate across generations and around the world.

While he cared deeply for all Jews and the wider community, his passing will be most keenly felt in the KwaZulu-Natal Jewish community. It was in Durban that he was born on 30 March 1940, and where he committed himself to a lifetime of service, becoming honorary life president of the Council of KwaZulu-Natal Jewry.

Born John Hillel Moshal, he was educated at Durban Preparatory School and Durban High School (DHS) and the University of Natal, where he graduated in chemical engineering. "More than 100 years ago, John's father, Max, and my father, Phil, were at DHS together," says Roger Ellison. "A generation later [1953 to 1957], John and I were also at DHS together, closely followed three years later by my brother Brian and John's brother Brian."

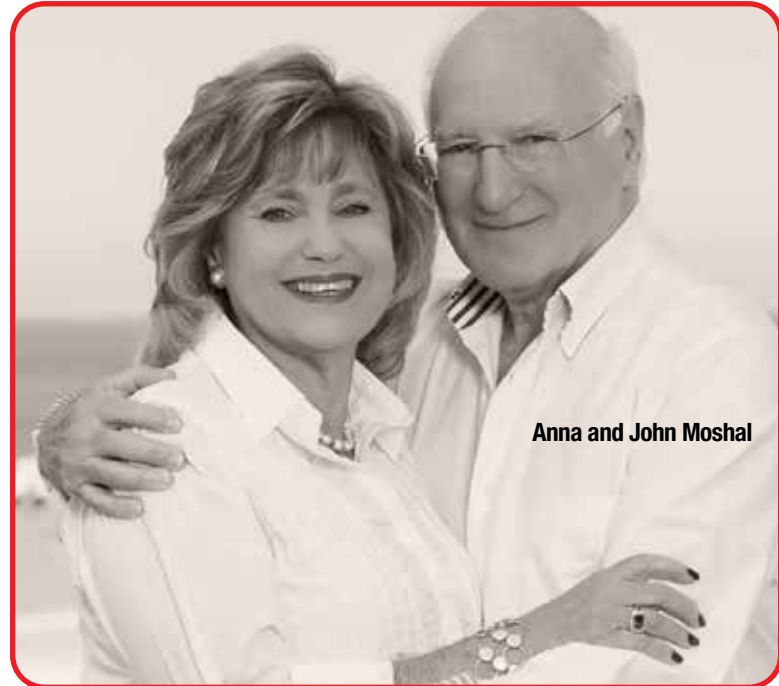
"He would always refer to the Moshal family legacy, which started when his family first arrived in South Africa in the late 1800s," says Durban resident Alana Baranov, who had the honour of working on a book about the Moshal family. "The book was called *Setting a Quiet Example*, and that's such a great way to describe John," she says.

"He would always tell me that the word 'Moshal' translates to the word 'example', and that he was proud of the legacy of his uncle, Sol, who in his day was the doyen of the community. John really wanted to mirror his life, and walk in his and his ancestor's footsteps," says Baranov.

Moshal started Control Logic, and built it into the largest industrial electronics company in South Africa. He sold 50% to Engelhard Industries and this share passed to Anglo American Corporation. In 1984, he sold out completely and moved on to his other interests. His business activities were many and varied, allowing him to pursue the philanthropy that was so central to his ethos.

Community member Cheryl Unterslak says, "John came from very humble beginnings, and would refer to himself as a 'simple engineer'. He always fought injustice, backed the underdog, and disliked bullies of any kind, be it at school, the pulpit, in community affairs, and in general."

"He always stressed that he was a team with [his wife] Anna, and that the family did everything together as a team," says Baranov. "He named the family trust JAKAMaR, after each family member: John, Anna, Karyn, Anthony, Martin, and Richard."



Anna and John Moshal

Through this humanitarian foundation, he established a number of upliftment projects around the world. These included Chiva Africa, which provided HIV/Aids training for local health professionals; the Moshal Scholarship Programme, which has provided hundreds of full scholarships to needy students; the importing of refurbished computers and their distribution to disadvantaged KwaZulu-

Continued on page 12>>

Shabbat Times brought to you by

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

	Starts	Ends
Johannesburg	18:05	18:56
Cape Town	18:54	19:48
Durban	17:58	18:50
Bloemfontein	18:15	19:08
Port Elizabeth	18:15	19:20
East London	18:15	19:09
Jerusalem*	17:17	18:29
Tel Aviv*	17:31	18:29

*1 hour ahead of SA

You.
Realty

Want to know stats on what sold recently in proximity to your home? I'll happily send you a report showing last 20 sales in your area. (more complex reports available as well)

Spencer Schwartz • 084 524 4616
spencer@yourealty.co.za

Torah Thought

Mother nature's gifts

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks said, "The name of our parsha seems to embody a paradox. It's called '*Chayei Sarah*' [The Life of Sarah], but it begins with the death of Sarah. What's more, it records the death of Abraham. Why is a parsha about death called life? The answer, it seems, is that death and how we face it is a commentary on life and how we live it."

Abraham knew that everything that happened to him, even the bad things, were part of the journey which G-d had sent him and Sarah on, and he had the faith to walk through the valley of the shadow of death fearing no evil, knowing that G-d was with him.

I see and feel profound meaning in this paradox. Sarah's social status – and its impact on the future of her family and people – was so great, it only increased after her passing.

Sarah, our mother, our matriarch, the mother of *Klal Yisrael* (the Jewish people), was quite the "modern" woman. She led her life

with clear vision and purpose. She had the courage to follow her convictions, no matter how progressive they were at the time. She was a role model for women of her era, as well as becoming a role model for the modern woman of the 21st century.

We can't forget that we live in a world of duality, of light and dark, hot and cold, male and female. Sarah knew that according to well-established laws, neither side of that duality was more important than the other. In fact, they were really different degrees of the same thing – and in truth, light couldn't exist without darkness, neither could men exist without women – and vice versa.

We often get so caught up in our own lives that we seldom pay attention to the power of mother nature. Let's take a simple example of one mistakenly cutting oneself while preparing dinner for the family. The wound bleeds. Perhaps we run some water over it, or apply some pressure, and shortly thereafter,

we leave it alone. What does mother nature do? She moves according to well-established laws, laws that are firmly in the direction of healing, and the wound begins to heal on its own. It's only when we interfere with mother nature that things tend to go wrong. Left to her own devices, we are generally in good hands.

We should do all that we can to uplift those around us to see the same light we see, and then allow mother nature (through the womb of time) to do what she does best. Let's not be consumed by trying to sweep the darkness out of the dark room. Let's be like Sarah, and turn our attention to the light, reach out, and switch it on. We must know that we have received a gift from our ancestors, and pass those gifts down, *l'dor vador* (from generation to generation) through the generations of mothers following Sarah.

Rabbi Julia Margolis,
Beit Luria



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.



Conman made SA Jewish community part of scam

TALI FEINBERG

In late May 2021, the South African Jewish community was feeling especially vulnerable after weeks of anti-Israel sentiment. So, when an Israeli newspaper reported that a man with seemingly strong influence had threatened to pull funding from South Africa if President Cyril Ramaphosa didn’t dial back the anti-Israel rhetoric, many members of the community shared the news.

But the message was from a sophisticated con-artist who was drawing the South African Jewish community into his web of deception. Now, another victim of the man who calls himself David E. Sassoon has come forward, telling the *SA Jewish Report* that Sassoon is a “sophisticated scammer” who plays on people’s emotions – even the emotions of an entire community – and uses them for his own game.

The man has come forward because of dynamics abroad. In June 2021, the *Jewish Chronicle* in the United Kingdom wrote an article describing Sassoon as “a conman who threatened South Africa” in his latest scam, following a number of articles it had written about him in the past.

Sassoon immediately tried to sue the *Jewish Chronicle*. But the *SA Jewish Report* understands that in mid-September, a Washington DC judge threw the lawsuit out, and Bruce Fein, the DC-based lawyer who brought the case against the *Jewish Chronicle* (and was on Sassoon’s board of directors), has parted company with Sassoon.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the source says, “Don’t do business with the man who calls himself David E. Sassoon. We don’t know if that’s even his real name. He’s a sophisticated scam artist and fraudster. But we were blinded by him.”

In his letter, Sassoon said he would pull \$40 million (R590 million) of investment in Johannesburg energy company Bluedrop and a further \$50 billion (R737 billion) of investments in South Africa over the next five years if the South African government continued its “bias or hostility, especially based on false narratives, lies, and

deception” about Israel. It sounded like solid support of the Jewish community, but beneath it was a shaky foundation.

First, the threat to Ramaphosa wasn’t reported in any media except one Israeli newspaper. In South Africa, journalists were reporting the opposite – that David E. Sassoon planned to invest in the country as well as in local start-up Bluedrop Energy. It appears both stories were fed to particular media outlets who took them at face value.

Another discrepancy was that Sassoon gave Ramaphosa a “deadline” of 20 May 2021 to respond to his threats, but on 26 May 2021, the South African media started reporting the opposite – that the Sassoon Group had approved \$50 billion (R737 billion) for possible investment in South Africa over five years.

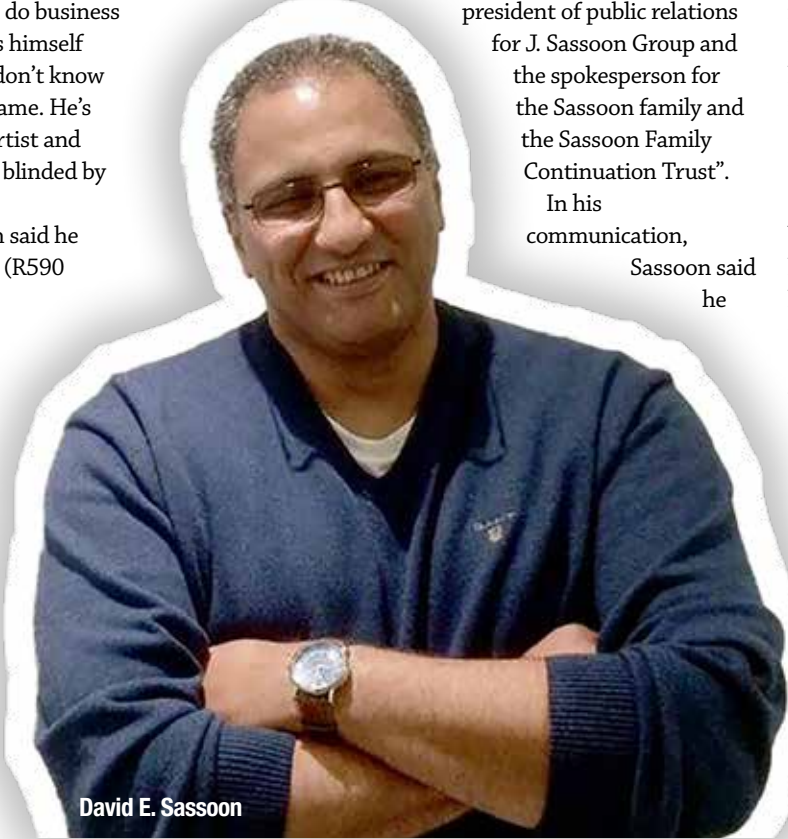
The South African Jewish community was therefore being used as a pawn in a wider game, with Jews around the world sharing extracts from Sassoon’s letter to Ramaphosa, as reported in the Israeli newspaper. The wider media was also drawn into Sassoon’s lies. News articles about his supposed investments in South Africa remain online today.

When the *SA Jewish Report* requested the full letter to Ramaphosa, it was filled with spelling and grammatical errors and emotional statements which didn’t add up. The letter also cited the address of Sassoon’s Tel Aviv branch. But when the *SA Jewish Report* checked this address, it was simply a place to rent a desk.

One of the desks was rented by Einat Friedman

who is described as “vice-president of public relations for J. Sassoon Group and the spokesperson for the Sassoon family and the Sassoon Family Continuation Trust”.

In his communication, Sassoon said he



David E. Sassoon

had bought 51% of “Friedman PR” for \$25 million (R428 million), yet the PR company was operating from one desk in Tel Aviv. The source doesn’t know why Friedman’s company would collude with Sassoon, but he says that as far as he knows, they continue to work together.

“The thing is he blows up massive numbers, and when you convert that to rands, it comes to ridiculous amounts – like 30% to 40% of our GDP [gross domestic product],” says the source. “It’s almost like he was saying he was going to buy the country.”

While the source can only guess as to why Sassoon would want to draw the Jewish community into that narrative, he guesses it was one way for Sassoon to see how far he could go, and maybe even make it look like the Jewish community was supporting state capture or trying to control the government, in line with antisemitic tropes.

The source says Bluedrop Energy was introduced to Sassoon through a mutual associate. “He immediately made promises to invest. They found his website, which looked reliable, and saw that his board of directors had a lot of credible people. It also saw that there were issues regarding his reputation, as described by the *Jewish Chronicle* in the United Kingdom.”

While this was a “red flag”, the start-up believed that the people around Sassoon gave him enough credibility. “He also explained that he was from an ‘intelligence background’, and they don’t always do things ‘above board,’” says the source. “He sounds very educated and understands business, especially in the United States and international markets.”

Bluedrop Energy lost \$48 000 (R823 382) to Sassoon, and never saw a cent of investment. “Bluedrop realised all was not as it seems when Sassoon started demanding that they make payments to him. He would get very angry, throwing his toys out of the cot.” The start-up was also made aware that he owed thousands to another company which had done feasibility studies on Bluedrop Energy for Sassoon. “This international company thought he was legitimate. It was a very elaborate

scam.”

Though Bluedrop was already wary of Sassoon, it was his letter to Ramaphosa that made the start-up break ties with him. In an official statement, the company told the *SA Jewish Report* that “Bluedrop Energy is the one who terminated the contract with J. Sassoon Group. Bluedrop took serious exception to his threats and demeaning letter towards our president, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa. We tried hard to convince him to withdraw his letter addressed to President Ramaphosa, but these efforts were in vain. We support and respect all the recognised leaders and structures of the South African government.

“In addition, we took serious exception to Mr Sassoon’s disrespect for the South African media, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, and the South African Jewish community in general.”

The source says Sassoon wanted to write more letters to Ramaphosa, but Bluedrop stopped him. “The Jewish community in South Africa has its own leadership, and doesn’t need him to interfere,” he says.

The anonymous source believes Sassoon gets away with it because he seems to have a credible group of supporters on the board of his so-called company, who “allow him to hide behind their reputations”. Though he doesn’t know why upstanding and well-known members of society would allow Sassoon to use their names, he guesses that maybe they benefit from the arrangement.

Sassoon, he says, “lives off what he scams [from] people” and he may be working with his wife, Sharon Levy. “The United States government needs to call him to book because he uses it, knowing that the US has high standing in the international business community. He uses that in his scam.”

Meanwhile, the source says Bluedrop’s composite cylinder manufacturing plant project is still on track, and its official termination of the contract with J. Sassoon had no impact on the project. They are already in talks with reputable potential funders who have expressed interest in the project.”

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 1 999 000
Asking More. Exciting New release!! Warm and inviting family home in cul de sac. Set in Sunningdale on Glenhazel border stands this 4 bedroom, 3.5 bathrooms, lovely family home with cottage or work from home potential (has own entrance). Laundry. 3 Spacious reception rooms, well-fitted kitchen, covered patio, lock up garaging for 4 cars, "Fort Knox" security.

4

3.5

Web Ref: RL80223

Joel Harris 082 926 0287
Laureen Shalpid 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

GLENHAZEL | R 899 999
Asking More. Situated in the sort after complex of Hazelwood!! 24/7 security access-controlled entrance. Sunny open plan lounge, dining room and kitchen leading onto an ample open balcony. Two bedrooms with built in cupboards. 2 Bathrooms main en suite. 1 Carport parking. Fantastic facilities in the complex. Tennis court, squash court, pool, gym and club house. Walking distance to shops and shuls in the area. Genuine seller- bring an offer.

2

2

Web Ref: RL76126

Joel Harris 082 926 0287
Laureen Shalpid 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

OAKLANDS | R 5 450 000
This large family home offers versatile accommodation with a relaxed stylish lifestyle. 4 receptions, 4 beds, 3 baths plus 2 guest loos, Kitchen with breakfast room and sep scullery/laundry and pantry. The patio overlooks pool, fishpond and the beautifully maintained garden. Fabulous snooker room/large WFH and superb guest cottage. 4 garages and 2 carports. A MUST SEE home.

4

3

Web Ref: RL81764

Chrissie Hammer: 082 568 0440

FOR SALE

MORNINGSIDE | R 1 799 000
The ultimate pied-a-terre or start-up! This lock up and go 2 bedroom cluster is perfectly positioned within this 24hr security estate! Enjoy comfortable and secure living with the lounge leading out to the private and sunny walled garden with heated pool. Large dining room and immaculate kitchen! 2 splendid bathrooms with the main bedroom en-suite and a nursery / study, all with good finishes throughout! Hollywood garage and ample additional parking in the complex! A stone's throw from the Sandton Shul and within close proximity to the Sandton CBD.

2

2

Web Ref: RL79285

Jeremy Craig: 076 246 4900

Too late to stop *Squid Game*’s tentacles grabbing your kid?

TALI FEINBERG

It’s going viral faster than society can handle, but it’s not coronavirus, it’s *Squid Game*. The South Korean TV series has taken Netflix and the world by storm, and its tentacles are sucking in children and teens quicker than adults can get to grips with what that means. Local Jewish schools have become so concerned about the violent nature of the show, they are advising parents not to let their children watch it.

Squid Game, which started streaming on 17 September, focuses on a desperately indebted group of people in South Korea. They join a secret tournament of children’s games where if you lose a game, you die a violent death, but if you win the entire tournament, you will be given about \$38 million (R560.6 million). The show is extremely stylish, almost like a graphic novel or a cartoon, and is very addictive. The fact that it features children’s games may mean parents think it’s for kids, but it’s actually extremely dark and disturbing.

Social media lawyer Sarah Hoffman and clinical psychologist Pam Tudin, both founders of Klikd (which helps teens and parents navigate social media safely) wrote a blog post guiding parents on how to deal with the show capturing the attention of their “screenagers”. This post itself went viral, showing how desperate parents are for answers.

“The response to the post has been staggering,” says Hoffman. “So many parents have come forward and said their young kids have somehow watched it, and if they haven’t seen it, all their friends are talking about it. Kids from Grade 5 have shared with us that they are watching it and parents don’t know.” Meanwhile, a principal at a Jewish school in Cape Town wrote in the school newsletter that children in the foundation phase (Grades 1 to 3) are talking about it. “There have been lots of kids mimicking the show at school, with kids even asking for ‘Squid parties’ – cupcakes and all!” says Hoffman.

“Kids aren’t seeing the horror in it. They are detached from the extreme violence and abuse because they are watching other violent shows,” she says. “This one appeals most because it’s experienced

as reality TV even though it isn’t. Many kids have asked if the characters are real. Most importantly, it normalises the ‘desperate measures for desperate times’ approach to solving problems. This is very dangerous for teens as the show doesn’t model appropriate solution-driven responses to family and financial stress. It also doesn’t demonstrate that communication can alleviate a sense of isolation.”

Matthew Gruzd, the chairperson of United Herzlia Schools, shares his experience as a parent. “My children aged 12 and eight aren’t allowed to watch it, and I have explained why. The subtle story line about societal inequality, desperation, and exploitation that flows beneath the gratuitous violence is of more interest, but over their heads. I’m continually reminded by them of their friends who have been allowed to watch it.”

Yeshiva College was one of the schools that alerted parents to the “extreme violence that the show exhibits” and “strongly advised” that they don’t allow their children to watch it. A school counsellor who asked not to be named says, “At this point, we’re hearing murmurs about *Squid Game*, and in order to try to protect our learners from the impact of watching the series, the school has notified parents of our concerns in the hope that they will prevent their children from watching it.



“At this time, we haven’t been notified of any trauma, but we will certainly assist should any concerns come to

our attention. Our counselling department has offered assistance to parents in the event that their children are affected by the series. We regularly engage our learners on the psychological and spiritual impact of what we view. At this point, the decision has been made not to engage with learners on this specific series. We are concerned that the more attention we give it, the more curious learners will be, and the more the series will take centre stage. Should the situation change, we will adapt our approach accordingly.”

But is it really possible to keep *Squid Game* off the radar in our world of instant information? Local media expert Gus Silber doesn’t think so. “It’s almost impossible to say to pre-teens or teenagers that ‘you mustn’t watch *Squid Game* or speak to your peers about it’. The more you say that, and the more you try and prohibit youth from being interested, the more they’re going to seek it out. It’s almost impossible to avoid *Squid Game*. Memes, jokes, and videos on YouTube are out there, whether or not you watch the series. It’s almost impossible not to know that *Squid Game* is a violent, cartoonish series about people who play a game, and most of them lose their lives in the process.

“One shouldn’t underestimate the savviness of young people in the digital era and the ease of access they have to all kinds of information,” Silber says. “And I think they’re savvy enough to know where to draw the line, and know what’s real or not.”

The great irony for him about *Squid Game* is that “it’s about children’s games, a lot of which will be familiar to older and younger South Africans. I certainly remember playing marbles at school and being fiercely competitive. While it wasn’t violent, there certainly was a very strong sense that if you lost the game, you lost more than the game – there was a lot at stake.

“So, it’s a very violent series about what we take to be innocent children’s games. A lot of children’s games are inherently tied up with what happens if you lose or win. We are naturally a very competitive species,



and when you think about kids playing games, it’s almost never that they’re just playing the game for fun, there’s always a very strong element of something else. When you watch *Squid Game*, those games become very serious. They quickly lose their element of fun. So, it’s not surprising to me that kids on the playground will try play ‘red light, green light’ like it’s played in *Squid Game*, maybe taking it as far as pretending to get shot or eliminated from the game.”

Ultimately Silber says this is “classic moral panic” – when leaders in society get worried about what they think is damaging to the youth at large and their own kids. There are so many examples of this. Rock ‘n roll in the 1950s was seen to be damaging. Heavy metal and hip hop are the same kind of thing, and then the internet at large. “If you don’t watch *Squid Game*, you’ll still definitely be aware of it, it’s impossible not to be. I’m not surprised that adults are worried about it, but I doubt there’s any teenager out there who hasn’t watched it or isn’t talking about it,” Silber says.

But Hoffman says parents can act. As per the Klikd post, “parents shouldn’t allow younger kids to view this. Tighten up your parental controls on Netflix. There are step by step instructions on our blog post. Second, if your kids have seen it or their friends are talking about it, it’s important to engage in a non-judgemental way about the very big issues raised in the show and how this calls into question our own family values. There are ‘conversation starters’ on the blog post. Upskill teens and tweens with tools like the Klikd app to recognise when technology is having a negative impact on their mental well-being.”

Knee-jerk ban a zero-sum game

OPINION

GUS SILBER



Way back when I was in primary school, I had a good friend who grew up in a deprived household – at least, he felt deprived because his parents wouldn’t allow him to read comic books.

Batman, *Superman*, *Archie*, *The Beano*, *Mad Magazine* – they were all deemed to be of dubious literary merit and harmful to impressionable young minds.

Which is why, every day after school, on the pretence of doing his homework, he would come over to my place, where he would sit for hours, lost in a world of his own, reading comics.

As far as I know, my friend went on to become a decent and productive member of society. And if he didn’t, well, we can always blame the comics.

We learn from history that parents, teachers, and spiritual leaders have long believed it’s their duty to shield children from supposedly toxic media content, from rock ‘n roll to heavy metal to hip hop to video games to TikTok.

Oddly, one rarely sees children warning each other against such things, which suggests either that they are capable of making up their own minds, or that they are too busy rolling their eyes at the grown-ups.

Be that as it may, the latest source of fretting in adult circles is the hit Netflix series, *Squid Game*, in which 456 down-on-their-luck players take part in a variety of

seemingly innocent children’s games, with deadly consequences for 455 of them.

Objectively speaking, *Squid Game* is a superbly made show, with hyper-stylised aesthetics, audaciously imaginative set-pieces, and a cast of mostly likeable main characters with believable flaws and back-stories.



It also happens to mark the high tide of an extraordinary renaissance in South Korean popular culture, which has already given us *Parasite*, the Best Picture Oscar winner; *K-Pop*, the fiendishly catchy musical genre; and a stream of family dramas, historical epics, science fiction spectacles, and crime thrillers on Netflix.

That’s all very well, one might argue, but isn’t *Squid Game* terribly violent? Well, yes, I would argue back, but no more so than certain classical texts that spring to mind, such as the ancient Greek tragedy *Oedipus Rex* (parental guidance recommended), or Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, which is riddled with scenes of gang warfare and poor life decisions by teenagers, yet it

remains a staple on the high school set-work circuit.

The ultra-violence in *Squid Game* is cartoonish and over-the-top – rows of players mowed down by automatic gunfire from a



giant robotic doll, for instance – and is far removed from the real-life violence one might see on CNN or a YouTube crime report.

Having said that, it’s not for nothing that *Squid Game* is rated “16” on Netflix. Nor is it too surprising that the Parents Television and Media Council, a United States-based lobby group, has warned parents to “take appropriate measures, whether by applying parental controls or more closely supervising their children on

social media and gaming platforms, where content about or inspired by the series is being shared”.

Clearly, this is a matter for consideration and application in individual households – we are long past the days, thank goodness, when the state had to make such decisions on our behalf.

Either way, it seems to me that 16, or thereabouts, is a reasonable benchmark for the viewability of *Squid Game* by younger people.

At that age, in a culture of ubiquitous access to information in all its forms, one would hope that viewers would be able to distinguish between everyday reality, unreality, hyper-reality, surreality, and reality TV, and also that they will have been sufficiently schooled, on the brink of adulthood, to draw readings from the text and not take everything they see at face value.

A chief reason for the phenomenal success of *Squid Game* – it is the most popular show in the history of Netflix to date – is that it can be viewed in two different and complementary ways.

As pure, visceral entertainment, without weighing too heavily on the mind, or as an extended analogy for the ills of contemporary society in the age of the pandemic.

In much the same way that *Parasite* dabbles in what happens when the members of one social class cross the barrier into the next, *Squid Game* uses the plight of the downtrodden and debt-ridden to show us just how far people will go in the hope of making enough money to

solve their problems and make their dreams come true.

The show’s running commentary on capitalism and inequality isn’t particularly deep, nor is it particularly original, but it does add a subtext that bears thinking about, and that renders the violence integral to the storyline rather than as something gratuitous.

That’s why I would say that schools, rather than warning parents to watch out for signs of *Squid Game* behaviour on the part of their children – “No! You may not have your friends around to play ‘red light, green light’!” – should use the show as a teachable moment.

With that “16” caveat firmly in mind, what might learners be able to learn from *Squid Game*, about inequity, imbalance, and the yawning divide between, say, Jeff Bezos and his workers back on earth? What would *Squid Game* look like if it were played in South Africa?

Who would take part, who would run the show, who would be best equipped to win? And to get back to the matter at hand, what can *Squid Game* tell us about the way violence is portrayed in popular culture and its possible effects on impressionable young minds?

The point is, everyone is already watching the show, or at least talking about it, so let’s put it on the syllabus, discuss it in the open, and remind ourselves, when all is said and done, that it’s really just a game.

• Gus Silber is an award-winning journalist, editor, speechwriter, and author.

Malema’s ‘backhanded compliment’ singles out Jews

TALI FEINBERG

When Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) leader Julius Malema recently praised the Jewish community for its vaccination rates, at first it seemed like a compliment. Yet many felt uncomfortable with it although they couldn’t always explain why, and one local media outlet described it as offensive. Was it harmless flattery, or something questionable?

Speaking to a crowd of students at the Cape Town University of Technology on 21 October, Malema said, “I vaccinated because I saw the Jews, the Jewish people vaccinated. The Jews don’t play with their lives. Those things of threatening life [sic], they take very serious.” His comments were greeted with laughter from the crowd.

Context is everything, and “immediately before Mr Malema speaks about Jews getting vaccinated, he speaks about ‘them’ controlling everything”, noted Dr Günther Jikeli, associate professor at the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism at Indiana University.

“It’s unclear who Mr Malema means when he speaks about ‘them’, but it’s a conspiratorial way of thinking. The fact that this is immediately followed by him talking about Jews makes it likely that he had Jews in mind when he talked about ‘them’ controlling the world. In this context, his argument that people should get vaccinated because ‘the Jews’ get vaccinated clearly comes from an antisemitic mindset,” says Jikeli.

Malema said, “I don’t care about this conspiracy theory that we are going to die. They would have killed us a long time ago. They control everything. They control the bread you eat every morning, they control mielie meal, they control samp. They can poison all of you ... they even control the air we breathe. They are the ones who are polluting it. They can just put something in this air and finish all of us.” He then goes on to say, “I vaccinated because I saw the Jews...”

Others agreed that the comment was dangerous. “In essence, Malema always tells his followers what they

want to hear. In this instance, even when saying something positive, he took the opportunity to try and insult Jewish people,” says Michael Bagraim, a member of Parliament (MP) and the deputy shadow minister for employment and labour.

“One cannot fathom why Malema would single out one faith group as opposed to another,” said Bagraim. “It could possibly be more easily understood when you take into account his vitriolic attack on Israel and Jewish people generally. My feeling is that he’s trying to portray Jewish people as being selfish, self-centred, and only concerned about themselves. Comments like these appear to be almost innocuous, but clearly form a structure in the listener’s mind that ‘they, the Jewish people, are different’.

“It’s this type of statement that tries to sow a seed in the listener’s mind that the Jewish people are different to others, and even in this possibly positive sense, should be seen in a different light,” he says. “The statement is duplicitous and clearly identifies Jews as being ‘the other’. Although it’s not legally or politically actionable, it’s insidious by definition.”

Local political analyst Ralph Mathekga says the comment lines up with Malema’s political strategy, which has always been to polarise different groups. “This is stereotyping. People take individual and not group decisions regarding vaccination.”

MP and shadow minister of international relations, Darren Bergman, says, “I find the comment distasteful. We have a politician testing the waters a week before elections, trying to divide and conquer. I think he’s saying that ‘the Jews look after themselves first’ so it’s almost a connotation of being selfish. I don’t know if I’m being too sensitive, but maybe in this climate, it’s time that we do get a bit sensitive.”

Local antisemitism expert and emeritus professor



of history at the University of Cape Town, Milton Shain, says that while the comments at first seem respectful, “more problematic is the essentialising of Jews. He’s categorising them as inherently different. To appreciate this, swap the word ‘Jew’ with any other ethnic group. We start moving into the murky world of old ‘Nat’ thinking.”

But the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) didn’t see it as

any reason for concern. “South African Jewry has, on the whole, been committed to being vaccinated, and our various organisations have been proactive and vocal in ensuring that our community gets the jab,” says SAJBD National Director Wendy Kahn. “It would seem that Malema has observed our eagerness in this regard, and is trying to convince his own supporters to do the same.”

Meanwhile on Twitter, Malema’s comment about Jews getting vaccinated was posted on the EFF page, where it was retweeted 432 times and received 1 824 likes. Many Twitter users commented on it, with one saying, “Hitler was right about Jews – Malema needs cancelling” with lots of laughing emojis.

Another responded, “Fighters attack vaccination sites! Your commander in chief has spoken! Enough of your woke rubbish! Your commander has said if Jews vaccinate when they own the world, who are you to refuse vaccination when all you have is a SASSA card and an RDP house.”

A third person tweeted, “This thing of qualifying our decisions through other nations is concerning. So, South Africans aren’t trusted to make good decisions if not confirmed by Jewish people? We need to trust ourselves that we can make our own decisions without seeking validation from anyone.”

A fourth person tweeted, “This statement is self-defeating on the independence of Africans and their ability to make own choices. Why make Jews a beacon of decision-making [that] Africans have to follow. Some statements ought to not be said. Decision to vaccinate or not cannot be informed by a particular nation.”

Why teens shouldn’t exercise after vaccination

OPINION

DR SHERI FANAROFF



Tens of thousands of 12 to 17 year olds around the country presented for their COVID-19 vaccines this week. What advice should teens be given after being vaccinated?

The concern is that strenuous exercise in the week after a vaccine, while the immune system is mounting a response, may predispose teenagers and young adults to the very rare complications of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the thin membrane that surrounds the heart).

Myocarditis and pericarditis occur at a rate of 65 per million doses of Pfizer vaccine, more frequently after the second dose. To put it into perspective, the rate of myocarditis in patients infected with the SARS-CoV-2 virus is 450 cases per million infections. Cases that have occurred after vaccination have mostly been mild and resolved in a few days.

There are no official guidelines on exercise post vaccination. Out of caution, some countries, such as Singapore have advised adolescents and patients under 30 years of age to avoid strenuous physical activity (intense exercise) for one week after receiving a vaccine.

Hatzolah is advising patients to avoid strenuous exercise for one week post vaccine, and based on this, some schools in Johannesburg have suspended all sports for this week following a mass vaccination campaign at schools.

My advice to teens is to avoid very strenuous activity such as running, cycling, rugby, soccer, and other cardiovascular activity for five to seven days. Within this period, they should monitor their heart rates and how they are feeling when participating in milder activities.

If they have fever, excessive fatigue, or severe muscle pain, they should rest completely for a few days. These symptoms can be treated with Panado.

Should their resting heart rate be elevated above normal or their heart rate go up more than usual while exercising, they should rather rest for a longer period. Symptoms to watch out for in teenagers in the two weeks following vaccination include chest pain, shortness of breath, a fast, irregular heart rate, and fatigue. In the unlikely event that your teenager develops any of these, you should seek medical care.

For teens participating in competitive sports or intense training, the timing of the vaccine should be carefully considered. It’s best to plan for at least five days off intense

training. This may sound inconvenient, but remember that the recommended rest time from exercise after testing positive for COVID-19 is two weeks after recovery.

Teens who are in quarantine or isolation following exposure are also not able to participate in sport. Vaccinating high school students will ultimately reduce the amount of time spent off school and off sport, making a one-week rest period easier to accept.

In a webinar for health professionals on 26 October, Professor Claudia Gray, a paediatrician from Cape Town, outlined five reasons why she believed that adolescents should be vaccinated against COVID-19.

1. While mild disease is likely, it’s not guaranteed and one doesn’t know which previously healthy teenagers may be severely affected. The Delta variant has caused a higher number of infections in teenagers, with an increase in admissions to intensive care, teenagers needing ventilation, and death, which is “unacceptable in a disease that is modifiable by vaccination”;
2. Complications such as multi-system inflammatory disease and long COVID-19 can be prevented;
3. Transmissibility can be decreased, which has widespread repercussions for the community. Teenagers find it difficult to distance themselves physically from others and isolate;
4. Vaccinating this group helps to prevent new and potentially more transmissible or more severe variants from evolving; and
5. It gives us a chance to normalise our community – the more people vaccinated, the greater the chance of, for example, watching our children play sport again.

Esteemed critical-care professor at the University of the Witwatersrand, Professor Guy Richards, concurs with this, reinforcing the ways in which vaccines reduce transmission, including less spread from asymptomatic individuals and a shorter period of viral shedding in vaccinated patients.

Gray said that she timed the vaccination of her own adolescents before the weekend so that they could have a 48-hour complete period of rest from exams and sport, so that if they got a sore arm, headache, or fever, they would be able to rest. She advised that young males should avoid all exercise for two days, and avoid intense, strenuous exercise for five days. She reminded doctors that it takes three to four weeks to build up immunity, and said parents should consider vaccinating in time for teens to have immunity before the December holidays.

Though serious side effects following vaccines in adolescents are exceedingly rare, it’s wise rather to be cautious and invest in a few days of rest before undertaking strenuous exercise following vaccination.

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



TALK TO US ABOUT FINDING AND SECURING YOUR PROPERTY IN ISRAEL.



Since 1985 - Hold is the premier real estate firm for property investment in Israel. With a global portfolio of clients, Hold also manages over 170 rental properties in Israel.

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

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

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

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

JOIN OUR VIRTUAL Q&A SESSION IN NOVEMBER.

Register by email nicci@hold.co.il

HOLD REAL ESTATE

SECURING YOUR FUTURE IN ISRAEL

In association with

JAWITZ
PROPERTIES

Contact Julian Nathan
julian@hold.co.il
+27 87 551 0734
+972 58 631 9754

Visit our website: www.hold.co.il

Forewarned is forearmed

On Monday, we go to the polls for our local government election and for the first time in a long time, I'm hearing people questioning who they are going to vote for. Somehow, I have the sense that many are taking this election more seriously than before because they recognise that it will have a direct impact on their day to day lives.

People are genuinely trying to work out which person is going to be best for them and their suburb. I, for one, and most of the people I know are sick and tired of trying to avoid driving into the huge vehicle-destroying dongas on our roads. These seem to remain unfilled for months, and are exacerbated by the rainy season.

We are tired of power outages that last for days with no respite and apparently nobody doing anything about them either. We are tired of suddenly not having water coming through our taps.

The frustration is endless, and I would love to know that there was someone in a position of power who was on our side, making sure that when we have these problems, they are dealt with quickly and painlessly.

So, would it be better to vote in someone from the Democratic Alliance (DA) or African National Congress (ANC) because of the power in numbers and the fact that one of these two parties is likely to run the major cities? But then what happens if your ward councillor is DA in an ANC municipality – would she or he be restricted?

Perhaps we should be voting for that independent guy who looks like he's so committed to the right kind of change, he's put up his Barmitzvah money to stand in this election. But maybe as a lone soldier in the opposing army, he's not likely to have much persuasion power. How about that party that wants Cape Town to be its own country?

I don't have the answers for you, although we have tried to give you as much information as we possibly can. We have introduced you to the Jewish people standing for election (page 10 to 11), written about a proposed mayor (page 12), got experts to write for you (page 6), and put on webinars to educate us all.

Now it's up to you. Make your vote count because your vote matters. It could be your vote that tips the scales towards one particular person or even a whole party. So, don't underestimate your power.

I'm sure I don't need to remind anyone how many people died in this country so that every citizen has that right to vote. It's a precious right that we need to use so that the government does what it needs to do for us.

I was shocked when a close friend of mine, who has always been very politically involved, told me he was going to the coast this weekend to be back in a couple of weeks. I asked him about voting, and he sheepishly said that he was hoping nobody would ask because he can't vote at the coast.

My sense is when people who criticise the authorities don't vote, they relinquish the right to that criticism.

We all make our choices, but I implore you to use that precious right and vote so that we can ensure that the people looking after our day to day needs are going to do a better job than they have been doing.

This brings me to one of the key issues that has been used in campaigning for votes, namely whether or not to vaccinate.

As someone whose whole family is now vaccinated and proudly so, I cannot believe that people are still vacillating over this. I'm astonished at how many people are still refusing to be vaccinated, citing nonsense they have picked up on social media as proof positive that they shouldn't vaccinate.

As we have a less stressful hiatus between waves and get to experience just a little more freedom, I can tell you I don't want that freedom taken from me again.

And it's clear that the more people are vaccinated, the less chance of another serious wave that will put us back under lockdown. Let's vaccinate for freedom.

I must say, I was pleased to hear that Julius Malema agreed with me, getting vaccinated because he "believes in science". He even called on his supporters to get vaccinated. Then he went on to cite that because all the Jews were being vaccinated, he knew it was safe because "they" put a high price on life (page 5).

At first, like Howard Feldman (page 14), I had to think about what he said and I wondered if it was meant to be an insult. However, to me, it was clearly a veiled compliment – if that's a possibility coming from Malema – and is true. We do value life, and do everything possible to preserve it.

And although our experts didn't think him saying this was kosher, I have to admit that after Israelis had vaccinated their children, it made me feel safe to vaccinate mine.

However, there have been many counsellors and party leaders around the country who have used their campaign to dissuade people from vaccinating. Frankly, I see this as an abuse of power, but I guess I have to allow people to make up their own minds.

Having said that, I was significantly irked this week by the lack of warning about potential threats to our children post-vaccine.

I was fortunate to be on Dr Sheri Fanaroff's mailing list on 17 October, when she put out a piece about teens being vaccinated. In it, she warned that teens, especially boys, shouldn't do strenuous exercise for up to a week after being vaccinated to safeguard them from the rare incidence of pericarditis or myocarditis.

So, I knew about it when my boys were vaccinated, but nobody told them or me when they were being vaccinated. And I wonder just how many people were made aware before their teens were vaccinated.

For this reason, I asked Dr Sheri to write the piece on page 5 to ensure we all know about it and can watch out for any signs.

I'm not telling you this because I think we should rethink vaccinating our kids. To the contrary, I just believe in taking every precaution to safeguard us all from any harm. And I believe forewarned is forearmed. A few days without sport won't hurt anyone...

So, before you head out to the polling booths on Monday, make sure that you have done your research, using all we have given you and whatever else you can find to guide you to make your choice. That way, you too will be forearmed to choose the people who would best serve you, your suburb, and our community.

Power to your pencil!

Shabbat Shalom!
Peta Krost Maunder
Editor



The ballot is stronger than the barricade

OPINION

WAYNE SUSSMAN



I recently looked back at some election results. Earlier in the year, the Democratic Alliance (DA) clung onto a Pretoria West seat by three votes in a Tshwane by-election in the nation's capital. Had the African National Congress (ANC) won that by-election, it would have marched forward to this election with a lot more momentum.

That DA win gave the party's activists in Pretoria a lot of encouragement. I remember in the early 2000s, the ANC beat the DA by four votes in a Stellenbosch by-election to win a seat off the DA.

We should be cynical. So many of our politicians who have the privilege of being elected to council, provincial legislature, and parliament don't go beyond the call of duty to serve the country or their constituents. Too many try to enrich themselves rather than bringing good to the areas where they live. Many of our cities and towns look jaded.

Many South Africans believe more can be achieved through blocking the roads and shutting down the cities or towns. Politicians running for office rarely if ever honour their electoral promises. The minute they are elected, they are perceived to disappear. Thus, a service delivery protest can be far more beneficial than begging the councillor to do the job.

Earlier this year, taxi drivers and farmers worked together in the Free State town of Ficksburg to block the road to prevent trucks from passing to and from the Lesotho border to protest against the deteriorating road conditions.

We saw similar nation-building activity in Koster in the North West, where a cross section of local residents and farmers were given permission by the courts to resuscitate



the collapsed water and sewerage supply and run these key plants for the municipality. We saw it after the July insurrection, when residents of KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng took to the streets with brooms and bin bags to clean the areas which were devastated by the looting.

If the state, province, and municipalities cannot protect our businesses, manage our water supply, or maintain our roads, then why should we vote? We can and will sort things out for ourselves. We don't need to rely on the police to protect our families and businesses. We'll buy a generator and put up a JoJo tank. There's no point in voting as it will make no difference. We'll do our best to protect our family and our community and won't bother ourselves with the continued decline of our ward and city.

For me, national and provincial elections can often feel like a version of *The Emperor's New Clothes*. There are grandiose plans,

ambitious policies relating to finance, the economy, and foreign affairs. They could easily be mistaken for a charade. Local government, by contrast, is much more tangible. This has to do with your weekly refuse collection, water supply, the roads in your neighbourhood, and the upkeep of your park. Effective local government allows our community to leave the comforts of our home, synagogue, communal institution, and favourite shopping centre and allows us to become citizens. We are more likely to use public spaces and more likely to collaborate with people from different backgrounds to us.

Who are we voting for?

The Independent Electoral Commission has made copies of your ballot available for inspection on its website. Open Cities Lab has created an app which does the same but also tells you how old the candidate is and whether they are standing in only one ward. For instance, in ward 73, (Houghton Norwood), 36-year-old Bhhekinkosi Mchunu is running for the KwaZulu-Natal based Justice and Employment Party. He's also standing in 134 other wards. I wonder how much he knows about my ward and its challenges, and hope residents of other wards would have the same concerns.

I notice that the African Christian Democratic Party's candidate, the 49-year-old Bronwyn Kassen, is more modest in her run for office. She is running in my ward and is on the ballot in Florida in the west of the city, Craighall Park, and Bryanston Bordeaux. I implore you to do research on the candidates on your ballot, and see whether they live in your area and whether they understand what

the critical issues will be over the next five years.

You will be getting two ballot papers if you live in a metro (major city). The second ballot is the proportional ballot. Think carefully which party will best represent you, your concerns, and your aspirations over the next five years.

Your mood might be down, you are jaded by too many disappointments. However, Monday is a public holiday. Take your family, take a book, and go stand in

line with the residents of your neighbourhood. Stop and look at all the party volunteers trying for one last time to get your attention and remind you why you should vote for them.

When you step into that ballot box on Monday, know that as per the Pretoria West and Stellenbosch example, your vote can indeed make a difference. Know that you are voting because you do care about your ward and city being better over the next five years rather than at best remaining in its current state or at worst sliding backwards.

Know that your vote can be the difference between an energetic candidate on the proportional ballot getting elected or not. Your vote could possibly be the one which ensures that a key coalition partner gets an additional say in the stewardship of the city. Let's all go out and vote and celebrate the potential of our wards and cities.

• *Wayne Sussman writes on elections for 'Daily Maverick'.*

Children try stop their father drowning in the Vaal

NICOLA MILTZ

A teenage girl and her younger brother are battling to pick up the pieces after doing everything they could to save their father from drowning in the Vaal River earlier this month.

On the weekend of 9 October, Steyn Saayman, 44, known as “Big Man” had planned a fun weekend away with his two children Michaela, 16, and Tyler, 9, who are King David School Linksfield scholars.

The three of them were going to spend quality time together on a hired houseboat on the river. They hired the boat on Saturday morning, and things were going well. They planned to suntan, fish, and braai, and young Tyler even hit a few golf balls off the boat. But tragedy struck at about 16:00 near Vaalview. It’s understood that Saayman, a heavyset man, may have lost his balance and landed overboard after a speedboat sped past causing waves. It left his anguished children alone to try to rescue him.

Their mother, Renee, said Michaela was at the wheel and Tyler was on the sundeck above when they heard a loud splash and realised their father was in the water.

“They started screaming,” she said.

“He told them not to panic, that it was going to be fine, but they should try to hurry with help as he was getting tired,” she said.

It’s unclear exactly what happened in the frantic minutes that followed, but a terrified Michaela tried to turn the heavy boat around in a bid to reach her father who was flailing.

“She was scared that he would get in the

way of the propellers,” said Renee.

Tyler meanwhile, ran to the top of the boat and began waving for help. He switched the boat’s engine off and the children tried to throw a rope into the water which sadly, their father battled to

on her cell phone, sobbing hysterically that her dad had fallen in the water and they couldn’t find him. I asked her what happened, where they were, and if she could find any emergency number to call,” Renee said.



The late Steyn Saayman with his children Tyler and Micaela

reach. They continued to wave frantically for help, but according to Renee, people misunderstood their waves for friendly greetings. Eventually a young family stopped to help when they realised the children were in distress. By that stage, Steyn had disappeared under water. It had taken just minutes, and it was difficult to find him.

“My daughter called me from the boat

“The young family stayed with them when they got to land. I got there as fast as I could.”

According to a report in the *Vaalweekblad*, police divers started their search for Saayman as soon as they were alerted. His body was found on Tuesday morning, three days after the fateful incident.

“I’m devastated, full of mixed emotions. I’m so sad that my two little heroes had to witness this,” said Renee.

Steyn was a bodyguard who was well known in the security industry. “This wasn’t the way we thought he’d go,” said Renee. “We’d always thought it would be a shooting or a high-speed vehicle accident in his dangerous line of work.”

In a eulogy to him read at his funeral, Renee described the children’s father as “a gentle giant”, a man with a “large presence and just as big a heart”.

She said he was a “multifaceted man, a man that would have risked his life for others”.

“Steyn was always there to rescue everyone around him in need. He was everyone’s saviour, but sadly, as hard as his kids tried, there was no saving him.

“Steyn came out of so many vehicle accidents and shootings unscathed, which is so ironic in the line of duty he was in,” Renee said.



She said he “lived for his kids” and always joked, saying to them, “daddy has to go out and work to earn money to buy milk and nappies”.

“He lived and breathed work, and vowed that he would never let his kids go without what he had as a child.

“He always made his presence visible, not only in terms of his large stature, but with flashing lights and sirens. He was known as the guy with the black BMW who after his late-night shifts, would patrol the surrounding streets before he went home. No one ever feared when Steyn was near.”

She said he “worked hard, lived hard, and played just as hard”.

An official inquest is being conducted to determine the circumstances surrounding his death. The family is waiting for the autopsy results.



The Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel advises that the inauguration of

The David Lopatie Institute of Comparative Medicine

will be held digitally on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, at 18:30 as part of the Annual General Meeting of the International Board of the Weizmann Institute of Science

Please contact: Yaelg@weizmann.ac.il should you wish to receive a link to view the festive occasion



**WISHING YOU A
HAPPY, HEALTHY &
PROSPEROUS NEW
YEAR AND WELL OVER
THE FAST & KEEP
SAFE**





FOR MORE INFORMATION
+972-52-7771715





Antisemitism the second global pandemic, says WJC president

SAUL KAMIONSKY

There are two pandemics in the world, Ronald Lauder, the president of the World Jewish Congress (WJC), told the South African Jewish Board of Deputies national conference on 17 October. COVID-19 is one, the other – antisemitism – has been with us for 2 000 years.

Speaking from the WJC’s headquarters in New York, Lauder said that he had witnessed these two “global viruses” coming to the forefront since attending an executive meeting in Johannesburg six years ago.

Described by the *Jerusalem Post* as “a rare voice of moral clarity in today’s world”, the American-born art collector has been the president of the WJC since 2007.

The WJC was founded in 1936 in response to the rise of Nazism and the growing wave of European antisemitism. It acts as the diplomatic arm of the Jewish people, and has international offices in six countries.

The WJC watches everything that happens around the world, including in South Africa, 24 hours a day, Lauder said. “We will be there for you if you ever need us.”

Today, the organisation is engaged

in fighting the mighty wave of antisemitism and anti-Zionism. “I can promise you we will protect Jews everywhere. That’s why this organisation was formed in the first place,” said Lauder.

He said that the WJC was alarmed by the attacks on Jews in the streets of Paris, London, and Los Angeles, and mentioned that just more than two weeks ago, a bottle of water was thrown at a Swedish-based rabbi.

“These things shouldn’t happen at all,” he said. “Israel comes under constant assault through the United Nations and on social media, mainstream newspapers, and on college campuses.”

Lauder said the comparison between Israel and apartheid South Africa was an example of the “fabrications and complete falsehoods” that the world still believes because “unhinged hatred of Israel is simply the latest version of antisemitism”.

According to Lauder, Jews were hated for their religion during the Middle Ages. “In the late 19th and early 20th century, they were hated for their race. Today, we are hated for the national state of Israel.”

The former United States ambassador to Austria said such hatred was bizarre as Jews make up 0.2% of the world’s population. “Yet,

Jews are the target of more than 50% of all religious crimes. These aren’t just isolated attacks. They have occurred in 89 countries.”

The WJC continuously notices baseless posts on social media being reported as truth by mainstream media, Lauder said.

“This was most evident with the attacks on Israel this past spring. If South Africa, France, Great Britain, or any other country other than Israel had been attacked by more than 4 000 rockets launched by terrorists, everyone would have hit back hard, and everyone would have every right to do so,” he said.

“Yet, the world’s press and social media charged Israel with crimes against humanity. That defies all logic. It’s ludicrous. It also gives you an idea of what the WJC is fighting every single day.”

Lauder said the WJC was seeking the people behind these “sickening” lies. “We will start making them uncomfortable. If I’ve learned anything about antisemites, it’s that they’re cowards. The only way to deal with bullies and cowards is to fight back even harder, and they get a taste of their own medicine. That is when antisemitism will start to disappear.”



Minister hopeful about improved relations between Israel and SA

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Israel Diaspora Affairs Minister Nachman Shai is hopeful that the relationship between Israel and South Africa will improve soon.

“I’m hopeful that things will get better and even hopeful that the South African government will finally recognise that it made some mistakes vis-à-vis Israel,” he told the participants at the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) national conference on 17 October.

“It’s time for the South African ambassador to return to Israel and to renew full diplomatic relations. We do everything we can to improve their relations from our end,” he said, speaking from Israel

as a guest of honour at the conference.

Shai is widely remembered as the voice of national calm when serving as a spokesperson for the Israel Defense Forces when Iraq fired missiles at Israel during the 1991 Gulf War.

He is a good friend of South Africa, and said he vividly remembers being part of a group of Knesset members who visited South Africa three or four years ago. “Needless to say, we appreciate your

community, how much you devoted to Zionism and Israel, and of course to your Jewish life.”

Shai thanked the SAJBD National President Shaun Zagnoev and the SAJBD National Vice-Presidents Mary Kluk and Zev Krengel for their contribution to the South African Jewish community during the recent period.

“All of you have played a very important role, like Moshe,” he said. “If the Jewish people were in the desert without Moshe, where would we have been today?”

Shai noted that Europe had lost eight million Jews in the past 75 years. “On the eve of the World War II, nine and a half million Jews were living in Europe. Now there are just one and a half million. Six million were lost in the Holocaust. The rest just left Europe and went all over the world.”

Shai, who is the founder of the commercial Second Authority for Television and Radio in Israel, said Europe consequently lost a significant portion of its culture. He would like to help Jews return to Europe and foster Jewish life there.

He marvelled at how, first, a Jewish state was formed three years after the end of the Holocaust and, second, how Israel had led the world in combatting COVID-19.

“We were the first to be fully vaccinated,” he said. “To the great credit of this [Israeli] government, we decided neither to quarantine nor close down the entire country any longer. We did this to keep the country moving, not to lose billions of shekels. Now, the economy is still on track, and we are determined to return to normal life, including schools.”

As a parting gesture, he said, “We hope to see you in Israel. We are gradually opening borders and easing restrictions.”

Heroes, mentors, and cancelled plans: the stories behind the SAJBD awards

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Professor Barry Schoub, Dr Richard Friedland, Uriel Rosen, the Kirsh family, and Viv Anstey were all honoured for their unstinting work for the good of others at the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) National Conference at Investec in Sandton on 17 October.

The Eric Samson Mendel Kaplan Communal Service Award went to Professor Barry Schoub and Dr Richard Friedland. “Barry has been the person in our community who, over and above the incredible nachas that we receive from his global scientific accomplishments, has done so much for us,” said Mary Kluk, SAJBD national vice-president.

When the SAJBD leadership was grappling with how to protect the Jewish community during the early stages of COVID-19, it was Schoub’s quiet wisdom and vast scientific experience that steered them through.

“He’s become this household name, constantly appearing not only on our news, but also on international news networks,” said Kluk. “Yet, Barry has taken every call and every query from every one of us and all our organisations for the past 18 months. And he has made himself available to South Africa, but in particular to our community.”

Speaking after receiving the award, Schoub recalled how he and his wife were about to travel to Storms River Mouth in the Eastern Cape in March 2020, when his phone rang.

“Look, there’s no way you can go on holiday,” said Zev Krengel, SAJBD national vice-president, on the other end of the line. “Do you know that there’s a COVID-19 pandemic on its way to the country?”

With that, Schoub unpacked the bags, cancelled the booking, and began what he described as a “remarkable” journey.

“I’m indeed overwhelmed, honoured, humbled, and gratified to receive this very, very prestigious award named after two extraordinary philanthropists in our community,” said Schoub. “It will occupy a treasured place for me and on my study wall.”

Schoub paid tribute to his co-awardee, Friedland, describing him as a “tzadik” and saying he had learned so much from his former student.

Indeed, Friedland was lectured by Schoub during his third year of medicine.

“He [Schoub] was a mentor then, and he’s a mentor now,” said Friedland. “One of the great privileges of working now was to sit at the feet of such a master.”

Friedland was awarded for the contribution he made to the Jewish community during the pandemic.

He has spoken on many public platforms, participated in a range of consultative forums, and fielded innumerable queries from all sectors of the community about COVID-19. Through this, he provided up-to-date information, advice, and considered guidelines that the Jewish leadership could safely rely upon. Furthermore, Friedland took a personal interest in those community members who contracted the virus.

After receiving his award, Friedland said Schoub’s praise “greatly overexaggerates the role I played, which was merely a janitor”.

The Chief Rabbi Cyril and Ann Harris Humanitarian Award went to the Kirsh family for their contribution to South Africa, in spite of being overseas. Natie and Frances, their son, Philip, and daughters, Wendy and Linda, were praised by Krengel as “one of the unique families that did unbelievably well all over the world and never forgot their roots”.

Krengel said the family embodied the proverb popularised by Spider-Man comic books: “With great power comes great responsibility”. He said the family looked after the most vulnerable in South Africa and, during the pandemic, it stepped up to help young people and schools across the country.

The Eric Samson Mendel Kaplan Communal Service Award for a Professional went to Viv Anstey and Uriel Rosen. A board member of the Cape SAJBD, Anstey possesses an immense depth of communal knowledge, gives selflessly of her time, and constantly rolls up her sleeves to help with tasks of any size. She has a passion for including and reaching out to youth in the South African Jewish community.

“You have epitomised the model of a Jewish civil servant,” said Tzvi Brivik, the chairperson of the Cape SAJBD. “Numerous organisations have benefited from your qualities of vision, innovation, and initiative, combined with the highest standards of professionalism that you have consistently brought to every position you have held.”

After collecting her award, Anstey said, “As a serial social entrepreneur, I’m proud of all the initiatives I have spearheaded alongside lay and professional teams. For me, leadership is about vision, implementation, and people.”

Rosen is the man behind the Hatzolah Wellness Programme, recognised across South Africa as the epitome of community care. The programme has been a critical resource in tracking and managing COVID-19 in the community.

“Everybody who works with Uriel has nothing but praise for his unbelievable willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty to assist those in need,” said Professor Karen Milner, the chairperson of the SAJBD.

Rosen accepted the award on behalf of his team, which “dedicates every breathing moment to the welfare and healthcare of the Jewish community”.



Israel considers the option of war with Iran

OPINION

Israelis are being asked again whether or not they support a proactive strike on Iran, even at the risk of starting a war. The overwhelming majority – more than 70% – say yes!

In a recent poll, just more than one in two also said that Israel should have attacked Iran years ago during the “early stages” of its nuclear development rather than wait for a negotiated settlement.

The debate is back in the news after last week’s reports that Jerusalem had approved \$1.5 billion (R22.1 billion) for aircraft, intel-gathering drones, and unique armaments needed for a potential strike on Iran.

Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz warned that even more funds would be necessary. “Israel is challenged militarily on many fronts,” he said, “the most significant threat facing Israel – and the one for which the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) most needs to allocate its resources – is Iran and its nuclear programme”.

The goal of an Israeli strike on Tehran would be twofold.

Primarily, it would aim at preventing the regime from being able to build an atomic bomb. From the start, the previous Israeli government under then Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was against the July 2015 nuclear deal signed between Tehran and world powers.

Under its terms, Iran agreed to dismantle much of its nuclear programme and open its facilities to more extensive international inspection in exchange for billions of dollars’ worth of sanctions relief.



Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz

But three years later, to Israel’s delight, former American president Donald Trump withdrew from the agreement and since then, the Islamic Republic has again started to ramp up its nuclear activities. It has also refused access to the International Atomic Energy Agency to repair surveillance equipment damaged in a June attack on a nuclear site that has been blamed on Israel.

The blast destroyed a camera and heavily damaged another, although it’s unknown how many cameras are there in total.

There is now renewed rigor by the current American administration and European powers to bring Iran back to the negotiating table, but their patience is running thin. Tehran is stalling, even more so after ultraconservative Ebrahim Raisi won the presidential election in June.

The second goal of a potential IDF strike on Iran would be to reduce the country’s efforts, through its proxy Hezbollah in Lebanon, to establish a permanent base of

operation on the Syrian side of the Golan Heights, close to the Israeli border.

In recent months Israel has conducted numerous strikes on Syria, the latest reportedly on Monday morning, 25 October, to prevent precisely this.

But such attacks are becoming more difficult for Israel as Syria continuously improves its air defence capabilities, partly due to upgraded Iranian-made components. Iran also recently begun deploying advanced air defence systems in Iraq, Yemen, and Lebanon to protect its forces and proxies in those countries from Israeli strikes.

In a five-hour meeting last Friday, Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett to maintain Moscow’s tacit acceptance of these strikes.

In spite of the fact that Bennett has replaced Netanyahu (only temporarily, many Israelis would tell you), the county’s leadership is on the same page when it comes to Iran.

Everyone – as in the Israeli political elite and the public – understands that bombing Iran’s nuclear facilities would effectively amount to declaring a war. For this reason, most in Israel would prefer the United States and Western countries to take the lead and for Israel not to have to shoulder the full responsibility and consequences of an attack on Iran.

There is also a lot of tension in the Islamic world, and Tehran is far from popular. Saudi Arabia and other Sunni countries in the Gulf that Israel recently signed peace treaties with, like the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, are also concerned about Iran’s nuclear capability. But their messages are ambiguous, and it seems that their preference, at least in the short term, would be for actions short of war.

What’s more, an Israeli assault on a major Muslim country could very well unite Arab countries against the Jewish state.

First prize for Israel, of course, would be if any of these countries came on board a planned Iranian strike. But if they don’t, and before Iran’s nuclear programme reaches the point of no return, there seems to be an understanding in Israel that she would have to strike alone.

IDF Chief of Staff Aviv Kohavi has admitted that Israel has “greatly accelerated” preparations for action against Iran’s nuclear programme.

Already at the beginning of the year, Kohavi publicly declared that Israel was preparing fresh “operational plans” for a potent military strike. Two months ago, he admitted that Iran’s nuclear progress

had prompted the IDF “to speed up its operational plans”. Reports suggest that an IDF strike plan is in the “draft stage”.

But an Israeli strike on Iran presents numerous challenges. In addition to having to find ways to strike Iranian facilities that are buried deep underground and that require specialised munitions and tactics, the Israeli Air Force will have to deal with increasingly sophisticated Iranian air defences in order to conduct such a strike. The air force will also have to prepare for an expected retaliation against Israel by Iran and its allies throughout the region.

The Iranians, for their part, have sounded a note of defiance in the face of Israeli threats.

One of Iran’s most senior leaders recently threatened that if Israel attacked its nuclear programme, the country’s response would require Israel to spend “tens of thousands of billion dollars” to reconstruct the country.

Israel views the Iranian nuclear project as a near existential threat. Amidst the international community’s hesitancy regarding Tehran’s real intentions and reluctance to take action – at least for now – Jerusalem will increasingly prepare for a D-Day when it might just be forced to go the road alone.

PAULA SLIER



• Paula Slir is the Middle East bureau chief of RT, the founder and chief executive of Newshound Media International, and the inaugural winner of the Europcar Women in Leadership Award of the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards.

ENJOY
UP TO
40%
OFF

feel the

PROMO
UP TO 40% OFF

Spazio 600x600mm
Matt Glazed Porcelain Tile
R179_{m²}
~~WAS R209~~

White

Gris

Charcoal

Slip-resistant

Slip-resistant finish
NOW R199_{m²}

Metro Blanco
Subway Tiles
R189_{m²}
~~WAS R219~~

100x200mm

Gloss Glazed Ceramic Wall Tile





Cotto Thantara
Counter Top Basin
425x650x160
From **R2699** each
Was **R3499** each



COTTO
Includes Soft Close Seat

Cotto Simply Modish
Close Couple Toilet
From **R6299** each
Was **R7999** each



TIVOLI
• PURE ITALIAN CRAFTSMANSHIP •

15 YEAR
GUARANTEE

SAVE 15%

Sofi Tap Range
From **R2999** each
*Selected taps on promotion only.



Potenza Tap Range
From **R1399** each
*Selected taps on promotion only.

Prices are valid while stocks last and subject to change. Prices include VAT.

Visit www.italtile.co.za. Our showrooms are open 7 days a week.

ONLINE SHOP 010 271 2272

italtile

italtilesa

italtilesa

italtile

Action stations: Jewish politicians dedicated to making

A number of Jewish candidates are running in the upcoming local government elections. SA Jewish Report journalist **Saul Kamionsky** speaks to them in the second of a two-part series.

Colin Morris
ActionSA
Johannesburg: Ward 72 (includes Linksfield, Fairmount, Sydenham, Glenhazel, Sandringham, Silvermont, and Sunningdale Bridge)

Captain Colin Morris is a man who has given his life to protect and serve the people of South Africa.

Earlier this year, he retired from volunteering, something he has done for more than three decades. While having a full-time job, he served as a police reservist for 33 years and an emergency medical practitioner for more than a decade. On top of that, he spent 20 years in the Child Protection Unit.

About five years ago, Morris became interested in standing for the Democratic Alliance (DA). He approached some senior people in the party, and they were interested in talking to him.

"But at the time, I was still actively involved in the South African police, so I couldn't do both," recalls Morris on 15 October 2021, his birthday. "As a result, I abandoned the idea of going down the political path, and relooked at it again about eight months ago after I had retired from policing at the age of 60."

With municipal elections on the horizon, he once again approached the DA. "It said it had already made a decision [about its candidates]. I looked for a party with the same ethics and morals that I have, and ActionSA popped up."

After conducting a process of elimination to identify the best candidate, ActionSA called Morris into a meeting with its senior members, and he was approved as its candidate for ward 72.

Since then, Morris has been in several online meetings hosted by the party. "Everything we talk about at the moment is focused on 1 November," he says.

Morris shares a story that he tells regularly to explain

why people should vote for him.

"Through the elections I have seen growing up in South Africa, I have noticed that the middle class, sort of northern-suburbs people, would always vote for the party that would be the best strong opposition. They didn't vote for the opposition – a party like the Progressive Federal Party in those days – because they thought they could be in power, they voted because they wanted a strong opposition."

As Morris describes it, "the beauty today" is that there could be a good party that not only stands as a suitable opposition to the African National Congress (ANC), but also stands a chance of being in power, certainly in Johannesburg.

"That party is ActionSA. It's seen as a diverse party that's able to produce results. Why should they vote for me, per se? I've brought to the community action that most other people standing in the area haven't. I've got a strong community background and knowledge of what's going on. And I've got a strong background in how to make things work. I've been involved with community matters for the past 30 odd years. I've also been an ambulance reservist, and I have worked for community-based organisations."

Some of the highlights of his career include volunteering at the Holocaust & Genocide Centre and the Teddy Bear Clinic for Abused Children.

"Is politics important? No, it's about bringing results to members of the ward and members of the public. One of the mottos of ActionSA is 'no politics'. We're not politicians. We're people who are committed to bringing action and change to Johannesburg, and certainly to ward 72."



Gary Trappler
Freedom Front Plus
Cape Town: Ward 115 (includes Green Point, Zonnebloem, Vredehoek, and parts of Woodstock)

Lawyer Gary Trappler has become known as an outspoken activist in his area, ward 115.

In 2019, this martial-arts enthusiast acted as an *amicus* (friend of the court) against what he describes as the "broad and bold" applications that homeless people had brought against the City of Cape Town in the high court. Representing various ratepayers' associations and other interest groups, he advanced arguments and won the case.

Trappler is currently involved in the second round of this matter but, this time, he aims to show that, according to the Constitution, homelessness is the city's responsibility.

By being involved in these two cases, he gained significant insight into the success and failure of bylaws.

As a result, he became more interested in politics, and approached the DA a couple of years ago. "At that stage, it said I was too white for the party," he recalls.

Trappler attended a few Freedom Front Plus (FFP) meetings with his friend, Paul Jacobson, who went on to be named as the party's candidate for ward 54 in Cape Town.

In the first five minutes of one meeting, the questions Trappler asked resulted in one FFP member saying, "Gary, it sounds like you might want to be a ward councillor in your area."

Trappler gave it 10 seconds of thought and said, "Ja, I'm interested."

Dr Corné Mulder's eyes went wide. The Western Cape FFP leader consulted with his second in command, and they looked through their papers to see who stood as their candidate in ward 115. Turning around, they told Trappler that he had got the position.

If Trappler is voted ward councillor in the upcoming municipal elections, the self-described "relentless fighter" is willing to fight for two causes in particular.

First, he wants to get the rates for electricity and water reduced.

"How the city determines these rates is shrouded in secrecy, murky water, bureaucracy, and closed-door administrative decisions."

Second, he promises to address what he describes as an "egregious" sight only 300m off the shore of Camps Bay. "It's a sewage pipe in which raw effluence goes directly into the sea, and it's harmful to the marine environment and beachgoers."

Although the pipe cannot be removed as it falls within territorial waters, Trappler envisions building sanitation plants inland to clean the effluence.

But Trappler's main dream is for the Western Cape to become an independent country, and he says the FFP is dedicated to achieving that.

"I've been drooling about the idea of secession for years. It's difficult to manage a country with so much diversity as we find in South Africa, and the wishes of the people of the Western Cape should be taken into account."

Trappler believes that with sufficient pressure, the government will be forced to give Western Cape residents the opportunity to vote for secession in a referendum.

"The likes of me really want that to happen. I can no longer live with any degree of optimism in this country unless I feel free from the tyranny of the ANC, which I believe will soon form a coalition with the EFF [Economic Freedom Fighters]. The future for myself and my children is bleak with that as a prospect."



Joanne Horwitz
Democratic Alliance
Johannesburg: Ward 81 (includes Lyndhurst, Bramley View, Corlett Gardens, Rembrandt Park)

Joanne Horwitz was seated on a couch when the results of the 2016 municipal elections were announced.

"As the DA had come so close and I've always voted DA, I decided that instead of sitting on my backside, I wanted to be involved in helping out."

Wanting to use her skills and work experience to assist, the attorney joined the party as a member. During one of its annual general meetings, the DA was looking for a branch secretary. "I put up my hand, and I was elected uncontested. I hadn't been attending DA meetings with any thought about becoming a politician, but every time something needed to be done, I would put up my hand just to help."

Horwitz went on to become the DA's secretary of the constituency and poster champion for the 2019 general elections.

About six months later, the constituency asked her if she was interested in becoming more involved and outspoken as a representative of the DA.

"I had joined the party to become active in helping the DA and suddenly, I was being asked to give more of myself, and it rang true for me that this was something I could do. Now I'm a candidate for ward councillor."

Horwitz believes her qualifications and work experience are reasons why people should vote for her. "I studied law, majoring in fundamental human rights. So, I've always had an interest in upgrading people's quality of life and providing better services to people across the spectrum."

She uses the non-profit organisation she

ran for about 18 years as an example. Based in Alexandra township, it gave people an opportunity to earn an income and deal with everyday life problems. It helped a few to buy fridges, roof their houses, and pay for their kids' school fees.

"I see being a politician as that kind of help in a more concentrated way, taking much more of my attention."

If elected, her priority will be to get residents to confide in her about what they need and want. "I will push their agenda in council. I'm looking forward to being the connection and link between the council and everyday people on the street in our ward."

Horwitz has already started developing relationships with DA candidates who share a boundary with her – Daniel Schay of ward 72, and Belinda Echeozonjoku of ward 74. "It makes sense to leverage the resources that are made available to us across boundaries. We will get better coverage of service delivery that way."

One of Horwitz's highlights was when she was asked to take herself from the background to the forefront of the party. "Becoming a representative and face of the DA was absolutely huge. Shortly afterwards, I was asked to be constituency chair."

In that role, she helped every ward in the constituency to campaign, host events, and be efficient on the ground.

Graduating with a South African law degree was a memorable moment for her.

"I studied law in the United Kingdom before returning to South Africa and basically had to redo the entire degree. The graduation ceremony was a crowning achievement, especially since I had missed two previous ceremonies in my studying journey."



Justin Kruger
The Civic Movement of South Africa
Johannesburg: Ward 72

Justin Kruger has never been involved in politics, yet he's standing as a candidate for the Civic Movement of South Africa (CMOSA) in the upcoming municipal elections.

Established in 2018, CMOSA isn't a political party. Its candidates have volunteered their services out of goodwill.

However, they can potentially have some sway in the council thanks to one of the organisation's founding members registering it with the Electoral Commission of South Africa.

Kruger, a dog-lover, joined the CMOSA in 2019. "My reason wasn't political," he says. "It was purely out of goodwill."

He started off by helping the organisation to assist the community. "We were mainly involved in townships and black communities, helping people who had neither received service delivery nor the houses the state had allocated to them."

Ahead of this year's by-election in Eldorado Park, where they were crying out for efficient services, Kruger used his own money to run an election campaign there.

"We didn't win, but we did beat the ANC. So, I got a bit of a feel for the whole election vibe and the great work a councillor can do.

And then, two other blokes told me, 'Well, you know, you've done a bit of work in your area. Why don't you run your area?' So, we can give it a bash."

Kruger says people should vote for him as he's done a lot of voluntary work over the years. "The most voluntary work I ever did was to be a police reservist

for more than 12 years. For most of that time, I've been working in Sandringham, where my ward is. I know Zulu quite well. I can speak the language, and understand it, so it's a communication tool I have."

Moreover, his time in the police has taught him to be strong, brave, and a leader. "I know how to navigate within state departments, and I understand the red tape involved – I've dealt with it for years and years."

By nature, he's an entrepreneur. "So, I'm quite a versatile fellow and I'm not married either, meaning I've got the time to serve the community."

Asked about where he stands next to the other candidates vying for ward 72, he says, "When a community works together, you can solve any problem. I believe if I can organise other people who live in the ward to assist the area, then I'm doing a good job."

To Kruger's mind, "the winning formula" is to utilise the knowledge of cleverer people to solve various issues.

"I'm willing to use the brains within the community to get problems sorted out," he says.

Kruger receives no funding. In fact, he's using his own savings to pay for his campaign posters. "Not many people put their money where their mouth is," he says.

One of his highlights as an entrepreneur was Builders Warehouse selling a kitchen product he invented at home in 2011. "It ran with it at their stores around the country for a couple of years."

His proudest feat in the police is having managed to stick it out and still be an active member.

"When the new regime came in, a lot of guys fell away and couldn't cope. Having Zulu as a tool gave me a lot of success. I've received a few awards."



things work in their wards

Daniel Schay
Democratic Alliance
Johannesburg: Ward 72 (includes Linksfield, Fairmount, Sydenham, Glenhazel, Sandringham, Silvermont, and Sunningdale Bridge)

Politics has always interested Daniel Schay, who matriculated from King David Linksfield in 2006.

With a professional background in structural engineering, he has worked in the private sector over the past decade, watching how fewer and fewer people were investing in South Africa as a result of its politics.

Schay would regularly say to himself, "We've got to have better leadership, we've got to get more involved and capable people involved in running as politicians, because if capable people aren't willing to put their hands up and be willing to change this country, we're not going to see the change we need."

Unable to bear the sight of South Africa on its current trajectory, Schay decided to enter politics to make the country better.

Having done a lot of research, as always, he chose to join the DA in 2016.

"I have a very capitalist view on life, and the DA's values align with my values pretty well," Schay says. "Also, it's a party with an effective and proven track record in government. On a policy and implementation level, I completely agree with it."

In 2017, Schay was elected deputy chairperson of the DA's Youth Johannesburg Committee. Within a year, he was asked to be campaign manager for Johannesburg East in the 2019 election.

"I have stood on the branches since then, and ahead of the upcoming municipal elections, I put up my hand for the first time to be a public representative."

Schay says people should vote for him as, in addition to his engineering background, he lives in ward 72.

"I understand the infrastructure issues that currently plague



our ward. That's my area of expertise. I can contribute to solutions for the area."

He believes the ward will improve only if capable people stand up and commit to making it flourish.

"Literally, we need to drive the growth and renewal of this ward, otherwise there's nothing left, and we've got nowhere to go. But I'm passionate about seeing the ward succeed, and I've got a vested interest in making sure it happens."

One of the highlights of his career is "a very small thing" – hosting members of the DA youth from every constituency in Johannesburg for Shabbat lunch as part of a cultural-exchange event.

"To sit around the table and discuss our backgrounds, our religion, and learn from each other was such an amazing experience."

Other moments that stand out for him are general day to day activities.

"Even now during this campaign, meeting people from all over the ward, learning about their background, seeing what we have in common, and having resident meetings in which residents put up their hand and ask, 'How can we make this ward better?', we have people taking ownership and wanting to grow and develop the area. They are being positive, and making sure that we succeed. These are huge moments. I mean, they can seem almost insignificant, but the fact that residents want to get involved in making things better is a massive moment in this ward."

Joshua Apfel
Democratic Alliance
Johannesburg: Ward 64 (Berea)

Joshua Apfel is a man of action, not words, which explains why his responses to our questions are so short.

To encourage people to vote for him in the upcoming municipal elections, he would gladly take them on a tour of Berea, ward 64, where he is running for ward councillor.

"We could also go past the old shuls in the area," he says.

The director of Joshua Apfel Attorneys worked for the DA as a volunteer before a friend of his convinced him to run for councillor. "I chose the DA because it's the only party that represents the diversity of South Africa, and it's the only party that I believe is capable of delivering services to the city."

Apfel says people should vote for him "because, at the end of



the day, that's the only way they will receive a voice in council, and I'm busy doing the basic services which the municipality is supposed to do. I'm also the only one to care enough for residents to get what they want – a voice in council."

He believes in representing all residents, including foreigners, and focusing on issues like safety, accommodation, employment, and litter.

For Apfel, helping his community is frustrating as he has to bear the brunt of the lack of service delivery and history of neglect in Johannesburg but, at the same time, it's rewarding as there's a lot of groundwork he can do to uplift others in his area. From a Jewish perspective, he has been able to encourage the Union of Jewish Women to contribute to events in Berea.

Moments that stand out for Apfel are when he tries to get things done for residents with service delivery complaints. "If I'm the effective cause of getting those services delivered, then that's a highlight."

2021 VOTE FOR YOUR ABSA JEWISH ACHIEVER 2021 NOMINEES rsvp@sajewishreport.co.za


They are marching to Pretoria Pretoria Pretoria!

WHY?
To take up residence at Jaffa at Jaffa at Jaffa!
It's wonderful!

Warm friendly atmosphere, fabulous food, gorgeous gardens, interesting activities, lovely accommodation, excellent care if needed.

Come and see for yourself.

 **JAFFA**
www.jaffa.org.za | (012) 346 2006 | admin@jaffa.org.za



KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL LINKSFIELD

King David is a large co-educational Jewish day school. We invite dynamic, motivated, and energetic professionals to apply for the position of

LIMMUDEI KODESH TEACHER

King David would like to appoint a teacher of Jewish Studies. The ideal candidate will have both a broad Torah knowledge and familiarity with Kodesh texts, Jewish Philosophy and History, as well as being an experienced teacher, familiar with technology and diverse methods of instruction, dynamic, driven by the desire for educational excellence and willing to be part of a successful team at a school with a well-established academic record.

The applicant would ideally begin on 10 January 2022

CLOSING DATE: Thursday 11 November 2021
A Curriculum Vitae, with references should be e-mailed to:
Rabbi Ilan Raanan, HOD Jewish studies,
King David High School, Linksfield
E-mail address: raanani@sabje.co.za
Tel: 011 480-4534 / 082 335 2247

The school reserves the right not to make an appointment. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

King David High School, Linksfield, in line with POPIA (Protection of Personal Information Act) will attempt to ensure the confidentiality of all applicants for this role. All reasonable measures will be in place to protect personal information but will be used in the recruitment, selection, and reporting process. By submitting your application for this position, you are recognising and accepting this disclaimer.



BALTHORNE
SAFE DEPOSIT CENTRES
London, UK

Contact us for further information

E: admin@balthornegroup.com
T: +44207431200

HQ Address: 575 Finchley Road,
London, NW3 7BN, United Kingdom

PROTECT THE IRREPLACABLE

Balthorne Safe Deposit Centres London, UK

Branches across Central and North London

Safe, Discreet, Confidential and Professional Services

Experts in dealing with international clients.

Multiple sizes of safe deposit lockers available for rent – further information can be found on our website

www.balthornegroup.com

DA's Joburg mayoral candidate details plans for smart city

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Dr Mpho Phalatse, the Democratic Alliance (DA) mayoral candidate for Johannesburg, is asking residents to give her party the opportunity to govern the city, hopefully with an outright majority, for the next five years.

"That's how we can give you stable governance and repair our broken city," this medical doctor said while talking about her vision at the Waverley Sports Club on Tuesday evening, 26 October.

She explained how she went from being a doctor to an opposition party politician, saying that every time she saw patients while working as a doctor in Alexandra, it served as another reminder of how people lived in the township.

"There were stabbings and shootings, and it just didn't make sense to me," she recalled. "They were living in overcrowded spaces without running water, and there was sewerage running down the streets."

This made her angry, and she began writing to several people in authority, asking, "Why is the government allowing people to live like this?"

One member of parliament responded to her letter with the question, "Why don't you get involved?"

Having just finished four years at the University of the Witwatersrand, where she specialised in public-health medicine, she applied to be a public relations councillor in the DA with the thought that she would still be able to

pursue her profession.

"Why did I join the DA? Well, DA policies aren't populist, they are based on evidence, research, and international best practice. When the DA is in government, it gets things done. Studies conducted by Stats SA, Ratings Africa, and even the auditor general will

tell you that the best-run municipalities in this country are DA run."

In 2016, the DA landed up governing Johannesburg through a collation with the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF).

"The deputy mayor decided to appoint me as MMC Health and Social Development," says Phalatse. "I was told it was a

full-time position, so I quit my career

as a medical doctor that year."

Phalatse spoke about what the DA had achieved in the following three years in government. "We did a lot – we upgraded informal settlements, surfaced kilometres of roads, and invested in infrastructure."

In her portfolio, she ensured that clinics stayed open on the weekend and public holidays, and noticed a big drug problem in Johannesburg. "I challenged my department and the then mayor, asking, 'Are we going to develop an in-house capacity to run substance-abuse treatment services?' Indeed, we did."

However, over those three years, the EFF start getting closer and closer to the then mayor. "It started controlling

the city through him. The DA caucus was against what the mayor was doing – allowing the EFF to hijack our promises, budgets, plans, and gradually take the driver's seat. After the mayor resigned, our coalition partners decided to work with the African National Congress [ANC]. That's how we lost the city."

There has been a "huge regression" over the past two years, says Phalatse. "It's almost as if the ANC now knows that it's not going to be in government forever, so whatever opportunity it gets to drive looting and corruption, it takes."

That's why Phalatse urges those who didn't vote in 2016 to mark their ballot papers in the upcoming municipal elections so that the DA will have enough votes to govern with an outright majority.

Having been on the campaign trail for just more than 60 days, Phalatse spoke about the DA's seven pillars in its manifesto, with a specific focus on Johannesburg.

She detailed the DA's extensive plans to turn Johannesburg not only into a safe city with integrated radio communication networks between the different law enforcement agencies, but also an inclusive city by offering different options for the provision of housing.

She says the DA has a project that will make municipalities "completely Eskom-free" in Johannesburg. "This will free the city of load shedding, and get other players in the energy provision space involved, which will stimulate competition and lower the cost of supply and energy so you have more money left in your pocket."

The DA wants Johannesburg to become a business-friendly city, enabling the business sector to flourish, and a smart city.

"When we are a smart city, even unemployment won't

be that much of a problem because a young person in Soweto can get a job in another country, sitting behind a laptop, and offer a service."

The *SA Jewish Report* asked Phalatse about the DA's stance on minority groups and why the Jewish community should vote for the party.

"You do know that I got suspended from work as an MMC for declaring friendship with Israel?" Phalatse asks. This followed a barrage of criticism for her comments during a celebration to mark 70 years of the refounding of the state of Israel in June 2018.

"The EFF said that I must be fired because they were pro-Palestine and so was the ANC. But I've maintained my stance and throughout my campaign, it keeps coming up. Last week, I was trying to answer a question in a debate, when Al Jama-ah got up and started singing, 'Free Palestine'. But I'm not moved. It's their problem, not mine."

Darren Bergman, the DA shadow minister of international relations and cooperation, said, "The DA is the one party where our policies are very much in line with the rest of the world when it comes to the Oslo Accord. As a secular party, we are a comfortable home for Jews, Christians, Muslims, and people of all religions and nationalities."

Daniel Schay, the DA's candidate for ward 72 in Johannesburg, hopes that he and Phalatse can work "to drive the improvement of this ward and make the city shine again".

DA Member of Parliament Madeleine Hicklin said, "We are the last hope that South Africa has because without the DA, there will be no South Africa and, *baruch Hashem*, in a week's time, we will be celebrating."

A giant has fallen: the passing of John Moshal

>>>Continued from page 2

Natal schools; DIVOTE, which rehabilitates victims of terrorism in Israel; and assisting homeless, abandoned, and abused Jewish children in the Ukraine through the Tikva project.

Unterslak worked with Moshal on a number of causes, including DIVOTE, Talmud Torah, and the PJ Library. "When he started DIVOTE, his goal was to be able to give every Jewish person in South Africa the opportunity to support victims of terror in Israel. John could have done all his *chesed* for the families on his own, but he chose to be able to give everyone the opportunity.

"John cared deeply for all the Jewish children in the KwaZulu-Natal region and since 2005, regardless of what school they were in, ensured that they would be able to receive Jewish education," she says. "He believed passionately that Jewish education should start as young as possible, and that one had to give a child the opportunity to know what it is to be a Jew, including the rich history of the Jewish community of KwaZulu-Natal. He remembered his lessons at the Talmud Torah classes in Durban, and had an old sepia photograph wearing a Talmud Torah blazer, from which the logo that we use for Talmud Torah emanated."

Baranov says "John was proud of the fact that his office in his later decades was his childhood home that bought and restored to its former glory. He would spend his days when he was living in Durban in his office, surrounded by the memories of his childhood and family."

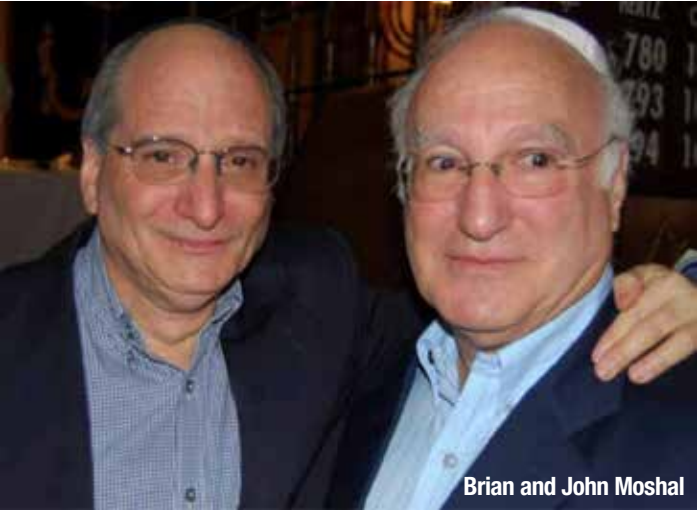
His interests and passions were wide and varied. "He had the most amazing rock and gemstone collection that he could talk about for hours!" says Baranov. "He also had an incredible collection of watches. What was also surprising for a chemical engineer was that he really loved the ancient texts from ancient Rome and Greece, and he read a lot of that."

Affectionately known as the "corporate

grandfather" of the business world, "he always had time to listen to everyone who came to him for business or community advice", says Unterslak. "John always said that he was there 'to put oil on the squeak'. And he did that in abundance! He changed people's lives, and treated everyone the same no matter if they were head of a corporation, a school child, or a beggar.

"John kept notes from every single meeting," she says. "In those notebooks, some of his enormous generosity is recorded. He was a giant of a man, an absolute *tzaddik*. His legacy in the Durban Jewish community, the South African Jewish community, and the greater community in South Africa and overseas is enormous. John always said that he didn't like to invest in brick and mortar, and I know that the legacy he built is much, much greater than any structure."

"John was always so proud of Anna, and they were a great team," Unterslak says.



Brian and John Moshal

"He got an enormous amount of *naches*, happiness, and pride from all his children and grandchildren. The whole family continues his legacy."

"He would always tell me his favourite quote from Pirkei Avot: 'It's not for us to complete the task, but neither can we step aside from it,'" says Baranov. "He would speak about how his family would travel 'below the radar', but 'when we leave, we leave a world of good in our wake'. That's really what he embodied."

BOOK LAUNCH

Jacana Media invite you, your partner and friends to the launch of *The Good Nigerian* by David Dison.

David Dison will be in conversation with Kathy Satchwell, a retired judge of the Gauteng Division of the High Court of South Africa.

THURSDAY
28
OCTOBER
2021
18:00 FOR 18:30

Emoyeni
15 Jubilee Street, Parktown

RSVP
rsvp@jacana.co.za



"Stunning, moving, exciting and wonderful."
- Niq Mhlongo

Like and follow
@JacanaMedia

We publish what we like

Absa
Jewish Achiever Awards

2021



VOTE FOR YOUR ABSA JEWISH ACHIEVER 2021 NOMINEES

RSVP@SAJEWISHREPORT.CO.ZA

Jewish Affairs – an online, stand-out publication



DAVID SAKS

OPINION

In June 1941, an unpretentious monthly bulletin called *Jewish Affairs* made its first appearance in South Africa. It came out at a time of unprecedented stress for the Jewish community, when radical right-wing antisemitism was at its height and people everywhere were worrying about the fate of family members and friends back in Nazi-occupied Europe.

Published under the auspices of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD), the primary purpose of *Jewish Affairs* was to keep the community informed about the work of the Board, as well as important developments in wider society during this unsettling time.

Within a few years, however, the scope of the publication had been broadened to encompass a wide range of subjects, so that before long, it was regarded as South Africa's leading Jewish historical, cultural, and current affairs journal.

For a relatively small community, South African Jewry has produced a remarkably extensive literature on its own history. Whether relating the story of the community as a whole or focusing on particular segments of it, the past few decades in particular have seen the publication of a steady stream of books, journal articles, demographic surveys, and more recently, online publications.

Jewish Affairs has long served as one of the most important vehicles for this kind of material, as well as on topics of Jewish interest in general.

One of the great advantages of *Jewish Affairs* is that it has allowed for its subjects to be explored in a significantly more in-depth and extended manner than is the case with other local Jewish publications



which have invariably been limited by space and other constraints.

Even in cases where submissions far exceed the official 6 000-word limit, it has been possible to publish them in serial form. Over the past several years, for example, *Jewish Affairs* has brought out (in five and three parts respectively) the full war-time testimony of Holocaust survivor Don Krausz and Stuart Buxbaum's memorable history of South Africa's first Jewish boarding school, Herber House.

Since 1999, I have been privileged to have served as the editor of *Jewish Affairs*, and as such, it has befallen on me to guide the journal into the digital age.

For a while, it was possible to continue bringing out *Jewish Affairs* in hard copy while gradually establishing an online presence, but in the end, it was recognised that the survival of the journal was predicated on adapting itself to the new world of online publishing and communications.

The last hard copy issue of *Jewish Affairs* appeared in early 2019, since then it has appeared exclusively online. Until recently, it has appeared as a subsidiary category on the main SAJBD website, but last week, it entered an exciting new era with the launch of its own website – www.jewishaffairs.co.za.

Much as the demise of the traditional printed magazine is to be regretted, the new electronic format is enabling the journal to reach a truly global audience. It's also finding a new readership for previously published material that since its original appearance, has been consigned to archives and research libraries, to be only occasionally accessed, if at all, by the dedicated few prepared to make the effort to rediscover it.

Those visiting the new site can get a good idea of the range of topics on offer by browsing the "categories" section. Rather than being presented chronologically, all articles that have appeared over the past 12 years have been grouped in specific categories according to their subject matter.

The next challenge for *Jewish Affairs* is to spread the word and build on its existing online subscription base. Subscribing comes at no cost, and allows those who sign on to receive regular bulletins on the latest posts. To do so, go onto the site or send an email to sajbd@sajbd.org.

• *David Saks is the associate director of the SAJBD and editor of 'Jewish Affairs'.*

Elphin Lodge loves Shabbat Project

Elphin Lodge Retirement Village in Lyndhurst, Johannesburg, had a Shabbat Project like no other last weekend, with the unveiling of a Sefer Torah for use on Shabbos and high holy days.

The Sefer Torah, which was obtained through the auspices of Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, made the weekend's shul services a wonderful spiritual experience, and the Shabbat Project even more meaningful.

Friday night's service was well attended by residents and visitors, and on Saturday morning, there were more than 50 men and women in the lodge's hall, separated by a mechitsa, all in their Shabbos finery. All COVID-19 protocols were strictly adhered to. The excitement was palpable at the unveiling of the Torah, which made everything that much more meaningful. The service was beautifully conducted by Benjy Rosen, assisted by Lawrence Margolis, Howard Evans, and Hugh Raichlin.

Raichlin held the congregation spellbound after the brocha by sharing his experiences, and residents begged him to speak beyond his allotted time.

The Torah will be kept in a lockable steel cabinet in a locked room, and insured by the Jewish residents of Elphin Lodge.

Elphin Lodge has celebrated the Shabbat Project over the past five years, but never quite like this!

Yaddy Buddies show they care

Nursery school, Grade R, and junior primary school children this month collected thousands of items to stock the lunchboxes of children in need.

The initiative, a partnership between the South African Board of Jewish Education (SABJE) and its PJ Library, and Ohr Natanel, the school lunchbox project of Yad Aharon & Michael, resulted in thousands of lunchbox snacks and healthy treats donated for the lunchboxes of children in need. Yad is grateful to the SABJE and PJ Library for their generosity.



KDVP workshops give teens tools for life

King David Victory Park Grade 8, 9, and 10 students recently participated in Trulife workshops on sexting and cyber-bullying, vaping, and addiction. Using music, dance, and slick performance, facilitators took students on a powerful and interactive journey through the dangers of being a teenager today, while imparting information on how to be more "street-wise" online and the dangers of vaping and substance abuse.



Aimee Sidersky (Grade 9) with the artists of Trulife



Jewish learners at Glenoaks School ready for the 'Shabbox' Project

Glenoaks does 'Shabbox'

The Shabbox is a special Shabbat gift box with innovative resources, designed to empower young Jewish families' experience of the joy of sharing Shabbat together as a family. The Shabbox includes Shabbat recipes and menus, fun educational resources and activities, personalised blessing cards, a pasha quiz, and exciting games to play around the Shabbat table – all geared to make the Shabbat experience truly memorable and meaningful.

Shuls vaccinate indigent in Hillbrow

Temple Israel, the last shul in Hillbrow, and Beit Emanuel in Parktown last week arranged for the Gauteng health department to set up a pop-up COVID-19 vaccination site at the Hillbrow shul for anyone who wanted to get the jab. They vaccinated about 200 people, including those who couldn't provide an ID document. This is in addition to their regular weekly feeding scheme they have been operating since the beginning of lockdown.



Independent living for senior citizens

Garden Place

From R11 999,00 per Month

Fully furnished suites in magnificent surroundings

24-hour security | serviced 5 days a week

Affordable rates – **no monthly levy**

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

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

Three different types of accommodation to choose from:

- Standard units:** Double bedroom en-suite
- Studio units:** Overlooking the garden, double bedroom en-suite with fully equipped kitchenette
- Cottages:** Lounge/dining room, double bedroom, bathroom en-suite, bath and walk-in shower, TV in bedroom and lounge, queen size wall-bed in living room (ideal for grandchildren or overseas visitors), fully equipped kitchen

All units are fully furnished with DSTV, Wi-Fi, air-conditioning/heating, fridge, microwave, safe, bed linen, towels, crockery and cutlery

Take your unit fully furnished or bring your own special pieces – either way, we will help create your home away from home

Let us provide your meals and teas in our dining room or in the privacy of your unit, or choose to make your own meals

Use our shuttle service or take your own car

The CHOICE is yours!

THE COMFORT AND CONVENIENCE YOU DESERVE FOR A GREAT PRICE

RATE INCLUDES

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

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

Bnei Akiva to make machaneh magic

TALI FEINBERG

Bnei Akiva has decided to hold a long-awaited machaneh this December. “It’s time to start the next page in the story of Bnei Akiva South Africa,” says Rosh Machaneh Yoni Rosenthal. Called Daf Chadash (A new page), the machaneh will run from 8 to 20 December 2021.

“Throughout the year, we have been monitoring the COVID-19 situation to assess our options,” Rosenthal says. “The vaccine announcement for the 12 to 17 age group pushed us to approach our medical advisors and stakeholders to see if we could make machaneh on our campsite in Hartenbos a reality.”



Bnei Akiva machaneh in pre-COVID-19 times

He says the fact that they can hold a machaneh “is extremely emotional. The campsite is a place of magic. We are excited to make up for lost time. We are truly grateful that Hashem is giving us this opportunity.”

Not being able to have a machaneh or gather in person “was heart breaking for our *channichim*, *madrichim* and community,” says Rosenthal. “I’m proud that through the dedication of our *madrichim*, we have carried on thriving over the past 18 months.”

The camp’s leadership is in discussion with medical

professionals to create a safe environment. “We have been working on our COVID-19 protocols with the guidance of Professor Barry Schoub, Dr Richard Friedland, and Uriel Rosen. We will test for COVID-19 before and during camp, creating a campsite ‘bubble’, and requiring all of our *channichim*, *madrichim*, and staff to be vaccinated. The safety of our *channichim* and *madrichim* is our number one priority,” he says.

“We have had to adapt our machaneh to COVID-19 times, but much of machaneh will be as we know and love it,” says Rosenthal. “Our *chinnuch* [education] team is working hard to ensure that our *tochniot*, Torah learning, and davening experiences will be of the highest quality. Our famous volleyball, soccer, and netball tournaments will bring *gees* [spirit] to the campsite, we will be going to the beach and pool daily, and the camp vibe will be incredible as always!

“There are certain things that we have had to adapt, such as our *ruach* (spirit) sessions,” he says. “We are considering how these can be done in the safest way possible.”

They are hoping that a fourth wave doesn’t prevent machaneh from happening. “Ultimately, the safety of our *channichim* is our priority. Should there be a fourth wave, we would consult our medical advisors and in the worst-case scenario, might have to cancel.”

The feedback to the announcement has been overwhelmingly positive. “Madrichim are fired up, and there is real excitement that Bnei Akiva is able to provide much-needed inspiration for Jewish youth.”

Meanwhile, after announcing last week that it would hold a machaneh, Habonim Dror has expanded its dates, allowed *channichim* to reserve their spots, and given permission for the youngest age group,

Shtilim, to attend. The new dates are 12 to 27 December. Each *shichvah* (year level) will have a maximum of 50 people (except Shtilim, which will have 40). The camp is almost at capacity.

Malema not such a tweet about Jewish survival

INNER VOICE
Howard Feldman



I fully intended to be outraged at an Economic Freedom Fighters tweet that quoted Julius Malema. He was speaking at an election event that was live tweeted by his party. “No one will force anyone to vaccinate. I’m vaccinated because I believe in science, and [the] trials for COVID-19 were run on white people, and that was unusual. Even Jews are vaccinated, and those people don’t play with their lives.”

Perhaps it’s rude to refer to anyone as “those people”, but that doesn’t mean he’s wrong. And as one of those very people, I do find it hard to find fault with his statement. Because Jews don’t, as a rule, play with our lives.

It’s not to say that Jews can’t be warriors, soldiers, and members of the Community Security Organisation who bravely leopard crawl across the soccer fields of Jewish school campuses. It’s not to say that we can’t compete in well-co-ordinated trail runs through the mountains outside Plettenberg Bay when the moment demands it of us. Or, throw caution to the wind and run without a full reflector vest moments before sunrise.

It doesn’t mean that some of us have been known to walk to shul without our orthotics and even to miss repeated sessions with our biokineticist as if we hadn’t a tight hamstring in the world. Or (G-d forbid) neglect to take our Crestor (to lower bad cholesterol), knowing full well that given our genetics, it could result in it bordering on or dangerously slightly above the recommended level. (G-d forbid).

It’s not unreasonable to suggest that we value life, and that we don’t play around with it. Whereas Malema might not have considered the extent of his comments, and probably didn’t stop to

wonder why it’s the case, Jews might well be more sensitive to survival than others who haven’t been persecuted for centuries. The reality is that Jews have spent generations trying to prevent people from annihilating us simply because they could.

The consequence of our history shouldn’t be understated. In a conversation that I had some years ago with music legend Johnny Clegg, he recounted a story from his childhood in Zimbabwe. He told me there were six children in his class, which didn’t go unnoticed by a teacher at Hebrew school. She told them in no uncertain terms that each of them represented and bore the responsibility of a million Jews that had perished in the Holocaust. Each would have to metaphorically carry them on their shoulders. This was too much for Clegg, who decided then and there not to have a Barmitzvah.

The other consequence is the anxiety that Jews live with. Partly interbreeding and partly survivor genetics, we are tuned to nuance, to a shift in tone, and to medical issues. We see our survival not just in terms of our own ability to live another day, but in terms of the understanding that we hold the key to Jews surviving as Jews in a world that might not always want us. But always needs us.

The tweet might have been clumsy. It might not have been politically correct. It might not have what we expect or want from a politician. But it was pretty darn accurate.

INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY AT THE DIVISION OF INFORMAL JEWISH EDUCATION AT KING DAVID SCHOOL

Situated in Linksfield, Dije is a department in the King David Schools, that caters for all grades across the different King David Campuses. The Dije invites applications for the following exciting full-time position of

Operations Manager

Effective from 3 January 2022

The Dije is seeking a dynamic and experienced person for this incredible position.

The successful applicant must:

1. Have a minimum of five years’ administrative and office management experience.
2. Have excellent inter-personal and communication skills.
3. have good organisational skills and event management experience would be advantageous.
4. Have the ability to engage with parents, staff and pupils.
5. Be flexible and able to adapt in a fast-paced environment
6. Have basic financial management knowledge.
7. Be proactive and have good computer skills.
8. Be able to work in an informal but professional environment
9. Be aligned with our Jewish and Zionist ethos

A Curriculum Vitae and contact information of two referees should be e-mailed to chemela@sabje.co.za.

Closing date for applications: 17 November 2021

The school reserves the right not to make an appointment.
Only shortlisted candidates will be interviewed.
Should you not hear from the school by 20 November 2021 please accept that your application has not been successful.

King David Schools in line with POPIA (Protection of Personal Information Act) will attempt to ensure the confidentiality of all applicants for this role. All reasonable measures will be in place to protect personal information but will be used in the recruitment, selection, and reporting process. By submitting your application for this position, you are recognising and accepting this disclaimer.



A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Making us count on Election Day

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) this week focused on final preparations for the multifaith election observer team that will be taking part in the local government elections this coming Monday, 1 November 2021. The Board initiated this project as part of its education and awareness campaign for the 2009 national and provincial elections, and has run it every election since then. Its purpose is to bring together volunteers from a range of different backgrounds to assist the Independent Electoral Commission by monitoring proceedings at polling stations to ensure that everything is fair and above board as well as offering hands-on logistical assistance where required. Aside from its purely practical benefits, the project is a rousing example of participatory democracy, and the fact that Jewish leadership is heading it up is certainly to the credit of the community as a whole.

From the Board’s point of view, the observer-team initiative further helps us to realise a core aspect of our mission, namely to “work for the betterment of human relations between Jews and all other peoples of South Africa, based on mutual respect, understanding, and goodwill”. It enables people to join their fellow citizens in being an active, contributing part of the democratic process, and over the years, participants have found it to be an inspiring bridge-building experience. The participation of the observer team on polling day also marks the culmination of the Board’s #MakeUsCount pre-election awareness and education campaign, one of the flagship initiatives through which we seek to lead our community in identifying with, contributing to, and participating in our robust democratic culture.

I warmly commend our professional staff, in particular Charisse Zeifert and Alana Baranov, for putting together another very successful



ABOVE BOARD
Karen Milner



#MakeUsCount campaign in spite of the short notice and added pressure of simultaneously having to organise the Board’s national conference. Regarding the elections themselves, I urge you all to turn out on the day and make your cross, regardless of which party you might support.

New era for Jewish Affairs journal

Over the decades, the SAJBD’s core mission of representing the community and protecting its civil rights has been expanded to include preserving and promoting South African Jewish heritage. One of the most important vehicles for this is our archives, which comprise of a comprehensive record of the Jewish presence in southern Africa and are regularly used by academics, genealogists, and journalists. Another is *Jewish Affairs*, the community’s leading Jewish historical, cultural, and current affairs journal, which has been produced under the auspices of the SAJBD since 1941.

Last week, *Jewish Affairs* embarked on an exciting new era in its 80-year history with the launch of its new stand-alone website: www.jewishaffairs.co.za. I encourage readers to browse through this site, which provides free access to all material published since 2009, and consider signing on (likewise without charge) to the mailing list to receive regular updates on the latest posts.

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

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

Make your next move, your best move.



PICANTO
No deposit. From:
R 2,499
per month

PEGAS
No deposit. From:
R 2,999
per month

RIO
No deposit. From:
R 3,499
per month

Whether you're moving on, moving out, or moving up, make your next move your best move with 0% deposit on a Kia Rio, Pegaz or Picanto. Interested? Visit kia.co.za

Terms and conditions apply.



Leilah hip-hopping to stardom

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Hip hop national champion Leilah Jankelowitz puts her success down to hard work.

The Grade 10 student at Roedean School in Johannesburg won the 15 to 16 age group in the South African National Hip Hop Championship at the South African State Theatre in Tshwane from 2-3 October 2021.

"It felt unbelievable, as if my hard work had paid off," says Jankelowitz.

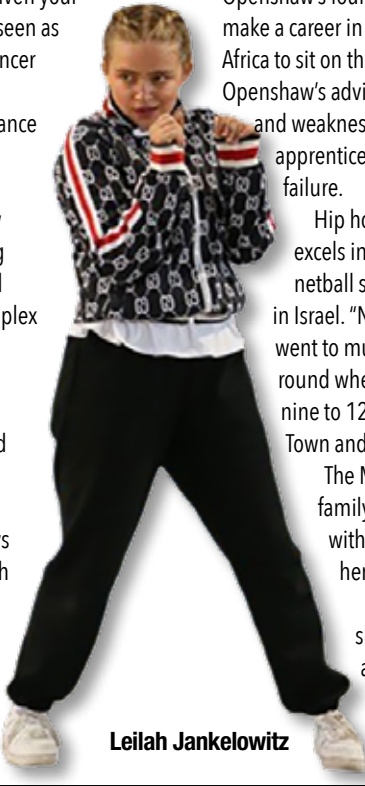
She was invited to the national tournament, organised by the South African Body of Dance, courtesy of achieving a certain percentage in four online and in-person competitions over the past year.

"If you qualified by placing in the top three for all of these competitions, you were given your provincial colours since you were seen as being the best of the best," the dancer says.

Originally inspired by African dance movements, hip hop dance took off during the late 1960s and early 1970s. It flourished as a new style of street dance, incorporating aspects of modern dance, tap, and swing, integrating music and complex movements to form artistry.

For Jankelowitz, hip hop dance is both a sport and an art because it demands the creativity of art and the discipline and athleticism of sport.

"I've always loved dancing," says Jankelowitz. "I began working with small and basic dance studios until they said that they felt I should move to something more professional as well as more challenging. That's exactly what happened."



Leilah Jankelowitz

She practices with other dancers in Pretoria about two or three times a week for about three hours. On her own, she practices twice a week for about an hour.

"When competitions are coming up, we train heavily, and I usually spend seven hours or more in Pretoria on a Saturday. That's in addition to the training sessions during the week."

Jankelowitz hoped to compete in the World Hip Hop Championships in Slovenia in November. "I qualified by getting a certain percentage or higher and placing first in the top three at nationals," she says. Unfortunately, the rise in COVID-19 cases in the Central European country has resulted in the tournament being cancelled.

Jankelowitz could arm herself with Michelle Leigh Openshaw's four principles for women looking to make a career in hip hop. The first female judge from Africa to sit on the world hip hop international panel, Openshaw's advice is to fully discover your strengths and weaknesses, believe in yourself, be an apprentice or find a mentor, and remove fear of failure.

Hip hop isn't the only sport that Jankelowitz excels in. She's excited to be in South Africa's netball squad for next year's Maccabi Games in Israel. "Netball is another one of my passions. I went to multiple trials until I made it to the final round where out of the huge group, they chose nine to 12 girls from Johannesburg and Cape Town and I was among them."

The Maccabi Games runs in the Jankelowitz family. Both her parents were Maccabeans, with her mom participating in netball and her dad in soccer.

In addition to netball and dancing, she also plays soccer, tennis, and does athletics. "I love going on runs or going to the gym. I really love spending time with my mates and going out with them," says Jankelowitz.

Special Offer!
Corner lounge suite (various colours)
R8999 *Save R1000*

Leather Uppers Recliner
R6999 *Save R1000*

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

i-deal
FURNISHERS

Letters

SHABBAT PROJECT EXCEEDS ALL EXPECTATIONS

My dear friend Rabbi Goldstein,

When I first heard of the Shabbat Project in South Africa, I recall thinking how inspiring an idea it is, but I am sceptical that it will catch on outside the communities which we, already accustomed to observing Shabbat.

Eight years later, it is clear that your brilliant initiative has been embraced by a huge, growing audience which eagerly awaits the Shabbat Project and enthusiastically welcomes the annual opportunity to **keep it together**.

The beauty of Shabbat is in its transformative nature. On Shabbat we step out of our professions, our day to day stresses, our screens and our errands. Once the candles are lit, a light shines on our family, our home, our traditions. We are fortunate to pause and regroup, and then begin anew.

Doing this as a community is powerful. Doing this as a nation is awe-inspiring and touches our collective souls.

I applaud the Shabbat Project for providing the platform and the tools for anyone, regardless of geography or affiliation, to experience Shabbat on their own terms, along with *Klal Yisrael* (all of Israel).

Sincerely,
Isaac Herzog
President of the state of Israel

This is a copy of a letter received by the chief rabbi this week.

HELP ME TRACE A MISSING FRIEND

I'm looking for a friend, Peter Joffe, a former employee (retired in 2019) of Jozi Housing. We used to be in regular contact, meeting at least once a month. Joffe lives in Sandringham. My last contact with him was on 14 August 2021, on WhatsApp. He's on Facebook, but unfortunately, I'm not. Joffe was distributing food to the poor in the Sandringham area. I'm worried as I can't get hold of him. Please can you assist me to trace him!

- Barbara Schuble
(barbara.schuble@gmail.com)

MANY MORE SPECIALS IN-STORE

72⁹⁹
MEDITERRANEAN SMOKED SALMON OFFCUTS 200G

47⁹⁹
CLOVER FETA BLACK PEPPER 400G

54⁹⁹
MONTAGU POPPY SEED 200G

98⁹⁹
MONTAGU MANGO STRIPS 400G

14⁹⁹
OK PEACH HALVES 410G

14⁹⁹
CIAO TOMATO ITALIAN PEELED 400G

12⁹⁹
CIAO CHICK PEAS 400G

83⁹⁹
DYNASTEA ICED TEA SUGAR FREE LEMON OR MANGO 750ML EACH

21⁹⁹
TASTIC NATURE'S RICE BROWN 1KG

Feigels Est. 1968

Yummy!

94⁹⁹
Malva Pudding and any 1 litre ice cream

41⁹⁹
PASTA CORNETTI RIGATE SAM MILLS 500G

32⁹⁹
MC CAIN FROZEN SWEET POTATO 750G

15⁹⁹
REHIDRAT ASSORTED FLAVOURS 14G EACH

54⁹⁹
EVERYSUN LOTION FAMILY SPF30 100ML

15⁹⁹
MOMENTS FACIAL TISSUES WHITE 200'S

49⁹⁹
COLGATE TOOTHPASTE OPTIC WHITE 75ML

62⁹⁹
MR MUSCLE CARPET CLEANER POTPOURRI 750ML

47⁹⁹
ARIEL WASH POWDER AUTO 1KG

26⁹⁹
AIR SCENTS TRIGGER SPRAY ASSORTED SCENTS 350ML EACH

Hometown Pharmacy

Where the pharmacist knows your name

KOSHER AT EVERYDAY PRICES

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

facebook

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

KOSHER AT EVERYDAY PRICES

Offers valid till **3 NOVEMBER 2021** or while stocks last

CONCIERGE SHOPPING SERVICE
orders@kosherworld.co.za

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

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 9520



South
African
Jewish
Report
www.sajr.co.za

Europcar

THE KIRSH
FOUNDATION

 mann
made

Absa
Jewish Achiever Awards

2021



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 9520



South
African
Jewish
Report
www.sajr.co.za

Europcar

THE KIRSH
FOUNDATION



mann
made