





**Appliance Repairs on Site**

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

Call Jason  
082 401 8239 / 076 210 6532

**FREE QUOTATIONS**

**LIPSCHITZ**

Please join us for the dedication of the headstone -

As a token of respect and in loving memory of **BENNIE (BENZION) LIPSCHITZ**

Friday, November 26, 2021 at 10:00 am, Westpark Cemetery

**Lynn and Claudia**



**Cheryl Mulder-Verbruggen**

Organiser Extraordinaire

sorted-organised@magichappensdaily.com

www.magichappensdaily.com

+27 82 900 1783

SortedOrganised 

sorted\_organised 

## SORTED & ORGANISED



**SAVOY 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

**PERCELIA PHARMACY**

**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**

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

**Fairmount**  
6 George Ave,  
Sandringham

Additional branches in Benoni and Germiston

**We are COVID-19 compliant**

**VEHICLES WANTED**



**Any make, any model, any condition**

**Accident damaged vehicles and non-runners also wanted**

**Arnold Orkin 082 823 7826**

**AUTO AFRICA**

### 2 SA JEWISH REPORT

#### Lithuanian city halts bike path near mass grave

Municipal authorities in Lithuania have halted the construction of bicycle path near a mass grave of Jewish Holocaust victims, according to a rabbi who raised the alarm about the project.

Rabbi Klev Krelin, a former chief rabbi of Lithuania, posted on Facebook about a bike path that was being built in Šiauliai, a city situated about 100 miles (160km) northwest of Vilnius.

“Next to the city of Šiauliai in

Lithuania, there is a forest where Nazis killed Jews, Soviet soldiers, and other locals,” Krelin wrote. “Today, the paving work of a bicycle path started here.”

Krelin said construction had been suspended after he and others raised concerns about the project, which could run the risk of unsettling the gravesites of the murder victims. The future of the bike path remains uncertain, he said.

#### New plaques reveal Nazis buried at Dutch cemetery

At the cemetery in the rural Dutch town of Ysselsteyn, the bodies of Nazi soldiers lie alongside Dutch civilians and troops.

To some, this makes Ysselsteyn a symbolic reminder of the horrors of war, and commemorations are held annually there. But others say the commemorations equate World War II victims with perpetrators like Julius Dettmann – the Nazi officer responsible for sending Anne Frank and her family to

**Shabbat Times** brought to you by

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

	Starts	Ends
Johannesburg	18:15	19:12
Cape Town	19:14	20:10
Durban	18:15	19:09
Bloemfontein	18:15	19:26
Port Elizabeth	18:15	19:41
East London	18:15	19:30
Jerusalem	16:03	17:16
Tel Aviv	16:17	17:18



**You. Realty**

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

**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)

death camps – who is buried at Ysselsteyn. In the past, German ambassadors to the Netherlands have attended the ceremonies.

On Sunday, Dutch chief rabbi Binyomin Jacobs visited the site for the first time, marking a turning point in the public debate over the cemetery. New plaques were

unveiled, acknowledging that it's the burial place of war criminals.

“I almost feel like a traitor, because this cemetery also contains horrific murderers who are responsible for the fact that 80% of my family didn't return,” Jacobs said.

• *All briefs supplied by JTA*

## Miss SA future uncertain as Israel hatred boils

>>>Continued from page 1

for withdrawing its support of Miss SA saying it was “on the wrong side of history, and while the rest of the world opens up and benefits from relations with Israel, including several Arab nations, South Africa is determined to remain on the sidelines of progress”.

People from all over have weighed in on the controversy. The former Israeli ambassador to South Africa, Arthur Lenk, tweeted, “Wait, wait! Governments offer no support for this non-governmental contest. And the SA government made no decision whatsoever. A single ministry stated a viewpoint. Where is the story here other than the hateful noise the anti-Israel lobby is peddling?”

Author Khaya Dlanga took to Instagram saying that the government had “crossed the line” by withdrawing its support for Mswane, and had thrown her under the bus.

“They have put a young woman in an impossible position,” he said. “This government hasn't imposed sanctions against Israel or travel restrictions. Instead, it's grandstanding on the shoulders of a young girl. Why throw her under the bus when it hasn't made meaningful commitments? Let her go.”

The South African Zionist Federation (SAZF) said it was

“appalled” that the government was “self-sabotaging” the country's hopes and chances of participating and shining in Miss Universe just because it happened to take place in Israel.

“Our country is simply signalling its isolationism and irrelevance on the world stage,” it said.

The government had been silent on serious human-rights abuses occurring in many other countries where South Africa participates in sports and contests but “self-righteously reserves its opprobrium for the world's only Jewish state”, the SAZF said.

“If our country were interested in bringing peace to the Middle East or carrying any moral weight in playing a mediatory role between Israel and the Palestinians, we have now ensured that our one-sidedness and unilateralism will prevent us from doing so,” the organisation said.

Meanwhile, the Miss South Africa Organisation broke its social-media silence this week with an Instagram post about Miss SA 2020, Shudufhadzo Musida's, participation at Miss World in Puerto Rico on 16 December.

While Miss SA seemingly had the world at her feet just weeks ago, it remains to be seen if she will participate in Miss Universe.

### Torah Thought

## Dinah and destiny, a life lesson

The shocking incident of Dinah's abduction by Shechem and his father, Chamor, is one of the themes of this week's parsha. They thought they could take advantage of the first Jewish family, but brothers Shimon and Levy put an end to their nefarious plan, and rescue their sister.

Based on the premise that nothing happens without a reason, the question we have to ask is why did this incident occur to *tzaddikim* like Yaakov Avinu and Dinah?

Rashi answers by taking us back to the beginning of the parsha, to the meeting between Yaakov and Esav. After so many years of estrangement, Yaakov made some careful preparations for this reunion, protecting his wives and children from Esav's evil gaze. And he protected his daughter, Dinah, by hiding her in a box. He was worried that she would be kidnapped by Esav.

Our sages tell us that this was a mistake. Had Esav seen Dinah, they would have ended up getting married, and Esav

would have been positively influenced by Dinah's holiness. But because Yaakov hid her away, she was abducted by Shechem, a person even more wicked than Esav!

But this answer is problematic. In last week's parsha, the sages tell us that Leah (Dinah's mother) cried because she knew that she was destined to become the wife of Esav, and prayed to Hashem to change this destiny. If Leah did everything she could to get out of marrying Esav, why couldn't Yaakov do the same for his daughter?

Perhaps the answer is that Dinah's situation is different in that she wasn't given the choice of changing Esav's evil ways, she was completely prevented from doing so by her father. We see Dinah's tremendous power and good influence in the most unlikely place, when the Torah continues telling us about Shechem, saying, “And his soul clung to the soul of the daughter of Yaakov, and he loved her and spoke to her heart.” Dinah had a positive influence on this wicked man's

soul. A changed Shechem even agrees to have all the men in his city circumcised!

Yaakov didn't allow that to happen. He didn't give Esav the opportunity to change, and didn't give Dinah the opportunity to fulfil her destiny to improve Esav.

Parents can learn from this a powerful message about raising their children to be who they are meant to be, and not put them in a “box”. To enable our children to fulfil their destiny, even if it may be different to what we think that destiny ought to be.


We learn the tremendous power and influence that Hashem has given all of us. We have no idea how our actions affect other people, what their ripple effect will be. In such a short space of time, Dinah could change a whole city of people. We learn from Dinah that every single one of us has great potential to change the world.

**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.



Audit Bureau of Circulations of South Africa  
transparency you can see



# Rabbi pays it forward with life-saving kidney

NICOLA MILTZ

A few minutes before undergoing life altering surgery, two men laid eyes on each other for the very first time and burst into tears of hope and relief.

This was the moment when Johannesburg businessman Rabbi Mark Friedman, an altruistic kidney donor, met the recipient of his soon to be donated left kidney in one of the hospital wards at the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre this week.

It was emotional, said the handful of people present, when Friedman, 41, was ushered into the recipient's ward on 15 November to embrace him before they were both wheeled into the four-hour-long surgery.



Aubrey Friedman, meeting his donor, Chaim Yosef Sterngold, after the transplant in New York

They had waited for this moment for several years: Friedman finally to do the ultimate good deed; and his anonymous recipient to receive an organ granting him the chance of a normal life.

Friedman's selfless journey started about 12 years ago, when his beloved father, Aubrey, was diagnosed with acute kidney disease. The future looked bleak.

"It was a dark time for our family, it was excruciating," said Friedman this week a day before his surgery. "It was very difficult watching him suffer every day and seeing him slowly deteriorate, literally dying slowly before us, from a potentially reversible condition."

Friedman, who was a young man when his father was diagnosed, and his two older brothers, felt desperate when they discovered that they weren't able to help their father, knowing that a matched kidney wouldn't just save their father's life, it would afford him a normal life free from dialysis and despair.

"As much as my dad protested, I tested to see whether I could be a potential match, but sadly, we weren't matched," he said. It was a huge disappointment for the family because they were mindful that there weren't many others willing to raise their hand to do so.

Meanwhile, dialysis was brutal on their father, who grew weaker each day.

In a bid to help, Lance Abramson of Hatzolah started the Life2Life programme, which tried to find a community based donor for Aubrey. When this proved difficult, the family searched further afield. Miraculously, he was matched with a *frum* man in Williamsburg, New York, who donated his kidney to Aubrey, who has never looked back.

"The transplant saved my dad's life, and completely transformed my family's life. Doctors told my father he didn't have much longer to live. The transplant has given us years of life with our dad," Friedman said.

He said his parents spent months in New York for the operation and recovery, and were adopted by the Crown Heights community during their stay.

The grateful Friedman family gifted the American altruistic donor, Chaim Yosef Sterngold, 29, at the time of the operation with an artwork of the grandchildren's hand prints.

Friedman visited his father in New York and while there, put himself forward should a future patient be in need of a kidney. When he returned to South Africa, he received a call from Abramson saying that there was someone in the community in desperate need of a kidney and asking if he would still be keen to donate.

"Definitely, absolutely," Friedman said, relieved to give back following his father's successful return to health.

"I knew the effects of dialysis. My father went into renal failure and suffered for years. He was constantly sick, and had no quality of life. He would have dialysis three times a week for hours and would feel terrible. There was a lack of hope and despair because there's this feeling you are living on borrowed time and the clock is ticking," said Friedman.

"No one needed to convince me that I needed to be that hope, that change for someone," he said.

Friedman and his recipient were matched a while ago, but several factors delayed the process including the onset of COVID-19.

"We finally got the go ahead, and I'm grateful because this has been on my mind for years," he said.

Though he didn't know the identity of the recipient until moments before surgery, he had been given his Hebrew name in order to pray for him.

Friedman said he decided to go public with his story to raise awareness of the millions of people worldwide who suffer from this debilitating illness.

"Unlike other diseases which are incurable, kidney disease can be treated extremely successfully and through kidney donation, a person is given a new lease of life.

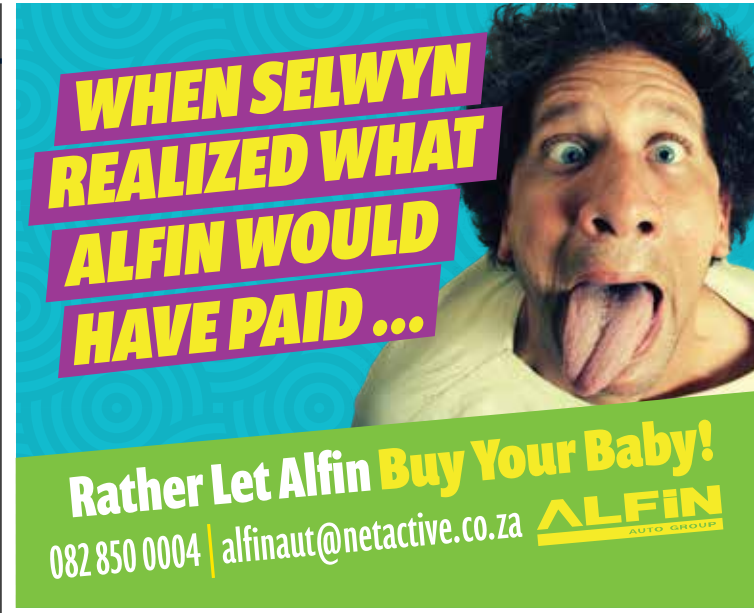
"My father always gave the impression that he was fine, but he told us after his transplant that in spite of putting on a brave face, he was losing hope.

"When a complete stranger gave my father one of his kidneys, it saved his life and changed ours forever. This act of selflessness has inspired me to pay it forward. This is my way of closing the circle," said Friedman.

Well known American rabbi, Dr Shmuly Yanklowitz, the president and dean of Valley Beit Midrash in Phoenix, Arizona, and the founder and president of Uri L'Tzedek, a Jewish social justice organisation, also donated a kidney in 2015.

Yanklowitz, who has visited South Africa twice, explained why he did it. "I felt that my enormous gratitude to be alive and healthy gave me a spiritual opportunity to pass forward the kindness to someone else in need."

He said that since his donation, he has felt well. "I have been healthy and deeply energised by opportunities to talk



to countless others about their religious and philosophical explorations into kidney donation."

He keeps in contact with his recipient.

"Yossi was a stranger. He's a young Israeli man who was really struggling. We met for the first time right before they wheeled us into surgery, and we both hugged and broke down crying. We have remained connected, and consider ourselves soul brothers and indeed, blood brothers. I feel so grateful that G-d placed a kidney in me that was meant for him."

Yanklowitz has a book coming out titled, *The 5-Ounce Gift A Medical, Philosophical & Spiritual Jewish Guide to Kidney Donation*.

The Life2Life organisation which helped Rabbi Friedman and his recipient was founded about six years ago to raise awareness of blood and organ donation within the Jewish community.

"This includes the donation of blood, platelets, bone marrow, kidney donation, and organ donation from a deceased person," said Abramson.

The organisation runs blood and stem-cell drives, and has three kidney patients in need of altruistic donors.



Rabbi Mark Friedman

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

**HIGHALNDS NORTH | R 1 699 000**  
Large 4 - bedroom "Classic" face brick family home. Asking more. A solid and spacious family home in Bagleyston on the Highlands North border. This home comprises 4 large bedrooms, 3 bathrooms (mes), study or office, 3 large reception rooms (two with beautiful parquet flooring), kitchen with large gas hob stove, separate scullery, spacious garden with sparkling pool, covered patio, staff suite, store room and prepaid electricity. Double carport and extra off-street parking. So central. Close to Shuls, Schools & Shops  
🏠 3 🚗 4 Web Ref: RL81487  
Joel Harris 082 926 0287  
Laureen Shalpid 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

**LINKSFIELD | R 2 999 000**  
Asking more. Open plan lounge /dining room with beautifully crafted built in bar, TV Cabinet and built in sideboard. Lounge lead into an enclosed entertainment patio. Open patio off the dining room area. Well fitted kitchen. 4 bedrooms (main en suite). Built in cupboards throughout. 2 modern bathrooms. Aircon in 3 rooms. Downstairs offers 2 consulting rooms/ studio or flatlet, potential with a guest loo and basin. Diesel generator that powers the entire house. Double staff accommodation with bathroom. Storeroom.  
🏠 4 🚗 2.5 Web Ref: RL82530  
Joel Harris 082 926 0287  
Laureen Shalpid 083 789 0229

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

NEW RELEASE

**MORNINGSIDE | R 1650 000**  
Immaculate 2 Bed, 2 Bath Loft Apartment oozing with style and charm! Main bedroom with air conditioning and en suite bathroom. 2nd Bedroom with adjacent 2nd bathroom. Fitted with magnificent white cabinetry and light laminate flooring throughout the apartment. Modern kitchen with space for 1 appliance plus fridge / freezer. Open plan living/ dining area opening onto private outdoor patio. Sunny upstairs loft-third bedroom, study or chill area .your call. Superbly positioned in a highly sought after complex. Safe and Secure with 24/7 professional security. Complex Pool.  
🏠 2 🚗 2 Web Ref: RL82824  
Sandra Luntz: 083 679 1247

# REAL LIFE

Real Estate.





# Change on the plate one year after “Koshergate”

TALI FEINBERG

In a major step for kashrut in South Africa, a Pick n Pay product with a Montreal Kosher (MK Kosher) hechsher was added to the retailer’s shelves this week, hot on the heels of the certifier announcing its expansion in South Africa last week. Is this a sign of the times, pointing to a rapidly evolving kosher landscape on the southern tip of Africa?

On a call from Montreal, MK Kosher’s Kalman Emanuel explained that the Pick n Pay items – rice cakes and corn cakes – were produced in an MK-certified facility. “With the rising demand for MK Kosher certification in South Africa, we expect that consumers will absolutely start seeing more MK labels on the shelves of major retailers,” he says.

In October 2020, a furore over the costs of kosher certification with the United Orthodox Synagogues (UOS) Beth Din exploded in the South African Jewish community. It included complaints about high prices, inconsistencies across the market, and convoluted processes that apparently left companies stressed and struggling. Since then, a number of businesses have moved to the MK Kosher hechsher.

But the chairperson of the UOS board, Kenny Rabson, says a lot has also been happening behind the scenes at the UOS. “After the Stan & Pete incident in 2018, we brought out the OU [Orthodox Union] and CRC [Chicago Rabbinical Council] to assess everything kosher in South Africa: our restaurants, bakeries, *schita* [slaughter], etc. They were extremely complementary,

and as a result, selected us to partner on Kosher Arabia.

“Even more exciting, the OU is allowing us to offer clients their hechsher with ours. This is on the basis of us doing the inspections – they are relying on our level of excellence. This is a fantastic achievement for South African kashrut. Essentially, they are allowing us to print their hechsher without them doing any inspections themselves. This is how much they trust our work. We believe the OU partnership will be more valuable for export than any other hechsher, as they are the biggest hechsher in the world.”

In addition, Rabson says that Beth Din kosher department Managing Director Rabbi Dovi Goldstein was at Kosherfest in the United States last week, resulting in two other hechshers looking to collaborate with the UOS. Time will tell if these come to fruition.

He explains that internally, the UOS has formalised governance in a variety of ways, including setting up remuneration and audit committees that meet regularly. It has also appointed a new director for the Beth Din office, Rabbi Shmuel Slasky, who will soon be formally introduced. He will assist *dayanim* with procedures, services, communication, and administration.



And, the UOS is looking to appoint a head of human resources, to “really focus on staff”. A new UOS website is to be launched in the first quarter of 2022, which will make the application process easier.

After last year’s events, Rabson says the UOS appointed an independent ombudsman, including an actuary and a lawyer, to review concerns about pricing. In the end, only one company came forward. “While it was found that they had no grounds for complaint, we were advised to lower their pricing in light of the current economy, and we did,” Rabson says.

He emphasises that the UOS has an “open-door policy”, and concerns can be brought to the organisation or even to him personally. “Especially in the current economy, we will always try to make a plan. People shouldn’t consider change without talking through the pros and cons. We wouldn’t want people to give up our hechsher, which is unanimously accepted by the whole country, for the wrong reasons. We will apply our minds to all queries that are raised.

“Other hechshers in South Africa isn’t a bad thing. We believe competition is good,” he says. “One huge misconception is that it will bring down prices for consumers. We may see this with smaller businesses, but not with larger companies.”

Moshe Amoils, the managing director of the Chocolate Tree and Nu Tree health food company, was one of the first in South Africa to approach MK Kosher for certification. “With the official announcement [last week] of Rabbi Yossi Baumgarten now working with MK, it has given MK further legitimacy in South Africa,” he says. “Working with the calibre of Rabbi Baumgarten has been of the biggest benefit. His 40+ years of knowledge in kashrut within the manufacturing arena is one of the biggest advantages. He goes over and beyond his regular facility inspections.”

He says since he moved to MK, his relationship with the UOS has remained positive. “There have been situations where they have assisted with a few issue locally, especially after the sudden passing of Rabbi [Desmond] Maizels. I’m glad to see that they have improved in certain areas. Hopefully it will be beneficial for manufactures, facilities, and consumers alike.”

Amoils is in the process of working with

two international customers in the United States, “and they have both expressed satisfaction that I have an international kosher certification. MK went above and beyond in helping me with one customer. I will be working with [MK Kosher executive director] Rabbi [Saul] Emanuel this coming year on further export opportunities in Canada.”

Amoils says “there has been an overwhelming response from the community” in support of his move to MK Kosher, “to the point that community members have come up to me to say that they now exclusively support my brand because of this”.

“There were those at the beginning who didn’t know of MK. However, with marketing support from MK, which it provides at no extra cost, the community was quickly educated. Pesach was our first big experience with MK, and it went extremely smoothly.”

Another business owner who has switched to MK is Jessica Berman, whose anonymous call on ChaiFM made a big impact in October 2020. Her company, Dynastea, makes coffee enhancers, cocktail mixes, syrups, dessert purees, iced-tea concentrates, and milkshakes that are sugar free and vegan.

“MK uses a digital kosher online system, which is the most unbelievable process you’ve ever seen,” she says. “Our sweeteners are used across multiple products. For a lot of the Beth Dins, when you’re going to add in a new product or flavour, you’ve got to re-submit the same sweetener ingredients thirty times for thirty different products. With this online system, you submit an ingredient once. There’s no export fee, and they don’t charge you per flavour.”

She says the community has welcomed her new hechsher. “People are happy to see diversity. We slightly dropped our pricing once we changed [to MK].”

Emanuel says the certifier is in discussion with about six or seven companies in South Africa, and “there seems to be tremendous interest”. He emphasises that it isn’t aiming to be in competition with the local Beth Din, and isn’t working with establishments like butcheries, bakeries, or restaurants. “But like any company throughout the world, South African companies can approach us, and if they are up to our standards, we will work with them.”

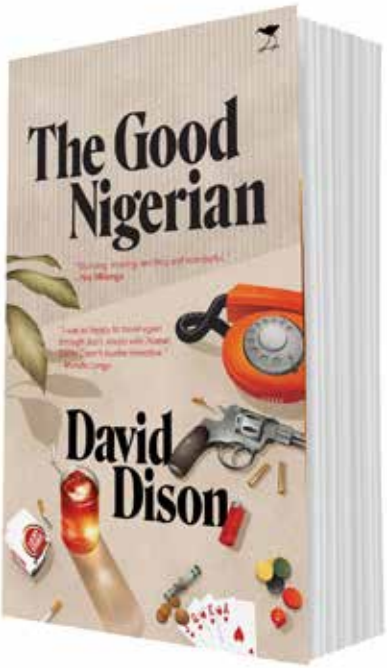
Says Rabson, “We have a great infrastructure and team on the ground, and are pushing ahead with building our organisation. For more than 80 years, the UOS has served the community in every sphere to allow a Jew to live halachically in South Africa, and we will continue to do so.”



## The Good Nigerian

by David Dison

“Stunning, moving, exciting and wonderful”  
-Niq Mhlongo



South African Jewish Report readers can purchase their copy of *The Good Nigerian* at 20% off!

USE THE COUPON CODE  
**SAJR2021**  
AT CHECKOUT

Free shipping on all orders within South Africa

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

David Dison’s PI, Jerome Nossel, is back, outwitting hoodlums, solving mysteries from the old days and trying to survive the new Joburg gangsters and power brokers. Ngozi Daubie’s husband Alex, an old friend of Nossel’s, is being held by Yuri Kramerov, a brutal and brutalised Russian gangster kingpin. Nossel, sometimes shady, often clandestine, but a constant friend, has a penchant for justice, and a long memory...

Available at all good bookshops and from  
[www.jacana.co.za](http://www.jacana.co.za)

## The art of loving kindness

STAFF REPORTER

It’s not often you find art that focuses on goodness and kindness, but leave it to Chabad House and Rabbi David Masinter to paint a different picture.

On Sunday, 14 November, the community descended on the Gallery of Goodness and Kindness in Morningside for a uplifting art exhibition that showcased the work of Simphiwe Mlangeni, Gavin Rain, Regi Bardavid, Mark Swart, Nyati Arts Creation Studio, and Gail Josselson.

All proceeds from the sale of artwork went towards Chabad House’s job-creation programme, Art of Kindness.

Said Masinter, “Our mission and vision is to upskill underprivileged artists as well as showcase magnificent pieces of art that portray kindness and bring a smile to the beholder.”





# Miss SA cartoon shows ugly face of antisemitism

TALI FEINBERG

Amidst the virulent reaction from the South African government and media to Miss South Africa choosing to compete in Miss Universe in Israel, one cartoon took the criticism a step too far, delving into classic antisemitic tropes.

In its 16 November 2021 newsletter, titled *Maverick Citizen*, local online newspaper *Daily Maverick* sent out the cartoon, ironically under the headline “Racist Pageantry”. The cartoon was certainly discriminatory, but not in the way it was intended to portray discrimination. According to experts, it was blatantly antisemitic.

The cartoon depicts the Miss Universe organisation, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, and a man representing the “Zionist lobby” at a beauty pageant.

In the drawing, the Miss Universe organisation is awarded “Miss Anthropic” (misanthropic), possibly saying that the organisation “hates people” by holding the contest in Israel. A misanthrope is a person who hates or distrusts humankind.

The Israeli prime minister is awarded “Miss Appropriate” (misappropriate). According to the dictionary, misappropriate means to “dishonestly or unfairly take (something, especially money, belonging to another) for one’s own use”. Similar words are “embezzle, expropriate, steal, thief, pilfer, swindle, and pocket”.

While this is a classic antisemitic trope, the point is emphasised even more by giving Bennett an opulent jewelled crown and an oversized hooked nose.

Not to be outdone, the “Zionist lobby” proudly wears a sash awarding him “Miss Information” (misinformation). He is also given a large hooked nose, and wears a yarmulke. The idea of Jews being untrustworthy is a classic antisemitic trope.

*Daily Maverick* later pulled the cartoon from its website, and sent a message from Editor-in-Chief Branko Brkic to its subscribers saying it had “erroneously published

[the] cartoon. After realising it had been published before going through our usual publishing process, we have removed it from our site and resolved to resend this newsletter. We apologise unreservedly to all our readers for this mistake.” The message made no mention of why the cartoon was problematic.

“This [cartoon] is crass antisemitism,” one of the world’s foremost antisemitism experts, Professor Yehuda Bauer, told the *SA Jewish Report*. Bauer is professor emeritus of history and Holocaust studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and academic advisor to Yad Vashem.



“The cartoon, with the hooked noses and the charge of financial rapaciousness, is simply ‘Nazi,’” he said. “It endangers South African society. The paper and cartoonist should be condemned by all.”

Local antisemitism expert and emeritus professor of history at the University of Cape Town, Milton Shain says, “In trying to be clever, *Daily Maverick* has disgraced itself. Too often, Jews are easy targets of hate. Somehow it’s fine to satirise or condemn a group not seen to be vulnerable. The cartoon is ugly, with obvious allusions to a panoply of anti-Jewish tropes. Its insinuations would have appealed to readers of *Der Sturmer*, the Nazi antisemitic rag.”

Political scientist and former research associate at the

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Dr Matthias Küntzel, says, “The cartoon is particularly perfidious: the three inscriptions are classic antisemitic stereotypes that are further reinforced in the Bennett figure with the jewelled crown.”

Responding to questions from the *SA Jewish Report*, Brkic said, “I have taken it down and apologised for it being published in the first place. Our publishing systems failed, and when I saw this, I took it down. This is all I can say. There was nothing behind it. I have apologised, and apologise again for a bad mistake. We screwed up. There is always supposed to be an extra pair of eyes and this time, it didn’t happen.”

Mike Abel, a commentator, Cape Town Jewish community member, and regular contributor to *Daily Maverick*, wrote on Facebook in response to the cartoon, “It’s 2021, and I need to see a cartoon that could have been commissioned by [Nazi propaganda minister] Joseph Goebbels. I don’t feel anger. I feel pure, undiluted f\*\*king rage. It’s one thing having an issue with Miss SA going to Israel, it’s quite another creating a vile, grotesque, and antisemitic cartoon to depict this. I’m astonished at *Daily Maverick* stooping to such a despicable level. Replete with hooked nose and yarmulke. It’s frankly inexcusable. I have an intolerance for intolerance, and this cartoon, not the first of its kind to appear in this publication either, makes me sick to my very core. #ShameOnThem.”

Abel chose not to comment on whether he would continue to contribute to *Daily Maverick*.

Responding to Abel, one person wrote, “This cartoon is something the Nazis would have been proud of. I’m horrified that this is being published in a major publication. No wonder people are leaving this country in droves. A disgrace.”

Another wrote, “I’m disgusted. DM [Daily Maverick] just got my unsubscribe. I support freedom of speech and uncensored press. This is neither, merely a liberty taken to be despicable and clearly defamatory under the guise

of free speech. This is tantamount to hate speech. What editor would endorse this?”

The *SA Jewish Report* reached out to the cartoonist, Thulani Ntong Ka Sibiya, but didn’t receive a response. He posted the cartoon on his personal Facebook page, where his followers are free to see and share it. Six people reacted to the cartoon with a laughing emoji, 17 said they liked it, and 10 said they loved it.

South African Jewish Board of Deputies Associate Director David Saks says, “All reasonable people agree that criticism of Israel doesn’t in and of itself constitute antisemitism. Like any sovereign state, Israel can expect to be criticised. What begs the question is when such purported ‘criticism’ takes an extreme, exaggerated form that is inconsistent with the way other countries are treated. Israel is the acknowledged nation state of the Jewish people with which the great majority of Jews everywhere identify and are identified with. Thus, when it is demonised, delegitimised, and subjected to double standards [to use the ‘three D’ model], it’s specious to pretend that it has nothing to do with Jews as a whole.”

“As events the world over have consistently shown, it’s all but inevitable that unbridled hatred for Israel will sooner or later spill over into vitriolic attacks against Jews in general,” he says. “Such, unfortunately, was the case with this cartoon. It relies on ugly caricatures to thrust its message home. Particularly inflammatory is the figure identified as ‘Zionist lobby, Miss Information’. From the skull cap and hooked nose, there can be no doubt that those portrayed as being liars are Jews. It’s a vicious image, redolent with classic antisemitic stereotypes portraying Jews as scheming, dishonest, and untrustworthy.”

“While the offending cartoon has since been removed, the fact that it was published in the first place by *Daily Maverick* is disturbing,” he says. “One has to ask why a publication that is generally so sensitive to racism, sexism, homophobia, global warming, and the like can have failed so badly when it comes to respecting the right to dignity and equality of Jewish people.”

## MOST SA JEWS (BOTH OF ASHKENAZI AND SEPHARDI HERITAGE) ARE ELIGIBLE TO REINSTATE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND, ACCORDINGLY, AN EU PASSPORT.

A common misconception is that European citizenship and EU passports can only be obtained if one has documents providing his/her lineage. The fact is that not having any documents proving lineage, doesn't lead to disqualification of eligibility. Jews of Ashkenazi heritage can rely on documents obtained in Lithuania or Poland. Jews of Sephardi heritage need no proof at all!

In his experience, the majority of South African Jews are descendants of Jews whose European citizenship was illegally deprived, and therefore they are entitled to reinstate it, and accordingly obtain an EU passport.



Adv. Horesh has been operating in SA market with the Jewish community since March 2018. He arrives regularly to South Africa, and can meet in person with Jews who are interested to do so.

**Ashkenazi:** This ad refers to Jews of Polish & Lithuanian heritage only. The most important things is the understanding that prior to the end of WW-I, the European map was very different than the one we know today. Countries like Poland and Lithuania did not exist as independent countries, and until 1918 these territories were only known as Lithuanian or Polish regions/counties of the Great Russian Empire who ruled all of north eastern Europe. Accordingly, until 1918, residents of these territories were Russian citizens, as Polish and Lithuanian citizenships didn't exist. Therefore, since applications for reinstatement of these citizenships can only be based on whether one's ancestor was a Polish or Lithuanian citizen, whoever is a descendant of an ancestor who left Europe prior to 1918 will not be eligible.

In addition, it is highly important to remember that since borders in Europe were shifted once again during and after WW-II, one's eligibility for Polish or Lithuanian citizenship depends on the city from which his/her ancestor hailed. Horesh explains: Shifted borders resulted in cities changing nationalities, and that the resultant effect for descendants of Jews left Vilnius is that their application for Lithuanian citizenship will be declined whereas a similar



Adv. Avi Horesh is an Israeli attorney, who lived in Poland for seven years. Horesh is recognised in Israel as one of the leading lawyers in the field of reinstatement of European citizenship.

application for reinstatement of Polish citizenship may very well be approved!

**Sephardi:** This ad refers to all Jews of Sephardi heritage – Jews who arrived from North Africa, the Middle East, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, as well as many descendants of Jews who arrived from Holland and the UK. Most descendants of Sephardi Jews (who were exiled 500 years ago) are eligible to reinstate Portuguese citizenship and, accordingly, an EU passport. If applicable, Adv. Horesh will apply for (on behalf of the applicant) an official certificate confirming such eligibility, on the basis of which, an application for Portuguese citizenship is most likely to be approved.

Horesh has an in-depth knowledge and a full understanding of European immigration laws.

Horesh resides in Israel – a four-hour flight from Warsaw and Vilnius – enabling him to travel to Poland and Lithuania, as well as to Portugal, where he collaborates with local professionals who assist him in tracing documentation required for successful applications of reinstatement of European citizenship.

Adv. Horesh closely collaborates with professionals who assist him in tracing documentation in Europe required for successful applications of reinstatement EU citizenships.

My next visit to South Africa is planned for the end of January/beginning of February 2022.  
WhatsApp me on +48 783 953 223 • Email Avi Horesh [adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com](mailto:adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com)



# A trumped up national crisis

Apparently we have a major crisis in South Africa – or so it would seem.

A 24-year-old beauty queen – who recently became Miss South Africa – is scheduled to compete in an international pageant in Israel. Can you believe this is a crisis?

I, too, am wondering what all the fuss is about. What difference does it make to most South Africans? Why is it in every news bulletin and newspaper? Why are journalists trying to find some skulduggery in this? Why, when we have a country that has a severe electricity crisis and this week, a water crisis, are we focusing on a beauty queen going to a pageant? Seriously!

And if you thought it was strange that the mainstream media have latched onto it, how about the fact that the government has taken sides and is doing what it can to force this young woman not to go. It’s totally absurd.

To the point that a government minister has made what appears to be a veiled threat to this young woman. He “suggested” as a national minister that if she didn’t withdraw it could prove to be disastrous for her future and public standing as a young black woman. Really!

Is it a crime to participate in an international beauty pageant? For goodness sake, this woman has put her all into becoming Miss South Africa, and now all she wants is to compete internationally. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for a handful of women in the world. How dare he and the rest of the Israel-haters make her the scapegoat for their political shenanigans!

This same minister, Nathi Mthethwa, was oh so quiet during lockdown when the theatres were closed and actors, singers, and everyone in the entertainment world and aligned careers were literally left to starve. He did nothing to help them when he could.

Yet he has no problem in bullying a young woman who has done nothing wrong and simply wants to compete in a once-in-a-lifetime pageant.

I do find it interesting that Naledi Pandor, our minister of international relations and cooperation, hasn’t got involved in this. Minister Pandor, who most of us know is the more effective and intellectually superior minister, has chosen not to put her political footprint on something that shouldn’t be politicised. In fact, her department has made it clear that it won’t touch this, and will certainly not follow this ugly situation by downgrading the South African embassy in Israel or cutting ties with the Jewish State.

At least someone has *sechel* (common sense). Why do I have the sense that Pandor is embarrassed by this fracas – or is that just me projecting? I mean, I am embarrassed by this. Around the world, people are reading about it. What must they think?

And while I don’t generally give a fig about what people in other countries think about us, I can’t help but wonder how they perceive a government minister publicly taking sides against a young woman participating in an international beauty pageant while ignoring what he should be doing. Meanwhile, the country has a water and electricity crisis, and we are still reeling from corruption, among other serious issues.

But this poor young woman has been thrown onto centre stage in a performance she doesn’t want to be a part of simply because the pageant is taking place in a holiday town in Israel. Because of this, she and the Miss SA organisers are being punished for wanting to participate. Am I missing something?

Had the pageant taken place in Afghanistan or Iran, where there are serious human-rights problems, would anyone be pushing her not to go? Not in South Africa, that’s for sure.

I don’t for one moment say that Israel doesn’t have its problems, it does. It does have a situation that it needs to deal with, but what country doesn’t? We sure have our fair share within these borders.

Perhaps that dreaded cartoon that *Daily Maverick* put out this week is an indicator of what this is really about. The cartoonist took the situation and turned it into an antisemitic incident. Sure, *Daily Maverick* took it down from its site after people complained, but it had already sent it out to all its readers and supporters (many of whom are Jewish).

What astounds me is that it didn’t pick up that it was antisemitic and for that reason was totally unacceptable until the complaints came in. Even then, the real issue wasn’t dealt with when it was pulled off the page, and no explanation was given.

This kind of ugly rhetoric and bullying around attending a pageant is just unacceptable. This morning (17 November) when I was listening to 702 in my car, I heard that the Miss SA organiser has a public-relations company, which has as one of its clients the Jewish National Fund (JNF). The announcer with seemingly much glee in his voice, said the JNF was a “Zionist organisation”. It doesn’t take much to join the dots, he said.

So, let me get this straight. If a PR company has 40 clients, each one would have an influence over the other? Is that what he’s claiming? That because the JNF – which most of us know plants trees, develops the land, and save lives around Israel – may be a client, it would then have some influence over Miss SA and the pageant in Israel. Sorry, I can’t see the connection and frankly, it’s insulting to the Miss SA organiser and its PR company.

There’s no skulduggery, just pure and simply bullying orchestrated by the anti-Israel lobby, for whom bullying is a favourite tactic.

These Israel-haters speak about human right, but what of the human rights of this woman to choose what she wants to do and what feels right to her. She doesn’t have to be a politician, but she certainly should have a right to make up her own mind without being bullied and threatened.

I stand by her making her own mind up without the muddiness of the bullying from the Minister Mthtewa and the anti-Israel lobby. It would give me great pleasure to see her win Miss Universe.

Shabbat Shalom!  
Peta Krost Maunder  
Editor



# Confessions from the grave – a posthumous apology comes too late

OPINION

HOWARD SACKSTEIN



The last apartheid leader, FW de Klerk, died peacefully at his home, aged 85, in the luxury suburb of Fresnaye, Cape Town, on 11 November 2021. He never had to face justice for the crimes of apartheid, its death squads, its massacres, or the way it deprived people of education, property, opportunity, and freedom.

In a land without justice, De Klerk died a free man.

The nation was divided between those who viewed De Klerk as a bold, courageous statesman, who bravely ended apartheid, and those who couldn’t see beyond the crimes of De Klerk’s past.

They were both right. We don’t like nuance and complexity. The world is simpler if you see it only in shades of black and white. Legacies are easier when you can gloss over the facts and focus on the political statement you wish to make.

For many in the country who didn’t understand the history of the transition to democracy, De Klerk was a complicated figure.

He grew through the ranks of the racist National Party, defending both apartheid and its softened nomenclature of “separate development”. He oversaw the ministry of education, attempting to limit the number of black students entering university through a quota system.

When former hard-line State President PW Botha suffered a stroke in 1989, Botha’s chosen successor, Barend du Plessis, was defeated in a vote for party leadership by a “*verkramp*te” (reactionary) De Klerk. Given his conservative background, many feared the worst from the new leader.

But by the time State President FW de Klerk assumed office, the world was changing. South Africa was bankrupt, Western banks refused to re-finance South African debt, the Berlin wall had fallen, the Soviet Union was collapsing, and South Africa was no longer needed by the United States, Britain, and France as a bulwark against communism.



FW de Klerk

De Klerk was nothing if not pragmatic. He unbanned the African National Congress, released political prisoners, freed Nelson Mandela, and embarked on a process to dismantle all of apartheid’s racist legislation.

De Klerk described it as a conversion, but this was no conversion on the road to Damascus. De Klerk continued to support “third-force activity”, encouraging local tribal militia forces in the “homelands”, the traditional Zulu impi army of the Inkatha Freedom Party, and the ultra-nationalist white right wing. He did this to gain the political upper hand in negotiations. It was Kissinger-esque in its duplicity.

Even going into the Codesa (Convention for a Democratic South Africa) negotiating process, De Klerk believed that he would be able to carve out a special place for whites and Afrikaners in a new democratic dispensation. The relationship between De Klerk and Mandela was often angry, frustrating, and volatile.

Along the way, De Klerk conceded on the notion

of group rights in favour of individual rights. He secured a “sunset clause” originally proposed by former South African Communist Party leader Joe Slovo that ensured no wholesale dismissal of Afrikaans public servants. Thereafter, De Klerk assumed the position of deputy president to Mandela.

Lauded internationally with a Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 and crowned as the man who had ended apartheid, all De Klerk’s accolades were completely justifiable. *Time* magazine named him one of its people of the year in 1993, and President Thabo Mbeki bestowed upon him the Order of Mapungubwe in 2003.

In 1991, after Israel lifted economic sanctions on South Africa, De Klerk, accompanied by his then wife, Marike, and Foreign Minister Pik Botha, visited Israel, the first South African leader to do so in 25 years.

De Klerk toured Yad Vashem and received an honorary doctorate from Bar Ilan University.

With South Africa’s racist race classification legislation repealed, the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding to increase co-operation in science, culture, industry, agriculture, tourism, the economy, and other fields.

Upon his return to South Africa, the South African Jewish community hosted a 700-person dinner for De Klerk at the Carlton Hotel.

The former president’s appearance at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, was, however, less than satisfactory. De Klerk stated, “It was not our intention to deprive people of their rights and to cause misery, but eventually apartheid led to just that. Insofar as to what occurred, we deeply regret it ... Yes we are sorry.” Many believed that De Klerk’s “apology” didn’t go anywhere near far enough.

In his posthumous video to the people of South Africa, De Klerk finally said what so many had waited so long to hear. “I, without qualification, apologise for the pain and the hurt and the

indignity and the damage that apartheid has done to black, brown, and Indians in South Africa. I do so not only in my capacity as the former leader of the National Party, but also as an individual.” But, by then, it was too late.

During his three-day whistle-stop visit to Israel, De Klerk toured the Christian, Muslim, and Jewish religious sites in Jerusalem’s ancient walled city.

In 2015, De Klerk told Israel Radio that comparisons between apartheid South Africa and Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians were both “odious” and “unfair”.

Mandela and De Klerk remained icons for many in the Israeli peace camp. Gershon Baskin, the

renowned Israeli peace activist, wrote an op-ed piece in 2020 questioning the whereabouts of the Palestinian Mandela and the Israeli De Klerk. Sadly, the question was never answered.

There are no saints or heroes in the real world. We judge De Klerk by our values and morals today with the benefit of hindsight without acknowledging that, as flawed as he was, he was a creature of his time, and the retrospective imposition of today’s value system on the slayer of apartheid does us no good.

It’s the same flaw that judges Mahatma Gandhi today as a racist not a liberator. It’s the same flaw that will ensure we are all judged poorly in the future.

De Klerk was both an oppressor and a liberator – whichever narrative you choose may well reflect more upon you than upon the deceased former statesman.

• Howard Sackstein is chairperson of the SA Jewish Report.



# Unique Investment Opportunity

IN AN URBAN CO-LIVING PROJECT  
LOCATED IN **DOWNTOWN HAIFA**  
**OVERLOOKING THE PORT.**

PRE-SALE  
2 UNITS  
AVAILABLE

## Communit Downtown

Hold will be transforming this historical building in Haifa into an urban co-living space which will cater to the current lack of suitable accommodation for thousands of students and young professionals.

11 000  
STUDENTS  
IN THE AREA

SEVEN  
UNIVERSITY  
CAMPUSES

ONLY 2 APARTMENTS LEFT  
LIMITED PRE-SALE TERMS  
STARTING FROM  
**NIS 1,199,000**

- ✓ 20% deposit down payment (remaining 80% on delivery)
- ✓ All payments secured by bank guarantee
- ✓ Expected delivery - December 2023
- ✓ Hold will facilitate the legal agreements, opening of bank accounts, mortgages and project management on behalf of our investors

“The concept of cooperative living challenges the conventional thinking of properties and rentals, and encourages developers and large cities to re-examine the traditional model of residential ownership.”

Communit Founders - Shay Am-Shalem and Eitan Serber



Contact  
**Julian Nathan**

✉ [julian@hold.co.il](mailto:julian@hold.co.il)

☎ +27 87 551 0734

📞 +972 58 631 9754

**A HOLD SIGNATURE PROPERTY**

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



# UCT has become ‘University of Capitulation’, says professor

TALI FEINBERG

The chaos, vandalism, and destruction that reigned at the University of Cape Town (UCT) from 2015 to 2017 may feel like a distant memory to some, but it was just the beginning of this renowned institution’s fall from grace.

So says Professor David Benatar, whose new book tracks the toxic environment and corrosive forces that he says have led to the university’s deterioration as a place of higher learning.

Titled *The Fall of the University of Cape Town: Africa’s leading university in decline*, the book raises the alarm about the shocking saga of what transpired at the institution, where thousands of Jewish South Africans have received an education. Benatar is a philosophy professor at UCT and has written the book in his personal capacity.

He says he was motivated to write the book because “the University of Cape Town has become a deeply toxic place, especially for those who question or challenge the intolerant ideology pandered to and peddled by the institution. This has led to the decline of the university, and portends further deterioration. It’s important that these developments not be hidden from public view.

“The institution has probably passed a tipping point,” he says. “My sense is that the struggle for the soul of UCT has been lost. Sometimes it’s worth persevering with a struggle, but it has been a few years since I thought that was the case at UCT.”

According to Benatar, what he has witnessed is “a saga of lunacy, criminality, pandering, and identity politics which have granted endless latitude in the bullying and abuse of others”.

He says the decline began in 2015, with the Rhodes Must Fall protest that resulted in the offending statue’s removal within a month, and which spawned similar protests abroad. Emboldened by their local success, the protestors issued new and ever-increasing demands later that year and then again in 2016 and 2017.

He records how their methods became criminal – including intimidation, assault, and arson, and says the university’s leadership capitulated to this

behaviour, which fostered a broader and now pervasive toxic environment within the institution. These developments offer important lessons for universities around the world that are yielding to the forces of a faux “progressivism”, Benatar says. But his message isn’t one of hope – he believes the institution cannot be saved from itself.

Asked if he could share any personal experiences that made him feel like UCT wasn’t the same place it once was, he says, “There are too many to relate here, but I do recount some of them in the book. My own experiences, however, aren’t the focus of the book. I have sought to give an account of the pervasive toxicity of the institutional environment. Many people are coping by keeping their heads down.”

Is UCT still a safe space for Jewish students? “It depends on what one means by a ‘safe space;” he says. “I don’t think that there’s any special physical threat to Jews at UCT. If, by contrast, one understands ‘safe space’ as the ‘woke’ do, then it should be said that the dominant view at UCT [which isn’t necessarily the majority view] is hostile to Israel and to those Jews and others who aren’t willing to demonise Israel.

“I don’t think anybody is entitled to be shielded from opinions they don’t like,” he says. “Thus, the problem isn’t that Jews [and some others] are unshielded. Instead, the problem is that those on the regressive left demand to be – and to a significant degree are – shielded from views that they don’t

like, while simultaneously persecuting those with differing views.”

Benatar devotes a chapter to Political Science Professor Dr Lwiza Lushaba’s lecture in April 2021, in which he said “Hitler committed no crime”. Though Benatar expertly explains why the lecture was problematic, the university remains silent on the issue. It said it would conduct an investigation into Lushaba’s comments, but there hasn’t been a word on this supposed investigation since.

The *SA Jewish Report* has twice asked the university for updates on the alleged investigation, but these inquiries have been ignored.

Asked why it’s important that the South African Jewish community read this book and care about the future of UCT, he says, “This book should be of interest to members of the South African Jewish community both as South Africans and as Jews. The fate of UCT is connected to the fate of the country, with the influence working in both directions. South African Jews may be especially concerned about the anti-Israel bias, even though UCT is far from the only university to have such a bias. The book sometimes also draws on Jewish experience in ways that might not be anticipated.”

Regarding the most challenging part of writing the book, Benatar says, “Although I don’t shy away from controversy if it’s the consequence of expressing unpopular views that need to be expressed, I don’t enjoy it at all. I’m not seeking conflict, but neither am I willing to avoid it by allowing dominant, vicious narratives to be expressed without somebody countering them.”

He knows there may be a backlash. “I hope that the backlash won’t be as bad as the ‘fore-lash;” he

says. “I have already had more than my fair share of being targeted at UCT. I shall respond as and when I need to. I have no doubt that I shall be criticised, including by those who have either not read or not understood what I have said, because of their ideological preconceptions. My arguments are supported by careful reference to the facts, which are methodically documented. I’m not naïve enough to think that truth always wins out, but it will be interesting to see just how detached from reality my critics will be.”

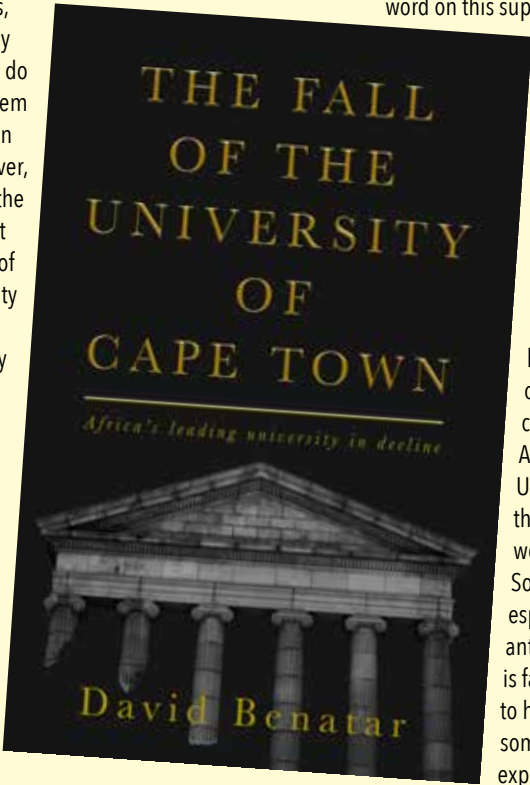
Regarding the timing of the book’s publication, Benatar says he had a lot to write about, and “given the situation at UCT, there’s constantly new material to document. At some point, I had to draw a line and decide to proceed to publication, which is itself a lengthy process. Given this, the particular timing of publication wasn’t planned.” The book is published by Politicsweb Publishing, whose slogan is “fair, but fearless”.

Indeed, Benatar is fearless in his thoughtful and methodical critique. “With fierce reason and uncommon courage, David Benatar systematically cuts through the fashionable arguments of pseudo radicals,” says leading educator Professor Jonathan Jansen, commenting on the text.

“With fact after fact, he shows that the destructive forces ... are devouring the entire university,” says author, journalist, and peace activist Benjamin Pogrand.

“I don’t have much hope for the future of UCT,” Benatar says, “but I should say that the institution still has some excellent scholars and even more decent people. Most of them, however, are cowering. That’s an indication of the severe social cost of speaking out. But we should also recognise that we still live in a substantially free society and that the cost of speaking out is typically not as great as it is in so many other societies. It remains to be seen how long that will last.”

• *The Fall of the University of Cape Town: Africa’s leading university in decline* is available on Amazon as an eBook. It’s not yet available in South Africa, but will be within the next two weeks.



# Making people healthy – a winning strategy for Discovery

PETA KROST MAUNDER

Discovery Global Chief Executive Adrian Gore believes his company’s role in the rollout of the vaccine illustrates how well public-private partnerships can work in South Africa.

“I’m most proud of the role that our organisation has played during COVID-19,” Gore said on accepting the Sunday Times Business Leader of the Year award on 11 November. “Our role in the vaccination process, the role of our teams, our vaccination site, and thousands of our people really working to make sure the vaccine rollout – with government – is successful.”

This award, which forms part of the Sunday Times Top 100 Companies awards, honours business leaders who have made a significant contribution to the South African economy and who have achieved greatness through the previous year.

Gore said that for Discovery, it had been a year of “progress and tragedy”.

However, for him the public-private partnership established to roll out the vaccines was a high note, which “so clearly illustrates how the country can work together. Partnership were formed and bridges built between the private sector and government.

“The country started vaccine procurement late and that put us on the back foot, but once we got that done and started rolling out in May, we rolled it out quickly. Who would have thought the issue holding us back would be hesitancy not availability. Our capacity to vaccinate South Africans is at a rate that’s world class.”

Gore said that while it had been a tragic year for the country, it had been a remarkable year for Discovery as its business model had manifested in real life. “Our concept of making people healthier through the Vitality model really was quite profound during this period,” he said, explaining that it embodied exactly what people needed against the threat of COVID-19. “Our data from COVID-19 clearly shows that living a healthy lifestyle is fundamental to resilience to COVID-19.”

Gore said he believed that collectively, Discovery was a “much more resilient” company now, and more focused on what was needed from it. “Our argument has been that three trends are shaping financial services. They are technology; the nature of risk being behavioural [the mortality and morbidity risk]; and the power of corporates needing a purpose,” he said. “Those trends have accelerated dramatically this year.”

He said that there may have been



Adrian Gore

the expectation that people would drop their insurance and healthcare cover during the year because of lockdown and financial difficulty, but that didn’t happen. “People kept their cover, and lapse rates went down. People sought out cover and, if anything, the business solidified over this period.”

Gore acknowledged the biggest loss of the COVID-19 era. “The real tragedy was the many deaths. We expect to pay R6 billion in COVID-19 death claims. That tells the story of the tragedy of the pandemic.

“The one underlying focus for us has been to try to make sure people are protected against dying, hence our role in the vaccine rollout. I’m proud of the role Discovery has played in being there when people need us.”

He said the vaccine mandate for Discovery was a big step, but one that

was “entirely consistent with where the company is positioned”.

“We see ourselves as an organisation that makes people healthier – an exemplar for others.”

At the same time, Gore said Discovery had made serious inroads into collecting a considerable and significant amount of data to understand the vaccine, side effects, and just how effective it was as protection.

Gore – who founded Discovery – made the point that no matter where the company was right now, “entrepreneurship is hard, and starting a business isn’t easy. I keep relearning this”.

His advice to others is to “follow the road less travelled, find the opportunities and gaps that others haven’t seen”.

He also said it was wise to build in difficult times. “This might be

counterintuitive because especially now, people are down and the economy is down and you may question where the opportunities are.

“Ironically, the opportunities are found in difficult times. Prices are lower, competitors are often distracted, and assets undervalued. That’s an opportunity for entrepreneurs.”

He explained that Discovery started in the early 1990s during the transition to democracy, “in similar times of unease and uncertainty”.

He attributed the company’s success partly to the “power of optimism”, and conviction in what you are doing.

“Things will be tough – nothing is easy no matter where you are. You have got to keep focusing on building, knocking on doors, and finding the way through. You need a product that society wants, but if you have it, I think the markets are big and the opportunities are massive.”

Winning this award meant a great deal to him, he said, especially because it was voted on by colleagues and business leaders. “I really value this award and am humbled by it.” However, he stressed that while he’s on the frontline receiving the award, it’s an award for the collective Discovery team and for the impact it had on COVID-19 and the work it did with vaccines.



# Storm in a D-Cup

OPINION

On Sunday, the government announced that it had withdrawn its support for Miss South Africa to compete in the Miss Universe competition. The competition is due to be held in the sunny southern city of Eilat in Israel on 12 December.

The anti-Israel crowd has been hard at work, trying to bully Lalela Mswane and the Miss South Africa organisers to pull out of the pageant. So far, the latter have stood their ground. But why is the South African government so obsessed with demonising Israel that it will lend its support to such a cheap and nasty campaign?

For instance, in its statement on 14 November, the department of sport, arts, and culture said, “The atrocities committed by Israel against Palestinians are well documented and government, as the legitimate representative of the people of South Africa, cannot in good conscience associate itself with such.”

The South African government loves using emotive words like “atrocities” when referring to Israel. If anything is atrocious, it’s this department’s utter neglect of artists, performers, and heritage sites that it’s supposed to fund and support, especially during the pandemic. It chooses, instead, to channel time and political energy into trying to ban a beauty queen from the world stage. Minister Nathi Mthethwa was quoted in this statement, making an unveiled threat to a 24-year-old South African citizen – this is conduct unbecoming a minister, surely?

The African National Congress (ANC) has a long history of fraternal support of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and latterly terrorists like Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Yet it utters not a whisper about terror tunnels dug into Israel, rockets, or incendiary kites and balloons. You simply don’t criticise family. The ANC also cannot get past filtering what happens in Israel through its own historical experience in South Africa, drawing analogies where they simply don’t exist.

Israel has become the South African government’s *bête noire*. Just pick any statement made by the department of international relations and cooperation about Israel over 25 years, and it will be dripping with one-sided, undiplomatic, and venomous language squarely blaming Israel for all the problems in the Middle East.

The list of anti-Israel actions by the government is long. Most recently, the government fought tooth and nail to reverse the granting of observer status to Israel at the African Union in June. It has rallied southern and northern African states to this cause.

South Africa recalled its ambassador from Tel Aviv

Lalela Mswane



in May 2018 during unrest on the Gaza border, and hasn’t replaced him. The ANC took a decision at its 54th national conference in 2017 to downgrade the embassy to a “liaison office”, which hasn’t officially happened, but the absence of an ambassador is a de-facto downgrade. We’ve also seen increasing support by high-profile ANC figures for hateful anti-Israel organisations and campaigns, a refusal to consider



STEVEN GRUZD

Israeli desalination technology for drought-hit Cape Town, and a ban on ministers travelling to Israel. Even its support for a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is disingenuous – it has never said that one of those two states should be a Jewish one.

South Africa has cut off its nose to spite its face about Israel – it resembles the Sphinx. All this while the country faces so many dire problems of its own – the pandemic, a low-growth, low-jobs economy, load shedding, racism, crime, and more. For all its claims about supporting dialogue and compromise, South Africa behaves very differently when it comes to Israel. It’s simply hypocritical.

South Africa is also out of step with its BRICS partners – Brazil, Russia, India, and China. All of them maintain cordial ties with Israel, do a lot of business with it, and still manage to support the Palestinians. So do the bulk of the countries in Africa which are cementing relations with Israel.

Like a puppy vigorously shaking a slipper in its teeth, South Africa thrashes and growls about Israel. Israel doesn’t really give a damn about what South Africa says or does – it has much more important relationships.

The government spends a disproportionate amount of time and energy on Israel-bashing. It regularly supports systemic criticism of Israel in the United Nations Human Rights Council, but abstains or votes against any resolutions on other country-specific situations. And not a whisper about human-rights violations by its friends Iran, Saudi Arabia, or China, or many other countries in Africa. It seems to ignore any wrong that it or anyone else – other than Israel – does. And Israel is wrong even when it doesn’t do something bad.

You can be sure that if Miss Universe was in Iran, Zimbabwe, or Afghanistan, Miss South Africa would be free to go, no questions asked.

• Steven Gruzd is a political analyst at the South African Institute of International Affairs in Johannesburg.

## Anti-vaxxers display Holocaust symbols outside Jewish politician’s office

BEN SALES – JTA

Analogies with the Holocaust have become commonplace at anti-vaccine protests around the United States and the world.

But protesters displaying swastikas and a yellow star especially stung on Sunday, 14 November, when they deployed the symbols outside the office of a Jewish politician, Bronx Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, whose district includes the heavily Jewish neighbourhood of Riverdale. The crowd, including a Republican candidate for governor, was demonstrating against vaccine mandates in New York.

According to photos tweeted by Dinowitz, one woman held up a sign with a swastika that included the phrases “crimes against humanity” and “Nuremberg code”, both references to Nazi Germany. Another protester wore a yellow star.

“The display of swastikas and yellow Stars of David outside my office today is repugnant and offensive,”

Dinowitz tweeted on Sunday. “People are perfectly free to express their opinion on vaccines or any issue, but to openly display Nazi symbols outside the office of a Jewish legislator is despicable.”

Like other anti-vaccine protesters, members of the crowd on Sunday sought to equate the genocide of six million Jews with COVID-19 vaccine

pandemic, and antisemitism watchdogs, scholars, and Jewish groups have roundly condemned the comparisons as offensive trivialisations of the Holocaust.

Rob Astorino, a Republican gubernatorial candidate, spoke at the rally, just feet away from the protester with the swastika signs. He wrote on Twitter on Sunday night that he hadn’t seen them.

“I had no idea until I saw this photo,” wrote Astorino, a former Westchester county executive. “If I’d seen it, I’d have told them to take the sign down. No comparison to those atrocities, and yes, I’ve always condemned antisemitism.”

New York Attorney General Letitia James, a Democratic candidate for governor, condemned the signs.

“These blatant displays of antisemitic hate are disgusting, and I stand with @JeffreyDinowitz in rejecting this shameful, unacceptable behaviour to the Jewish community,” she tweeted.



A protester holds up a sign with a swastika during an anti-vaccine protest outside the Bronx office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz

Photo: Courtesy Jeffrey Dinowitz, via Twitter

requirements. Protesters opposing public-health measures have made such analogies throughout the

## THE WHITE HOUSE GALLERY

WE BUY AND SELL ARTWORKS BY SOUTH AFRICAN & INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS



SEEKING TO PURCHASE ARTWORKS BY:

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

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

Artworks, L-R: Pablo Picasso: 21.2.69 I from Portraits Imaginaires / Jim Dine: 4 Colors from Pantone Books / Henry Moore: Mother & Child I

**YESHIVA COLLEGE**  
The Jewish School of Excellence

Play School | Pre-Primary | Primary | Clerk High | Boys High

Yeshiva College is a Jewish Day school in Glenhazel, Johannesburg. We invite well qualified, enthusiastic and dynamic professionals to apply for the position of

## HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

Yeshiva College would like to appoint an experienced High School Counsellor. The ideal candidate will be one who is self-motivated and strives to improve the psycho-social well-being of the students at Yeshiva College. The successful candidate will require the relevant qualifications: Registered Counsellor, social worker or psychologist. This is a full time position.

Please email a short CV, letter of motivation and references to: t.spangenberg@yeshivacollege.co.za  
Closing date: Monday 22nd November 2021

The school reserves the right not to make an appointment. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview. Yeshiva College, 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.



# Bassin’s ‘buggies’ save lives in rural areas

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Marilyn Bassin has dedicated her life to bettering the lives of indigent children, so she didn’t mind spending the past six months repairing stinking, rat-eaten wheelchairs because they enable children with cerebral palsy to live their best possible life.

This “veteran children’s-rights activist”, as the *Daily Maverick* has dubbed Bassin, went to Thohoyandou and Venda in Limpopo on the first weekend of November 2021 to fit the children into her freshened up wheelchairs, known as buggies.

“Their response was the most unbelievable thing,” says Bassin, a physiotherapist working in Protea South squatter camp in Soweto. “They laugh and smile knowing they are going to be able to sit up for the first time ever.”

She says a lot of them die waiting, having been unable to obtain a buggy for a few years. “Their mothers are my absolute best. They just say, ‘G-d bless you!’ so many times, and they sit from early in the morning until five o’clock, knowing they’re getting this prized possession.”

Bassin, self-described as an “eternal optimist” and labelled as a “truly selfless individual” by

the King David Schools’ Foundation, learnt about destitute people living deep in rural areas when she was handing out e’Pap last year. By then, she had met Dr Coenie Louw, who looks after thousands of starving children in Limpopo. Meanwhile, Jerry Bernardo was making tray tables and footplates for buggies. “I promised Jerry that he was going to come with me in June to the rural areas and hand out buggies,” recalls Bassin.

Sadly, Bernardo contracted COVID-19 and died a week before that was meant to happen. “While I was watching Jerry’s funeral on Zoom, Coenie told me his brother had died of COVID-19. I told him, ‘Let’s do a massive intervention in their names in your area. Let’s honour your brother, you, and Jerry for the work you’ve all done.’ So, we’ve taken buggies to four places, with Thohoyandou and Venda the latest and the biggest. It was by far the most preparation – six months of back-breaking work.”

It takes Bassin and her volunteers, including students from King David and members of Rosebank Rotary Club, 40 minutes to rehabilitate one buggy. “We strip it down totally. We pull off its revolting foam, which stinks. Picking off that foam is hell because it’s

stuck for life. We wash it down. You can do it depending on your nails and also how many times people have stuck onto it.”

Bassin has been working with buggies since 2009 because of her interest in cerebral palsy children. “I have made contacts along the way, including with a non-governmental organisation [NGO] called the Paige Project, which goes from hospital to hospital in Gauteng and collects unusable buggies. I’ve even gone round to collect from all [sorts of] weird and wonderful places for this NGO. I now collect them by the 20s because a wheelchair like this is mandatory if you have cerebral palsy.”

Bassin explains the condition by moving her arms and legs animatedly while saying, “Your hands are like this, your feet do this, your one foot doesn’t bend.”

Fitting a child into a buggy takes about two hours, and she has done it in hospitals, clinics, NGOs with cerebral palsy children, and in rural areas.

The latter are closest to her heart partly because “they get nothing, and all their COVID-19 grants were stolen”.

Asked why they don’t complain, Bassin puts her right hand through her brown hair and responds, “They’re not worldly people, and a lot of them aren’t South Africans. A lot of them don’t even have a birth certificate, so they aren’t going to raise a storm because they didn’t get things.”

Besides the buggies, Bassin also gave rattles to each child, which she made using tubes wrapped with shiny Christmas paper, with beads inside the stoppers on either end. “They love these toys because these children have such altered sensation, some of them can’t stand it

when you touch them. One mother said, ‘I’ve never had such a toy.’ You look at her, and you realised that she probably never has.”

The buggies hold the children still, allowing them to do everything as well as they possibly can. “Although they can’t see, can’t form words, struggle to eat, and their eyes and tongue constantly move just like their limbs, they are highly intelligent and know exactly what’s going on. In a buggy, their neck and head are kept still enough for them to start speaking more and more understandably, and they can certainly eat better. It’s not that they die young because they’ve got so many problems. These children grow into divine teenagers. They just love any attention because they’re treated like idiots and they’re not. Without the buggies, they end up lying on the floor all day long, only seeing people’s feet. So, when you can put them in a chair like this, they become part of society. It is a *mitzvah* beyond anything you can imagine.”

Bassin also gave a buggy to a little girl who lives in a Hamakuya village, a remote place very close to the Zimbabwean border. “She’s being looked after by her grandmother who said afterwards, ‘May you just be blessed forever. May you only know goodness. Thank you for doing what you’ve just done.’ No one cares about them. They are literally forgotten people, and it’s wonderful to help them.”

Over this past year, Bassin has also been helping a *Daily Maverick* journalist to research missing children. “We’re still looking for a two-year-old boy who was trafficked by his father in Zimbabwe. I’ve been putting myself in a lot of danger trawling through squatter camps looking for his gangster father.”



Marilyn Bassin fitting a child into a buggy in Limpopo

# Taking centre Srage: the principal who grew with KDHL

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Few principals can say they have been immersed in every part of the school they run, but then Lorraine Srage is certainly not just any principal. At the end of this year, she will celebrate 40 years at King David High School Linksfield (KDHL), having started as a physical education and junior history teacher in 1982.

“I’ve really experienced every single aspect of this school,” says Srage. “I was involved in some of our productions, fundraisers, and those beautiful golf days.” For this, she feels “fortunate”.

In 2015, she was appointed the first female head of a high school under the South African Jewish Board of Education. She puts this progression down to her firm belief in Jewish education, passion for teaching, and enthusiasm for the institution.

At the beginning of 1982, Srage had just finished qualifying as a teacher when the late Elliot Wolf, the then principal of KDHL, asked her to join the school. Some of her students remember her instant impact in the classroom and on the sports field.

Bev Rosenfeld, who has been Srage’s personal assistant for the past six years, was a Grade 10 student at the time. “Lorraine is the same fun, passionate, youthful, and forward-thinking educator today she was then,” says Rosenfeld.

Rosenfeld recalls how Srage went with the students on hikes to the Transkei and Magaliesberg, and always made sports training fun, the matches and galas encouraging.

Rosenfeld’s fellow KDHL student at the time, Nina Cohen, says, “When our new phys-ed teacher, ‘Shraags’, as we called her, arrived, our school lives would never be the same again. With her incredible humour, everything became much more fun than before – even early-morning swimming training. She would shout at me for playing

netball, calling it a ‘palooka’ sport, instead of hockey.”

Srage would train with the students by, for example, doing early-morning cross-country training with them along the golf course.

Peter Szewach, another of Srage’s students in 1982 and a history teacher at the school, will never forget the moment when she informed him, “You are in secondary school now, so it’s not necessary to decorate your front page.”

Jocelyn Angel, also a former pupil of Srage’s and a director and history teacher at KDHL, recalls how the person she describes as “a master educator” would jump around the classroom even during the driest of sections, such as Otto von Bismarck’s reunification of Germany.

Srage eventually stopped teaching phys-ed and started teaching history full time. While teaching senior history from 1989 to 2014, she served as form supervisor, vice-principal, head of the history department (during which time the ‘history department dinners’ became the envy of the other subjects), and academic head before being appointed principal in 2015.

Srage took the biggest ulpan group, consisting of 102 students, to Israel for three months in 1992. “I think that was the second-last ulpan, so I’ve just been very blessed,” she says.

Srage’s other highlights include the *chagim* celebrations at KDHL, welcoming Nelson Mandela to the school, and leading students to victory in inter-high swimming or athletics. She coached virtually all the sports, taking pride in seeing the fruits of her hard work over a season.

“Another highlight was five years ago, when I transformed the Grade 8 and 9 curriculum to the elective system, which has been revolutionary and has given children the ability to believe that they can feel passion for something that they study.”

Srage says that KDHL is one of the few

– if any – schools in South Africa to have such a system. “We’re certainly the only Jewish school that has done something so innovative and out of the box.”

Srage also takes pride in seeing what students achieve after school, and is spearheading the building of a makers room and two other major builds in the pipeline – a multimedia centre and an art and drama centre.

“Ironically, the school was much bigger when I first arrived here. But thanks to the amazing work of our foundations, we have been able to continually upgrade facilities. You can’t be looking to the creative and different if your classrooms still look like they did in the 80s and 90s. I remember saying, ‘You can’t want an athletics team to feel like athletes if they train on a rugby field.’”

One of her biggest challenges has been cyberbullying and other problems brought about by technology and social media. In one of her recent valedictory speeches to matrices, she said, “When I first started teaching here, an apple was something you ate; scanning was something that the doctors did on people; and TikTok was something that a clock did.”

Rosenfeld says, “Not a day goes by without Lorraine making me laugh. She supports initiatives that students and staff bring to her, and isn’t afraid to change things around.”

Szewach says Srage has always kept “an open-door policy” and she would make him laugh when she got confused with people’s names.

Before Srage became principal, Szewach and Angel would sit amongst the history books in Srage’s office to discuss perpetually perplexing historical issues such as whether or not Mussolini’s “March on Rome” could even be described as a march.

Angel says that the fact that she and Szewach are now two of the three members in the history department bears testimony

to Srage’s strengths as an educator, mentor, and friend.

Renee Freedman, who started her teaching career with Srage at KDHL 40 years ago, says Srage’s commitment has been demonstrated by her determination to complete four Comrades Marathons, her support of KDHL’s sporting teams, and her encouragement of students in their academic endeavours.

“Lorraine has ensured that the inimitable spirit of King David Linksfield lives on,” says Freedman.

Tom Johnson, KDHL’s senior deputy principal, who has known Srage for 35 years, says she has a natural belonging and deep understanding of the school, and her capacity to see the bigger picture and offer pragmatic solutions is admired by colleagues.

He says the values of Srage’s family in South Africa and Australia have moulded her Zionism and love of Israel. “This is echoed strongly in the ethos of the school, evident of our successes in both the Bible and Israel Quiz this year.”

Johnson says Srage is “the consummate entertainer, who can walk into a room full of unknowns and within minutes, be in control of the conversation, share her repertoire of jokes and wit, while providing some of the funniest anecdotes of all time. She will look to

provoke a reaction about a football team, the subject one teaches, or anything that’s fair game. All in the name of harmless banter, a unique characteristic.

“The name King David conjures up a powerful image and envy amongst independent schools because of the foundation Lorraine has built on. She is without doubt the greatest professional asset to the South African Board of Jewish Education.”



Lorraine Srage





# Absa and Qhubeka team up

Absa, in collaboration with Qhubeka, provides opportunities by making children's lives easier as they commute to and from school by bicycle.

Africanacity is the driving force behind everything we do at Absa, which aligns with Qhubeka, which means to move forward.

**Together we change lives for the better.**

**Join the movement for change.  
Donate now #Bicycleschangelives**



**Qhubeka**<sup>™</sup>

Absa bank limited registration number 1986/004794/06;  
is an authorised financial services provider and  
registered credit provider NCRCP7.



# SA family’s hidden link to Margot Frank

TALI FEINBERG

The photograph shows two carefree teenage girls ice-skating on the frozen canals of Amsterdam. The one escaped the Nazis and went to America before coming to South Africa. The other went into hiding in a secret annex, and perished alongside her more famous sister in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

“This photo was taken by Otto Frank in December 1938. It shows my late mother, Hetty Ludel [left], with Margot Frank,” says Jeffrey Zurel from his home in Johannesburg. “She and Margot were very good friends. They attended the Jekerstraat School, were members of the same Zionist youth movement, Maccabi Hatzair, and regularly played tennis together. They were teenage girls and Anne was the “pesky younger sister”, according to my mom!” Margot closely resembles Anne in this particular photograph.

The two girls corresponded right through the war, even while Margot was in hiding. In fact, it was Margot being called up to a labour camp that prompted the Frank family to go into hiding the very next day.

“In their letters, they would talk about boyfriends and make-up, typical teenage things. Then the letters suddenly stopped. My mother didn’t know what happened to her friend until years later, and she was devastated,” says Zurel. The letters between the two were given to Otto Frank after the war.

“The picture of my mom and Margot ice-skating is housed in the Anne Frank House museum in Amsterdam,” says Zurel. “When the museum brought an exhibition to South Africa, a friend called my mom and said, ‘I just saw a picture of you at the exhibition preview!’ She didn’t even know it existed. She did, however, with my dad, manage to attend Nelson Mandela’s formal opening of the exhibition.”

Zurel’s mother emigrated to South Africa in 1947, and married his father, Mark Zurel, who she knew from their childhood in Amsterdam. Zurel and his brother, Bryan, were born in Johannesburg in 1950 and 1953 respectively, and grew up there. Meanwhile, Otto Frank was trying to pick up the pieces after losing his precious daughters, wife, and family in the Holocaust. He corresponded with people all over the world, including Robin Sharon Papayanni, who later donated his letter to the Cape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre (CTHGC). When Zurel saw coverage of this in a recent issue of the *SA Jewish Report*, he decided to share the photograph of his mother and Margot with the newspaper.

But how did he come upon the photograph? “Well, out of the blue, a large envelope marked ‘The Anne Frank Foundation’ landed on my desk in Antwerp,” says Zurel, who lived in Belgium for 35 years before returning to South Africa in 2006. “Along with the explanatory letter from the foundation, was the photo of my mom and Margot, with a stamp across it saying ‘archieff’. In 2006, weeks before relocating to South Africa, I got wind of a book, written by another of my mother’s schoolmates, which was being serialised in a well-known magazine titled *Trouw*.

“The entire book was dedicated to Margot and her friends, something that truly touched Otto Frank, who appreciated the fact that his ‘forgotten’ daughter was being highlighted. The book is titled *Margot Frank en de Anderen* (*Margot Frank and the Others*).

“I made contact with [the author], Anco Mali, and after lengthy negotiations with publishers, my wife and I drove 150km to visit her in a small village in the Netherlands – all this on *mo’ed* Pesach 2006 with our matzah sandwiches and all!” recalls Zurel.

In an emotional meeting, Mali shared copies of “autograph books” which contained “dedications” between her, Hetty, and Margot. She also showed him correspondence between

Otto Frank and a fellow schoolmate, a certain Mrs de Knijff, from after the war, discussing the whereabouts of Margot’s former classmates.

“He somehow knew the exact address of my mom who was married and living in South Africa,” says Zurel. He now has a copy of that letter, and shares a translation of sections that mention Margot and his mother:

“Dear Mrs de Knijff,

Upon receiving your kind letter I was truly surprised and would like to heartily thank you for all you’ve written about Margot.

Anne has gained ‘popularity’ via her diary whereas Margot’s memory somehow seems to be ‘short done’; but naturally not in my eyes!

Therefore, it’s truly comforting to me when I see that ‘my Margootje’s’ memory lives on in the hearts of her school friends.

I know that Hetty Ludel is married and lives in South Africa. Her address is 43 Desborough Avenue, Winston Ridge, Johannesburg. Her father is often in Amsterdam, residing at number 3, JJ Viottastraat.

It’s extremely kind of you to allow me access to your *poëzieboekje* [autograph book] in which Margot has written some ‘dedications’. If it’s not too much trouble, could you please send [a copy of] same to me as a ‘keepsake’.

I hope that you and the family are well and wish you all the best.

With friendly greetings, yours Otto Frank.”



Hetty Ludel [left], with Margot Frank

The photograph, letter, and autograph book that Zurel has in his possession are copies. The recent coverage of the Otto Frank letter being housed at the CTHGC led him to correspond with the centre so that these items may also find a place there.

Zurel’s mother had a fascinating war story of her own. She was interviewed by the Spielberg USC Shoah Foundation in 1995. Her father, Bernard Ludel, would be first in line day after day at the American Embassy in Amsterdam, trying to secure visas for his wife, two daughters, and himself to travel to New York. These were finally secured, and they left the Netherlands in 1944.

Just prior to departing by boat, an unknown gentleman handed her father a clothes brush with the strict instruction, “Do not open this brush until you’ve arrived safely in New York!”

On opening it in New York, they found a few hundred US dollars “which sustained us for about three months”, his mother recalled. “All we could afford for those three months was water and doughnuts!” Hetty passed away in 2003.

“The only thing my mother and Margot didn’t do together was rowing,” recalls Zurel. “Margot was an excellent rower. At one stage, she wasn’t allowed to participate because she was Jewish, and her teammates said that if she wasn’t allowed, they wouldn’t participate either.”

It’s these kinds of anecdotes that Zurel’s mother passed on to him before she died. Now, he carries this small slice of history and the legacy of a girl who has always been overshadowed by her sister, but had the potential to shine just as bright if the Nazis hadn’t snuffed out her life.

## Rabbis get savvy with social media

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Passing on knowledge of the Torah through the generations has always been one of the roles of a rabbi. In the fourth industrial revolution, however, social media has given them a new medium.

Though some may raise eyebrows at spiritual leaders who use social media, prominent South African rabbis this week told the *SA Jewish Report* that it’s not the medium of communication, but the message that counts.

“A rabbi is all about communication,” says Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein. “It’s about connecting with people, and communication shouldn’t be only one way. Real communication is about a conversation and an open connection between people.”

Goldstein sends messages to the community via the Chief Rabbi website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel.

Rabbi Sam Thurgood of Beit Midrash Morasha in Cape Town and Rabbi Ari Shishler of Chabad of Strathavon in Sandton are both on WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, though Thurgood doesn’t really use the latter two to communicate with his community.

Whereas Shishler also uses LinkedIn and TikTok, Rabbi Levi Avtzon of Linksfield Senderwood Hebrew Congregation mainly uses WhatsApp and email.

“When communicating with my community, I have found only those two platforms to be really effective,” says Avtzon. “The main age group of my community isn’t on the other forms of social media.”

Avtzon uses WhatsApp to advertise events in his shul, keep in contact with members, and send out voice notes and links to his various podcast platforms. “I also use it to find out what’s going on with the community and to contact people to help them with whatever they’re going through. I find WhatsApp an incredible tool for a rabbi.”

Goldstein says he uses social media to converse with the South African Jewish community, sharing ideas and listening. “Social media also allows you to really spread a message. That’s something which is so special,” he says.

Thurgood uses WhatsApp and Facebook, which he has been on since he became the rabbi of his community nine years ago, to send a daily Torah message to every member of his community. He also livestreams on Facebook two short *shiurim* that he delivers at his shul every day.

People often send Thurgood messages saying, “This is particularly interesting”, “I’ve got a question about this”, or “More of that please”. He regularly uses social media to engage his community in meaningful discussion about Judaism, even when they’re not together at shul.

“Though shul is wonderful for those who attend it and we certainly must use every educational opportunity that we have within the shul, there are a lot of people you can reach daily or weekly on their phones and computers in their homes through

social media,” says Thurgood. “The core mission of the rabbinate of connecting and educating is served via those vehicles.”

Shishler has been on all the social media platforms he finds useful since their inception, except for TikTok.

He finds Facebook a particularly good way to network with Jews in his community and around the world, and to keep a finger on the pulse of the important things in their lives. “It’s an amazing tool to be able to share the values of Judaism, Torah teaching, online classes, and so forth.”

Having initially used social media to share personal content and find out about people’s personal matters, Shishler now mainly uses it to share Jewish content and have meaningful engagement.

Social media can be a black hole, says Shishler. “You can get completely caught up in watching, tagging, sharing, becoming almost addicted. My attitude is clear that if you’re going to be affected by social media, don’t be on social media. If you’re going to use it as a force for good, then, as a rabbi, that’s a place where you should be.”

Avtzon says social media has made him much more accessible. “Calling the secretary to make an appointment with the rabbi is no longer such a thing. People contact the rabbi directly,” he says. Although he admits that social media is relentless, bombarding a rabbi with messages 24/7, he believes senior rabbis may appreciate how it reduces the distance between them and their community. “Any barrier you can take down between the rabbi and his congregation is a gift,” he says.

But he warns, “A rabbi, like any human being, has to be cautious when going on Facebook, Instagram, and the like to make sure that they’re using the benefits and not letting themselves and their communication be affected by the garbage that’s out there.”

Thurgood says rabbis’ use of social media would become an issue only if they weren’t using it productively. Going there to teach and connect with people is a spiritual and positive way to engage.”

Like television, radio, print media, and the internet, social media can be used in a healthy or unhealthy way, says Shishler. “As a rabbi, you must be really careful. A lot of the content is spiritually not of our belief system, so it’s important to be somebody who’s contributing to social media rather than somebody who’s receiving from that space.”

Social media has turned everyone, including rabbis, into active partners, not just passive recipients of information, says Goldstein.

“That means they can really take action. I think, over the years, we’ve seen this in particular with the Shabbos Project.”

The project’s concept of keeping Shabbos together is fostered by social media, which creates an environment in which people can connect with family, friends, and Jews around the world.

Goldstein believes social media can assist in nurturing and building a thriving South African Jewish community. “It’s a blessing to be able to have platforms like this,” he says.



Rabbi Ari Shishler



Rabbi Levi Avtzon



Rabbi Sam Thurgood



# Ex-Davidian represents IDF to the world

PAULA SLIER

The COVID-19 pandemic coughed up some unusual situations. For 24-year-old Kelly Odes, it was serving in the Israeli army in her pyjamas. Granted it was only for some of the time – during the country's worst lockdowns – but even that couldn't keep the spirited Joburger from being on call 24 hours a day.

In Israel, it's a big deal to be chosen to serve in the spokespersons unit of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Odes had been in the country for only three years when she bagged this achievement. In that short time, she also graduated valedictorian with a BA in Government from Reichman University (formerly IDC Herzliya) and represented Israel in the United Nations conference as part of the Young Ambassadors Programme. Recently, she was chosen by the IDF's operations division commander as an "outstanding soldier".

Odes attributes a large part of her success to the education she received at King David Linksfield, where she earned six distinctions.

"It was top class. I was nervous to come to Israel because you hear how innovative the country is and I was thinking maybe I won't be up to par coming from South Africa. But King David equipped me, not only academically, but also gave me confidence and ambition. I definitely got that from my school. My Zionism I got from the South African Jewish community – the passion that South African Jews have for Israel. A lot of other diaspora communities don't have that strong connection."

It was only during her studies in Israel that she decided to join the army. "I was one of the only international students in a special honours programme. There were a lot of Israelis, and most of them were officers in the army. They used to talk all the time about their experiences in the IDF, and I wanted to be part of their conversation. I realised the impact the army has on everyday life in Israel, and signing up was a way for me to contribute fully to the country."



Kelly Odes giving her valedictorian speech

It also helped with learning Hebrew because even though Odes had obtained a distinction in matric, she wasn't fluent. But she had to fight for a place in the army's spokesperson's unit.

"I had to push and beg for it. I'm really lucky because in the army you can't

always decide where you'll be placed. My experience in the unit has been absolutely incredible. It's challenging because specifically on the internet, in public diplomacy, and the media, the world is very hostile towards the IDF and



Kelly Odes receiving her outstanding soldier award from the IDF

Israel. So every day, my colleagues and I have to be motivated to keep going, no matter how much the world tells us no, and it's amazing the impact we have."

Odes points out that whereas 10 years ago there was little mention of Hamas as a terror organisation in the mainstream

media, today the situation is different. There's also more coverage about the group committing war crimes. She attributes this in part to the success of the spokesperson's unit, but admits there's still a general bias against Israel that she finds difficult to explain.

"No matter the efforts from Israel, from the ministry of foreign affairs, and from every pro-Israel group to try and push up the image of Israel, there's an inherent bias out there. One could call it antisemitism.

"The goal of the press is to expose a truth, and everyone's truth is different. We [the IDF] often don't get enough of a chance to speak. We give responses, but only some of them are used or are used in a twisted way. It's a constant fight to try to expose our truth, and it's a matter of whether they're open to

hearing it or not."

Odes works behind the scenes, setting up interviews with reporters and editors, and responding to requests that run the gauntlet from benign to outright hostile in an effort to get the IDF's voice out there. Often, it's an uphill battle. Though she wouldn't go as far as to call it an information war, she believes information is key.

"It's key to winning an online war. During Operation Guardian of the Walls [the most recent Israel/Gaza flareup] we released as much information as we could all the time. But unfortunately, in the

press, Gaza is always portrayed in a more sensitive way than Israel. It's hard for us when the information we give is blurred or gets left out."

The battlefield has moved online and into social media, where news can go viral, regardless of whether it's true or not.

"One influencer with millions of followers can say something, and most people won't even check to see if it's based on fact. That really gives us problems as it's so hard to get real facts to go viral when there are fake facts going around. People are trying to get slogans and headlines out so they can push notifications that are strong. Very few read the whole article anymore."

The recent Gaza war kept her on her toes.

"It was crazy. I started on night shift and would sleep in the day. But you can't really sleep in-between sirens and everyone messaging you. Journalists have my personal number, so they'd call me constantly. It was also the first time I'd ever heard a rocket, so I'd be running to a shelter and holding my phone up to get signal to try and tell the world what was going on."

Odes' service ends in March next year, and she's been offered the option of extending it and becoming a commander. She's also toying with the idea of working in the prime minister's office or foreign affairs department in policy making or security. Her time in Israel has taught her that "nothing is impossible; to always keep pushing for what you want". We're likely to hear a lot more about Odes in the future!

## MOST SA JEWS (BOTH OF ASHKENAZI AND SEPHARDI HERITAGE) ARE ELIGIBLE TO REINSTATE EUROPEAN CITIZENSHIP AND, ACCORDINGLY, AN EU PASSPORT.

A common misconception is that European citizenship and EU passports can only be obtained if one has documents providing his/her lineage. The fact is that not having any documents proving lineage, doesn't lead to disqualification of eligibility. Jews of Ashkenazi heritage can rely on documents obtained in Lithuania or Poland. Jews of Sephardi heritage need no proof at all!

In his experience, the majority of South African Jews are descendants of Jews whose European citizenship was illegally deprived, and therefore they are entitled to reinstate it, and accordingly obtain an EU passport.



Adv. Horesh has been operating in SA market with the Jewish community since March 2018. He arrives regularly to South Africa, and can meet in person with Jews who are interested to do so.

**Ashkenazi:** This ad refers to Jews of Polish & Lithuanian heritage only. The most important things is the understanding that prior to the end of WW-I, the European map was very different than the one we know today. Countries like Poland and Lithuania did not exist as independent countries, and until 1918 these territories were only known as Lithuanian or Polish regions/counties of the Great Russian Empire who ruled all of north eastern Europe. Accordingly, until 1918, residents of these territories were Russian citizens, as Polish and Lithuanian citizenships didn't exist. Therefore, since applications for reinstatement of these citizenships can only be based on whether one's ancestor was a Polish or Lithuanian citizen, whoever is a descendant of an ancestor who left Europe prior to 1918 will not be eligible.

In addition, it is highly important to remember that since borders in Europe were shifted once again during and after WW-II, one's eligibility for Polish or Lithuanian citizenship depends on the city from which his/her ancestor hailed. Horesh explains: Shifted borders resulted in cities changing nationalities, and that the resultant effect for descendants of Jews left Vilnius is that their application for Lithuanian citizenship will be declined whereas a similar



Adv. Avi Horesh is an Israeli attorney, who lived in Poland for seven years. Horesh is recognised in Israel as one of the leading lawyers in the field of reinstatement of European citizenship.

application for reinstatement of Polish citizenship may very well be approved! Horesh has an in-depth knowledge and a full understanding of European immigration laws.

**Sephardi:** This ad refers to all Jews of Sephardi heritage – Jews who arrived from North Africa, the Middle East, Turkey, Greece, Italy, Yugoslavia, as well as many descendants of Jews who arrived from Holland and the UK. Most descendants of Sephardi Jews (who were exiled 500 years ago) are eligible to reinstate Portuguese citizenship and, accordingly, an EU passport. If applicable, Adv. Horesh will apply for (on behalf of the applicant) an official certificate confirming such eligibility, on the basis of which, an application for Portuguese citizenship is most likely to be approved.

Horesh resides in Israel – a four-hour flight from Warsaw and Vilnius – enabling him to travel to Poland and Lithuania, as well as to Portugal, where he collaborates with local professionals who assist him in tracing documentation required for successful applications of reinstatement of European citizenship.

Adv. Horesh closely collaborates with professionals who assist him in tracing documentation in Europe required for successful applications of reinstatement EU citizenships.

My next visit to South Africa is planned for the end of January/beginning of February 2022.  
WhatsApp me on +48 783 953 223 • Email Avi Horesh [adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com](mailto:adv.avi.n.horesh@gmail.com)



# Malema gives FW the last tweet

I feel sorry for Julius Malema. This is why.

A few moments after the death of FW de Klerk, Julius Malema tweeted an article that contained the announcement of his passing. This was immediately followed by a tweet, “Thank you G-d” along with a few dancing emojis. Although the tweets weren’t linked, the message was clear. It was also clarified in the comments that followed.

I’m no defender of the former president, and cannot even begin to comprehend what he evoked in those who lived under apartheid.

What I can somewhat relate to is my own experience. As Jews, we’re familiar with prejudice and hatred. My father, until his passing last year, wouldn’t buy and drive a German vehicle because of what the Nazis had done to his family. My mother’s father refused to speak German from the time he left Germany, and until his death, carried with him a visceral hatred of his homeland. Germany might have been defeated in 1945, but the

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

## Unsightly pageant of BDS bullying

At the time of writing, we are hopeful that Miss South Africa, Lalela Mswane, will represent our country at the Miss Universe pageant in Eilat in spite of the vicious campaign to prevent this from happening. Regrettably, this intimidation by the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement has been allowed to assume centre stage, in spite of being pushed by a lobby that however vociferous, represents no more than a fringe group that consistently puts pursuing its anti-Israel agenda before the interests of the country as a whole.

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies has issued a statement condemning this bullying campaign against Mswane, and several of our leaders have provided comment or have been interviewed by a host of media platforms, including print, electronic, radio, and TV. We have also, sadly, but almost inevitably, been called upon to follow up on a number of instances of blatant antisemitism, most notably a cartoon featuring a stereotypical antisemitic caricature that appeared on an influential online news publication. That image, at least, has been removed, and we welcome the clarification and apology provided by the editor.

The BDS movement’s inflammatory rhetoric and bullying doesn’t merely target the Israeli state, but invariably leads to our own community being maligned, threatened, and intimidated. This is something we stress continuously in our engagements with the government, media, civil society, and other policy and opinion makers.

In our various comments for the media, we have seized every opportunity to point out the thuggish behaviour of BDS agitators, whose modus operandi when people refuse to buckle to their demands is to bully, blackmail, harass, and browbeat them into submission and, should that fail, resort to barefaced lying.

hold that it had over my family continued for decades.

The German genocide wasn’t the first. Thousands of years before that, Jews are told that we were enslaved in Egypt. The conditions were apparently horrendous, with male children being thrown into the Nile whilst their parents built the cities. And so, to celebrate freedom from slavery, each year on Passover, Jews across the world gather in families and at dinner to retell the story.

Passover is in essence a celebration of freedom.

The Seder evening begins with recounting of the horrors of our bondage. The story then shifts, with Moses arriving on the scene and bringing with him the chapter of the plagues. When we speak about this, we pour out some of the wine from our glass onto a plate next to us. The reason we do this, we tell our children, is because no matter how terrible the Egyptians were to us, we still don’t rejoice in their suffering. The fact that they went through the plagues and then died in the Red Sea needs to detract from our joy. We cannot be unequivocally happy when someone

We saw a classic instance of this last week when the grouping Africa4Palestine first issued a statement fraudulently claiming that Miss SA had withdrawn from the Miss Universe pageant, and when that was exposed as a blatant falsehood, added to the lie by saying that there had been a “U-turn” on her part. (Of course, there was no U-turn, as it fabricated the claim that she had withdrawn in the first place.)

What is heartening, however, is that it has been apparent that the majority of South Africans vehemently oppose BDS and Minister Nathi Mthethwa’s call for Mswane to withdraw from the Eilat pageant. We have seen this in the comments sections in the media, in posts on social media, and in polls conducted by the SABC and Newzroom Africa, where there is overwhelming support for her to participate.

Something that has provided a degree of reassurance during this difficult week was a statement issued by the department of international relations and cooperation (Dirco) confirming that South Africa remains committed to maintaining diplomatic relations with Israel. As Dirco spokesperson Clayson Monyela rightly observed, were it to sever these ties, South Africa would only exclude itself from being part of the solution to the Middle East conflict. We remain hopeful that for all the BDS-generated noise around the Miss Universe competition, this sensible, realistic approach will continue to underpin government policy in this area.

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

ABOVE BOARD  
Karen Milner



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



INNER VOICE  
Howard Feldman

suffers. Even if it’s our enemy.

There’s more to this. Passover is the festival of freedom. Not just physical freedom but also spiritual and emotional freedom. Jews haven’t been slaves in Egypt for thousands of years. That’s something to celebrate. But it’s equally as important to celebrate freedom from emotional bondage. By showing that we don’t take joy in the death and suffering of our slave masters, so we indicate that we are truly free from that slavery. Both physically and emotionally.

By now my point should be obvious. My late grandfather and father might have physically survived Hitler’s Europe, but that didn’t mean that they were free of the impact of that time. Hitler might have ultimately lost, but to some extent, he still had a hold over the people who defeated him.

My initial reaction to Malema’s “Thank you G-d” tweet that immediately followed the death of FW de Klerk was to be appalled. I reported it to Twitter, knowing that as the tweet stood alone, nothing would be done about it. By the time Malema tweeted that Twitter had found nothing wrong with his tweet, instead of being angry, I felt sad. Much like I did for my grandfather. Because no matter how many dancing emojis Malema included in the tweet, the fact that he needed to celebrate the passing of FW de Klerk, meant that the power still rests with De Klerk. And that he’s not truly free. And that’s a terrible pity.

## Former Miss SA makes magic at Torah Academy



Torah Academy last week welcomed former Miss South Africa, Shudufhadzo “Shudu” Musida, to the school to share her newly-released children’s story, *Shudu Finds her Magic*.

“Miss South Africa has dedicated herself to community service and education, with a special interest in mental well-being,” says Torah Academy Director Sara Bronstein. “She will be competing in the Miss World 2021 competition next month. Before her journey, she committed to sharing her newly-written children’s story at a local school. Torah Academy was her first choice, and she graciously came to read her story to our children.”

The story has been translated into six languages. “It speaks of her struggle of being bullied as a child, how she overcame her challenges, and found her inner voice,” says Bronstein. “It’s a beautiful story which has life lessons and depth which captivated the minds and hearts of the children. They asked questions and enjoyed exchanging thoughts and insights with Shudu. The children felt honoured to meet a celebrity, especially one that stands for integrity, honour, and the potential of each person.”

The school gave Musida a “kindness coupon”, and encouraged her to share it on her international travels and at Miss World.

Musida is a well-known advocate for mental-health awareness. Her book is aimed at children aged between four and 12, and deals with bullying and the power of friendship.

## Yeshiva appoints new house captains

Mazaltov to the new Yeshiva College Grade 6 house captains. Zion Captains: Dalya Lewis and Amichai Altman; vice-captains: Layla Jacks and Yonatan Bricker. Judah captains: Dalya Swartz and Jake Kahan; vice-captains: Nava Froom and Yehuda Rau. Israel captains: Dani Simon and Cole Matthews; vice-captains: Tali Smookler and Bini Sassoon.



Dalya Swatz, Nava Froom, Jake Kahan, and Yehuda Rau

### Letters

#### DE KLERK’S BRAVERY AND DECISIVENESS CONTRIBUTED TO SA’S FREEDOM

The Jewish National Fund of South Africa (JNF-SA) pays tribute to the important role played by former President FW de Klerk in ending apartheid and paving the way for a democratic South Africa.

Far too few leaders in history have been willing to recognise the bankruptcy of their own ideology, and have been brave enough to push for change, even at the cost of giving up political power.

De Klerk took the decisive decision to reverse decades of National Party policy, to unban anti-apartheid movements unconditionally, and to release all political prisoners. Moreover, he engaged in a broad-based multi-party process to negotiate transition from minority rule to a democratic dispensation.

Recognising this contribution to bringing about freedom in South Africa, the JNF in the 1990s dedicated a grove in the South African Memorial Forest in Israel in his name. We send condolences to his wife and family.

– JNF, Johannesburg

## KDVP mathematicians whiz to top 100 in Olympiad

Samuel Blou and Daniella Reubenson, Grade 9 students at King David High School Victory Park, received bronze medals in the South African Maths Olympiad earlier this year.

Each year, more than 100 000 students nationally participate in the junior and senior competitions of the Olympiad, held from May to July, including students from Nigeria and Swaziland. Blou and Reubenson qualified to write the final round, placing them in the top 30 in Gauteng and the top 100 juniors nationally. Additionally, Reubenson was placed in the top 50 in the

final round.

Blou and Reubenson also competed in the Wits Mathematics Competition in May, a Gauteng-based competition which due to COVID-19 has been extended to national entries with the first round being written remotely. The final round is written in person. Blou and Reubenson achieved top-10 positions in Gauteng.



Daniella Reubenson and Samuel Blou



# 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 Picanto, Pegas or Rio. Interested? Visit [kia.co.za](http://kia.co.za)

Terms and conditions apply.





# New burial section consecrated at Westpark

The Chevrah Kadisha and Beth Din on 12 November consecrated the rest of the new burial section at Westpark Jewish Cemetery in Johannesburg.

Situated on the south east side of Westpark, Section E comprises 40 000m<sup>2</sup> and consists of six sub-sections, the first of which, Section EA, was consecrated in March 2020.

The consecration ceremony involved walking around the entire section three times while reciting tehillim and other prayers.

Rabbi Jonathan Fox, the group rabbi of the Chevrah Kadisha, said that the purpose of the ceremony was to sanctify the land where Jewish burials take place. The Beth Din's Dayan Dovid Baddiel said it was also to pray that the people destined to be buried in the section wouldn't pass away in an untimely manner.

Darren Sevitz, the director of burial services at the Chevrah Kadisha thanked those who attended this historic event.

The ceremony concluded with the recital of a communal memorial prayer for all those buried in Westpark Jewish Cemetery.



Walking around the new section to consecrate it



**Black Friday Month Specials!**  
7kg Candy Washing Machine  
**R3999** Save R400



**Bosch Fridge (KGW36NL2AZ)**  
**R6999** Save R500

**Many more specials in store!**

**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**

## The Jerusalem Report – KosherWorld style

Arnold Garber, partner at KosherWorld, recently visited the Jerusalem offices of *The Jerusalem Report* magazine. He presented to Steve Linde, the editor in chief, the “KosherWorld edition” which is monochrome but large font for easy reading. *The Jerusalem Report* is available at KosherWorld, and may soon be available at selected KosherWorld Checkers outlets.



Arnold Garber and Steve Linde



**54<sup>99</sup>**  
CHEVINGTON DOUBLE GLOUCESTER SEMI HARD CHEESE 200G



**27<sup>99</sup>**  
BAKERS PROVITA ORIGINAL 250G



**26<sup>99</sup>**  
BOSTON SQUASH PASSION FRUIT & ORANGE 2L



**74<sup>99</sup>**  
Hot Beef on Rye with a FREE 300ml Cooldrink



**46<sup>99</sup>**  
ARIEL POWDER HAND WASH 1KG



**27<sup>99</sup>**  
RAID INSECT KILLER ASSORTED 300ML EACH



**54<sup>99</sup>**  
VITAGEN DOG MINI LAMB FLAVOUR & PUPPY FOOD 1.5KG EACH



**31<sup>99</sup>**  
AFRICA FLAME MEDIUM BRAAI LIGHTER EACH



**30<sup>99</sup>**  
CARB SMART BBQ SPICE 200ML



**61<sup>99</sup>**  
LK'S TONGS BARBEQUE ALUMINIUM LONG



**13<sup>99</sup>**  
ALL GOLD BRAAI RELISH 410G



**11<sup>99</sup>**  
PASTA GRANDE SPAGHETTI 500G



**21<sup>99</sup>**  
ETOSHA FIRELIGHTERS 12'S



**72<sup>99</sup>**  
BLITZ TRIQUETTES 4KG



**131<sup>49</sup>**  
MAXIS BOEREWORS P/KG



**131<sup>49</sup>**  
MAXIS BURGERS P/KG



**92<sup>99</sup>**  
I&J DEEP WATER HAKE PRIME STEAKS 500G



**94<sup>99</sup>**  
MONTAGU CASHES ROASTED & SALTED 250G



**45<sup>99</sup>**  
JUNGLE OATS PLUS HIGH PROTEIN PORRIDGE ASSTD FLAVOURS 600G EACH



**72<sup>99</sup>**  
OSEM SOUP CONSOMME PARVE 400G



**74<sup>99</sup>**  
ORGRAN FLOUR ALL PURPOSE PLAIN 500G



**63<sup>99</sup>**  
VITAL VITABOOST ENERGY EFF 10'S  
**6<sup>99</sup>**  
BEROCCA BOOST LIQUID ENERGY  
**69<sup>99</sup>**  
BIOPLUS SYRUP 200ML EACH

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

**Feigels**  
KOSHER DELICATESSEN - FALAFEL & SMOOTHIE BAR  
063 113 9608

**Hometown Pharmacy**  
Where the pharmacist knows your name  
087805 8922

**LA-MICH**  
UNISEX HAIR & BEAUTY SALON  
011 440 8591

**Kosher Plate**  
079 224 3423  
**Jozi Blue**  
079 616 0905

**chabad bookshop**  
011 440 5224

**KOSUSHI**  
GOURMET FUSION SUSHI  
082 086 9631

**Montagu**  
TRUSTED QUALITY SNACKS  
011 440 9517

**The Cleaning Brothers**  
011 786 1063

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 **24 NOVEMBER 2021** or while stocks last

1 Long Avenue, Glenhazel  
011 440 9517 | [www.kosherworld.co.za](http://www.kosherworld.co.za)

CONCIERGE SHOPPING SERVICE  
[orders@kosherworld.co.za](mailto:orders@kosherworld.co.za)