

The Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2021

Absa
Jewish Achiever Awards
2021



THE KIRSH
FOUNDATION





CALL US TODAY
0861 222 123
INFO@ADREACH.CO.ZA
WWW.ADREACH.CO.ZA

Innovative Business

ADreach is the pioneer of Street Pole Advertising in South Africa and today is in the top three outdoor companies in the country. It was founded in 1998 by Brad Fisher – Absa Jewish Achiever Awards nominee (Business Leadership – from Covid to Hope).

The company's media innovations are set apart in their ability to deliver messages repetitively and cost-effectively to a captive commuter audience in a defined target market. Street Pole Ads offer 'head on' storytelling opportunities to customers where they live, work, and play.

ADreach is widely renowned for living up to its mantra of uplifting business. This purpose-led business has proven that a company can play a highly impactful socio-economic development role, while at the same time yielding an excellent return on investment.

Some of its successful initiatives include:

WastePreneurs – an initiative aimed at uplifting the informal waste collectors who operate throughout Johannesburg, while simultaneously providing a professional collection service to you, the resident. The WastePreneur then painstakingly separates the waste for recycling purposes, ensuring your waste does not end up in landfills destroying the environment.

Soweto Canoe and Recreation Club – a youth initiative that aims to uplift previously disadvantaged communities through the power of sport.

Supplier Development Initiatives (SDI) – a social entrepreneurship business that harnesses the power of the “gig economy” to put micro businesses on UBER-like platforms – allowing them access to market with big business. It then provides purpose-built training to the microbusinesses and provision of working capital through corporate enterprise and development funding.

Sponsored SMME campaigns: ADreach has several initiatives that are designed to encourage corporates to sponsor ad campaigns for small businesses.



**FOUNDER BRAD FISHER,
NOMINEE FOR ABSA
BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD-
FROM COVID TO HOPE**

Contents

Absa
Jewish Achiever Awards
2021

2 Chairperson's message

Howard Sackstein

3 Sponsors' Messages

4 The Kirsh Family Lifetime Achiever Award in honour of Helen Suzman

• Eric Ellering

6 The Mann Made Media Arts, Science, Sports, and Culture Award Winner

• Manfred Mann

8 The Humanitarian Award in honour of Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris

• Glynne Wolman

10 The Community Service Award Joint Winner

• Rabbi Yossy and Rebbetzin Rochel Goldman

11 The Community Service Award Joint Winner

• Burial Society

13 Danielle Rovetti Art

14 The Europcar Women In Leadership Award Judges

16 The Europcar Women in Leadership Award Winner

• Cara Saven

17 The Europcar Women in Leadership Award Nominees

23 The Absa Judges

24 The Absa Business Icon Award Winner

• Ivan and Lynette Saltzman

25 The Absa Business Leadership – from COVID to Hope Award Winner

• Andrew Canter

26 The Absa Business Leadership – from COVID to Hope Award Nominees

30 The Absa Professional Excellence – from COVID to Hope Award Winner

• Professor Lucille Blumberg

32 The Absa Professional Excellence – from COVID to Hope Award Nominees

34 The Entrepreneur Award Judges

36 The Entrepreneur Award Winner

• Barney Isralls

38 The Entrepreneur Award Nominees

THE ABSA JEWISH ACHIEVER AWARDS 2021

EDITOR: Peta Krost Maunder

SUB-EDITOR: Julie Leibowitz

EDITORIAL CO-ORDINATOR: Martine Bass

ADVERTISING: Britt Landsman

WRITERS: Tali Feinberg, Nicola Miltz, Gillian Klawansky, Saul Kamionsky and Peta Krost Maunder

PROOFREADER: Kim Hatchuel of A-Proofed

DESIGN AND LAYOUT: Bryan Maron of Design Bandits

PHOTOGRAPHER: Ilan Ossendryver

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Howard Sackstein (chairperson), Benjy Porter, Herschel Jawitz, Dina Diamond, Shaun Matisonn

SA JEWISH REPORT

Tel: 011 430 1980 • www.sajr.co.za

Mazalot
to all our Heroes

"Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow. The important thing is not to stop questioning."
– Albert Einstein



1 Long Avenue, Glenhazel | 011 440 9517 | www.kosherworld.co.za
CHECKERS - The Neighbourhood, Blubird, Balfour Park, Sea Point
and now open at 77 Beacon Way, Plettenberg Bay.

KosherWorld
TRULY KOSHER



LETTER FROM ABSA JEWISH ACHIEVER AWARDS CHAIRPERSON

A PORTRAIT OF HOPE

It's sometimes hard to be optimistic in the middle of a pandemic. Often, it's difficult to be hopeful when the lights turn off or the tap runs dry. At times, it's trying to be positive when we see violence and looting; state capture and corruption; and a government incapable of protecting its own citizens.

In truth, it's been a very hard year. It's been a year of loss and isolation, and a year in which looting shattered our dreams of a unified nation.

But, in spite of this, we are buoyed by hope. We are hopeful that the worst of the pandemic is behind us, not least because today, there are more vaccines than arms. We are also hopeful that those responsible for the looting of our nation will find themselves in jail.

The past year has seen the most powerful man in the country imprisoned for contempt of court.

We've witnessed Judge Raymond Zondo airing humiliating testimony to expose the rot of our government.

We've applauded the Constitutional Court as it entrenched the rule of law.

We've celebrated the largest commodity boom of our generation.

Just one year ago, who would have believed we would have a strengthened rand and a current-account surplus?

So, in a complex and complicated world, hope is a choice, an active decision, a decision to believe that our best days are still before us.

And so, perspective is everything.

In the 200 years since we arrived in South Africa, we have built shuls, schools, and welfare organisations that rival the best in the world.

If you look at what we, as a community, have done through Operation Hunger, Afrika Tikkun, Ikamva Labantu, The Angel Network, or the Chiva and the Moshal Scholarship Foundation, it's astonishing. Add to that what the Kirsh family have done for this country during lockdown, and it's clear that we're not here as guests.

We're here as the proudest South Africans, demanding our rightful place in this nation, having given more than anyone could ever have expected, and contributing more than anyone could ever have dreamed.

This is what we celebrate at the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2021 together with our nominees and winners, proud extraordinary South Africans, rooted in the dusty soil of this nation.

As a community, we have made a profound and disproportionate contribution to the development of South Africa. We have done so in the struggle for freedom; in the development of the economy; and in the arts and sciences, culture, and philanthropy.



This is us – this is who we are as a community. We are proud, unabashed, and unwilted as we emerge into hope.

Though there are those who wish to silence us, though there are those who wish to write us out of history, though there are those who question us at the Judicial Service Commission and try to isolate us from the rest of this nation, let them heed one lesson, the lesson of history.

You are here where you are today because of us, not in spite of us.

“This is our nation, for South Africa belongs to all who live in it.” Those were the words of the Freedom Charter, drafted (in part) by members of our community.

And later:

“We, the people of South Africa, recognise the injustices of our past; honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land; respect those who have worked to build and develop our country; and believe that South Africa belongs to all who live in it, united in our diversity.”

This is the preamble of our Constitution, which was written by us and all the people of South Africa.

And so, together with our partners, Absa, the Kirsh family, Europcar, and Mann Made Media, we celebrate not only our nominees and winners, we celebrate the best in South Africa.

Absa has been our partner in this journey for the past 18 years, and it's together with the people from Absa as well as our other partners that we know we can build a better South Africa for all who live in it.

For the past 22 years, the *SA Jewish Report* has been the point of news and contact for our community, the only national newspaper of South African Jewry, published at enormous cost, free of charge to all.

And, since the pandemic began, we have also run 126 webinars watched by more than two million people. We have created a digital town square for our community, a place to learn, discuss, debate, and kibbitz – a place to laugh and sing.

This is our contribution to our community, and we ask you to join us in this mission to reinvent what community looks like in the 21st century.

At the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2021, in broad

brushstrokes, we have painted a masterpiece of hope for you.

On behalf of the non-executive board of the *SA Jewish Report*, together with our professional staff and the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards committee, we congratulate all the winners who participated in this year's Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2021.

Sincerely,
Howard Sackstein
Chairperson SA Jewish Report and Absa Jewish Achiever Awards



MESSAGE FROM ABSA, THE MAIN SPONSOR



JEWISH ACHIEVERS EMBODY HOPE

The past year has tested our country, economy, and the business fraternity with sudden change, lockdown, financial strain, and civil unrest. However, looking back, it's the resilience and dedication of our colleagues, customers, and communities that emerge as the standout themes of 2021.

At Absa, empathy, agility, and creativity are increasingly powerful features of our daily interaction and efforts to build long-term relationships with our stakeholders. Although there's still much to be done, we are proud of the manner in which we have walked side-by-side with millions of stakeholders, and kept hopes and dreams of a better tomorrow alive.

This commitment to showing up every day didn't happen by accident. It's informed by the conviction that we all have a role to play in building a prosperous society. In this context, hope isn't a mind-set, it arises from a decision to be part of the solution and to rise to the occasion, knowing that we

can create the future we hope for by rolling up our sleeves. Hope is a catalyst for action.

Woven through the entries of this year's Absa Jewish Achiever Awards are stories that reflect this approach. The nominees and winners have all painted "masterpieces of hope" in their respective fields, including the arts, sport, science, entrepreneurship, and business.

As Absa Retail and Business Bank, we are proud to be associated with the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards for the 18th consecutive year. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners!

Bongiwe Gangeni
Deputy Chief Executive:
Retail and Business Banking, Absa



SPONSORS' MESSAGES



A PASSION FOR WHAT THEY DO

"Grab every opportunity that crosses your path with power and passion, as most things happen only once".
– Europcar nominee

Europcar has proudly sponsored the Europcar Jewish Women in Leadership Award for seven consecutive years. Through this process, we have been privileged to learn more about an incredible set of individuals who have achieved remarkable success in business, social projects, professions, sport, art, music, and culture.

We were once again presented with a phenomenal list of nominees. The candidates' achievements are exceptional, and we hope this award helps to highlight the significant role each one has played. We are delighted that this award continues to create a platform for sharing and celebrating their stories, learnings, passion, compassion, drive, discipline, and tenacity.

It has been another challenging year for almost all individuals and businesses, and we would like to commend the candidates nominated in this year's award as they have all made a significant impact

in spite of these extremely challenging circumstances. Common to all of them is a deep-rooted passion for all that they do, and we are truly inspired by what they have done for our fellow South Africans.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the nominees, and thank them for so bravely, humbly, and openly sharing with us. It's a privilege for Europcar to contribute to a platform that highlights and celebrates these remarkable achievements.

Our sincere thanks go to the Jewish Achiever Awards and the *SA Jewish Report* for your continued partnership. We are grateful for the opportunity, and for your efforts in putting these prestigious awards together. As one of our nominees said, "Individuals can change the world."

Yours personally
Martin Lydall
Chief Executive Officer



CREATIVITY KEY TO FUTURE POSSIBILITY

In a world that's changing at an exponential rate, it's important for us at Mann Made to support the arts, sciences, and culture, and the change makers who are pushing the envelope of creativity and ingenuity. We believe creativity is about solving problems in an unexpected way, and as things keep changing, we need more agility to solve the problems that lie ahead.

Artists and scientists help to build communities and societies, ultimately creating culture. They move the world forward through creativity and ingenuity, and we need more of these change makers to help build a future we all want to live in. There have been so many incredible breakthroughs in the field of science, and a few amazing South Africans have been part of those breakthroughs. We believe there should be more investment and focus on the arts, sciences, and culture, especially on the African continent, so that we can continue to make an impact on the world and unlock new ideas and talent through awareness and investment.

Two quotes from Einstein epitomise our thoughts on creativity and science, namely, "Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination circles the world." And,

"All of science is nothing more than the refinement of everyday thinking."

The Absa Jewish Achiever Awards structure is valuable because the convergence of these different fields propels us into the future faster. We look forward to the awards each year to learn about the amazing people who are having a positive impact on the world, and to celebrate their success in an entertaining event.

We would like to congratulate and thank the nominees for their extraordinary achievements in South Africa and the world, and for stepping into the arena to have a positive impact. We hope that the winners tonight will solve problems using creativity, the arts, and/or science. A special thanks to the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards for doing what it does, and for creating a narrative of recognising and rewarding excellence.

Shayne Mann and Mic Mann
Co-CEOs Mann Made Media



Eric Ellerine

ARRANGED THE
FURNITURE OF THE
RETAIL INDUSTRY

Many business people say that everything they know about business, especially the furniture industry, they learned from Eric Ellerine. In fact, his name is synonymous with old-school business.

So, it's no wonder that this octogenarian has won this year's Lifetime Achiever Award. At 88, he still goes into the office and puts in a full day's work. No big deal goes through at Ellerine Bros without it being run past him.

Today, the company focuses on private equity and property not retail furniture.

Ellerine was born and raised in Johannesburg, attending Athlone Boys High. Born to emigrants from Latvia, he came from humble beginnings.

At the age of 16, Ellerine decided to start a business with his Barmitzvah money – all 100 pounds of it. Having invested it when he received it, it had grown by eight pounds, creating a lump-sum investment of 108 pounds.

He decided that if a business opportunity arose, he would leave school and take it up. He knew his parents couldn't afford to send him to university, so when he heard of a shop that had become vacant at Germiston Station, he grabbed it, creating Eric's Furnishers in 1950.

"My mom said, Eric, you can't leave school unless you promise to finish matric. So, I started the business in July 1950 and after work every day, I would catch trams and trains to get to Damelin College night school. I passed matric, and that was enough formal education for me."

He had learned the fundamentals of the furniture business working on weekends in his father's store. Ellerine says opening his first store when he did was well timed because the old Germiston township was being demolished and a new one created nearby. "People needed tables, chairs, stoves, and other big items for their homes," he says. He clearly recalls his first sale, a stove for the equivalent of R15. The buyer had the equivalent of only R10, so Ellerine took that and she agreed to pay off the balance every week.

His reasoning was that with her down payment, he could buy another stove immediately, a small amount of the rest covered expenses and then some. Many consider this transactional arrangement as the very beginning of credit in the retail industry or buying on hire purchase.

Ellerine's target market was the lower income black market, and he provided unheard of credit to its customers. The business formula was to offer low mark ups that undercut the competition and attracted customers, using the same logic that worked with his first customer.

"My first customer came in every week to pay, and once

her stove was paid off, she bought a table, and so it went on," Ellerine says. "Until then, I hardly had much contact with black people, but did so in my business every day, and they were honest and hardworking. They would come in every week and pay their money and recommend us to their friends. So, in less than six years, we built a lovely business and went from strength to strength."

Two years after opening, his younger brother, Sydney, left school and joined the business. "Sydney was my true partner – we shared everything and did everything together," says Ellerine. "We did the selling, the buying, the dispatch, you name it. It was exciting. As young boys, we were having fun." However, Ellerine well remembers his mother warning him to treat his brother as a partner and not an employee. "She told me to give him a share of the business, and she haggled me until we settled on a 60-40 split – and so it remained."

The business kept growing, and the Ellerines opened more shops, now under the name of "Ellerines Furnishers". When Eric and Sydney eventually retired from the furniture business, they had 630 retail stores around Africa, and they went from initially employing six people to 8 500.

They also opened training centres, which were particularly important to Ellerine as he believes in helping people develop and better themselves. "We trained thousands of staff members. We never charged them for it, encouraging people to improve their skills to improve their jobs," he says.

He recalled a police officer threatening to arrest him because it was illegal to have a black manager. "I told him that this guy did a great job, and I didn't care what colour he was. I didn't let up, promising to point out inequalities etcetera. He never did arrest me," says Ellerine, chuckling.

As his company was growing, so was his family. In 1955, Eric met Rhona Levinstein at Cyrildene Shul. Three and a half years later, they married and went on to have four girls together – Lana, Jodene, Nicole, and Dionne.

Ellerine's biggest regret is not spending enough time with his girls. Every morning, he would leave their home, shouting out, "Bye goggies [his nickname for his daughters]!" and came home for dinner in the evening, shouting, "Hi goggies!" In spite of this, he made a point of always being home for

dinner and not bringing work home. "I believed I needed to do everything necessary in the 11 or 12 hours of work. It's important to have a private and social life." In his time out, he would enjoy sport. "I was never a good sportsman, but I was a keen one," he says.

But much like sport, Ellerine enjoyed his career, and believes that to succeed in business, "you have to be passionate about what you're doing". Also, he believes, "A great businessman has to be hands on and lead from the front. I also believe it's essential to pay staff fair salaries so they can live decent lives."

Today, his youngest daughter, Dionne Ellerine Hirschowitz, is director of Ellerine Bros, and chief executive of the Ellerine Trust. She worked for her dad before she went overseas, and he asked her to come back. She chuckles, saying, her dad still expects everyone to sign in and out every day. "There was many a day I took unpaid leave because G-d forbid I didn't sign in," she says.

"My dad didn't give me special treatment when I started working for him. In fact, he was tougher on me than other people. However, he's a fair boss, and treats everyone with respect and friendliness no matter who they are and what job they do," she says.

"He might be a bit controlling, needing to know everything that is going on." Ellerine agrees, saying, "Before any deals are signed off, they have to explain why and how they are doing it."

Ellerine says they really enjoy partnering with family businesses. "We like backing talent, guiding them, and watching them grow," he says.

Though he may be winning the Lifetime Achiever Award, don't count on him giving up on business achievement yet.



Photo: Ilan Ossendryver



Can I invest with certainty in uncertain times?

With an Absa Fixed Deposit Account, **I can** get a rate of up to **5.65% p.a.** paid at maturity when investing for 18 months.

Simply invest a minimum amount of R100 001 or more.

Log onto your Banking App, visit absa.co.za/fixeddeposit, call 0860 11 15 15 or visit your nearest branch.

We do more so you can. *That's Afr**ican**acity.*

Terms and conditions apply.

Authorised Financial Services Provider Registered Credit Provider Reg No NCRCP7

Manfred Mann

THE MIGHTY MANFRED MANN

Growing up in Sydenham, Johannesburg, keyboardist Manfred Mann — born Manfred Lubowitz — had no inkling that he would one day become a founding member and eponym of one of the biggest British bands of the 1960s. Now 81 and living with his Scandinavian wife in Sweden, Mann remains a touring musician. *Mighty Quinn. Do Wah Diddy. Pretty Flamingo.* Just a few of a staggering 13 top 10 UK singles produced by the band Manfred Mann between 1964 and 1969. Although it had hits with these songs, the band didn't actually write them. Yet, therein lay their greatest strength, argues Mann, who emigrated to London in 1961. "It was in finding the best material we could, preferably undiscovered and unknown, that we would alter, arrange, and make our own."

A man who tends to subvert expectations, Mann says this strategy was an example of the power of negative thinking. "Why did I succeed in a world of really brilliant people?" he asks. "It's because you have to know what you're NOT good at. You really mustn't bulls**t yourself that you can do everything. When we were in competition with the Beatles and the Rolling Stones and had an unsuccessful record, I had to ask myself, what have we got to do to compete with these people?"

For the Beatles, success wasn't about being the best musicians, says Mann. "But as a band, they added up to many times more than they did as individuals. Together, they managed to produce something special. What that was for them, was songs. They could write songs like that, and we couldn't, we tried. So, I realised that we had to perform better songs than we could write. I'm successful, specifically — and this I'm really proud of — because of the recognition of what I couldn't do."

While he acknowledges his accomplishments, Mann is decidedly self-deprecating. "I haven't been successful in the sense that really brilliant people are successful," he says. "Bruce Springsteen, Elton John, these people are successful. I've just *shvindled* [faked] my way on the bottom edge of this thing of superstardom. But in relation to leaving South Africa and what I expected, I exceeded anything I ever thought I'd achieve a thousand percent."

While he had an early propensity for music, "banging around on a piano" since he was about six years old, Mann was never pushed into pursuing a career in the field. "I was left alone, nobody was encouraging or discouraging me, which I actually think is good," he says. "It's better if you decide within yourself instead of having all these people trying to make you better at something. Leave kids alone, they'll figure it out."

Though he studied music at the University of the Witwatersrand and left his father's printing business to support himself through music, Mann had no illusions of grandeur. "I absolutely never thought for a second that music would be a career," he says, "I did realise, though, that you have to at least try. I made it into a career because I wanted to. I didn't believe I could do it. Positive thinking is what gets you to continue climbing Everest when you should have turned back, and you die through lack of oxygen. Seriously! You must try your best and if it doesn't work, you have to do something else."

Arguably because of this attitude, Mann found himself at the centre of 1960s celebrity hysteria. Speaking of his fame, he says, "In the beginning it's an ego trip, there's no doubt about it. People say, 'Wow, look that's him over there' and you think, 'People's eyes used to roll when I talked to them and told them stories and now, they're interested'. Journalists are even writing your words down and you find them in a newspaper — even if it's just your favourite colour. It's definitely an ego trip for a while. But then, depending on how much you, as an individual, need that kind of a public to support you and make you feel important, it becomes unbelievably intrusive after a while. It's nothing to do with music because now you're into fame, and fame is different to music."

Yet, for Mann, it's always been about music. Though Manfred Mann disbanded in 1969, Mann and his bandmate, Mike Hugg, went on to found short-lived experimental jazz rock band Manfred Mann Chapter Three. Then in 1971, Mann formed Manfred Mann's Earth Band, which 40 years later, is still recording and performing, mainly around continental Europe. Among the band's best-known hits are Bruce Springsteen covers including *Blinded by the Light*.

Though the pandemic has curtailed the band's live performances, it's planning to tour next year. Asked what keeps him going, Mann says, "I've been doing it for so long, it's just part of my routine. It would seem a bit like giving up. At 81, I am a bit old, maybe you don't get enough sleep and so on, but this very strange thing happened to people in the band. We're actually friends but we wouldn't see each other if we weren't working, we all live far away from each other. So, you've got a bunch of people who feel like a team, it's a little bit like a school outing."

But what really keeps Mann motivated is an undeniable connection to music. "It's sort of like breathing, it's absolutely part of my life in an integral way that one doesn't pick up on, it's just what I do every day." Yet, his days of screaming fans are over, and that's the way he likes it. "Now, I don't have any fame at all, I'm just an old man shopping in the supermarket. What fame? Nobody bothers me and I really prefer to be completely anonymous."

That being said, Mann is pleasantly surprised by his Absa Jewish Achiever Award win. "I've had so little recognition in South Africa that it's actually a bit of an ego trip," he laughs. "I'm quite pleased that my sister and a few friends and family will see that I'm a bit of an important chap and treat me with a bit more respect."



Asked about leaving a legacy, Mann says he's writing down stories for his grandchildren. In fact, aside from his truly distinctive way of playing the synthesizer, Mann is proudest of his strong relationships with each member of his family — which includes five children and ten grandchildren.

"The one lesson I would pass onto anyone — because when you get older you start lecturing to people — is that one of the biggest things I've learned about family structure is don't believe in family too much," he says. "What I mean by that is spend time alone with each individual, give each grandchild or child that space. It may be counterintuitive, but in a big family setting, you don't get to know them on that level. Individually, kids are all so different from each other, it's so interesting."

Counterintuitive they may sometimes be, but Mann's unique philosophies are why he's made such an enduring mark on the world of music. Which, in and of itself, is something worth celebrating.

Even better than the real thing.

Take your event online with
Mann Made's **industry-leading
production service.**

www.mannmade.co.za



**mann
made**

Glynnne Wolman

GUARDIAN ANGEL TO THE RESCUE

Glynnne Wolman doesn't like the spotlight, yet her contribution to South Africa shines so brightly, the spotlight finds her. Her organisation, The Angel Network, began as a grassroots charity in 2015, providing Easter eggs, blankets, and Christmas boxes. Today, it leads the way in confronting South Africa's humanitarian crisis which worsened under lockdown. "Our ethos is to see our humanity in the eyes of others, and reach out our hand in compassion. The people we help are like you and me, ordinary people who want to feed their families and live a decent life," says Wolman. She's never done it for the recognition, and "feels completely humbled and overwhelmed to win an award that has previously been won by icons such as Nelson Mandela, George Bizos and Thuli Madonsela." Looking back on The Angel Network's humble beginnings, she remembers that "initially, we focused on helping orphaned and vulnerable children. We soon found, however, that the needs of the broader community were much greater. We became involved in health, education, hygiene, feeding schemes, community development, job creation, empowerment, training, development, housing, and the environment."

All this prepared them for the wave of human need that arrived with South Africa's first hard lockdown. "Pre-COVID-19, we changed lives. Since COVID-19, we are literally saving lives by feeding people across our country," says Wolman. "Our aim from the start was to help by giving a hand up as opposed to a hand out. But the COVID-19 pandemic became all about handouts to prevent millions from dying of starvation." Before the pandemic, they received on average R100 000 monthly. Most of this went to education, medical needs, and other appeals. Very little went to food. They assisted 50 non-profit organisations who together, looked after close to 30 000 people across six provinces. "We didn't go into rural areas and were unaware of so many who were marginalised. We received occasional requests from refugees. We worked really hard at fundraising and appealing to donors for financial assistance," Wolman says.

During the pandemic, "we receive on average R3 500 000 monthly, the bulk of which goes to food. We have provided a meal to well over five million people, and thousands of families continue to receive food parcels weekly", says Wolman. "We assist more than 100 non-profit organisations countrywide who together, take care of more than 200 000 people across all nine provinces. We were enormously grateful to be chosen by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) as the custodian of over R20 million from an anonymous donor for food relief. It was a complete game changer and helped us to feed hundreds of thousands of people." They ensure food security for dozens of refugee and migrant communities who receive no help at all. "We have gone into rural areas where malnourished children eat dog food, and where people live in abject poverty and squalor that no human or animal should ever live in," says Wolman. "Dozens of large corporates have partnered with us in the past 18 months. We have established soup kitchens and vegetable gardens in Gauteng and the Western Cape."

In light of the pandemic and the overwhelming needs of so many,

"The Angel Network together with the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation and Coneckt, formed the steering committee that brought the Community Action Network (CAN) project to Gauteng," she says. A CAN is a group of citizens that come together to provide resources to those in need. It began in March 2020 in Cape Town as a response to lockdown. "Since CANs were launched in Gauteng, thousands of people have been assisted with food, clothing, and basic needs. Together with help from the SAJBD, The Angel Network was instrumental in establishing close to 50 CANS," says Wolman. The Angel Network is focusing on planting vegetable gardens, setting up soup kitchens, and cleaning pit toilets on a permanent basis. "Right now, we're sourcing, packing, and distributing 1 200 backpacks loaded with stationery, toys, and sweets for Christmas. The Angel Network also recently started a branch in Australia, and will soon be launching branches in America and Sweden." No two days are the same for Wolman. "Emergency appeals arise, people require our attention immediately, and there is a lot of crisis management. Generally speaking, Hayley [Glasser] and I start the day off with a brisk walk followed by a

cup of tea, and then we hit the ground running. We get administration out the way, work on monthly appeals, meet donors, suppliers, and beneficiaries, field calls, and work on social media." Glasser is on the Gauteng executive of The Angel Network, and has been involved in the organisation since its inception.

The worst crisis that Wolman has witnessed is "unimaginable poverty, where communities live in rat-infested tin shacks, and sleep on cardboard that gets wet when it rains.

They contend with starvation, unemployment, living with no electricity or water, and the constant threat of fire that destroys the little they have. One lady had to choose to use the only money she had either to go for an interview or buy a bar of soap. We were involved with refugees who were starving and addicted to drugs as a way to block out reality. The neighbouring community stole all their belongings in a xenophobic attack."

And yet, rays of light shine through the darkness, like seeing "community leaders who have nothing, giving their time freely to assist those who have less than nothing, and the involvement of children as young as 10 wanting to give back".

Wolman is kept motivated and hopeful by "the fact that we have been able to make a difference, and the generosity of spirit in our country. Uplifting others uplifts oneself. Giving a hand up in order to

create a lasting legacy changes the landscape of our country for generations to come." Her advice to those who fear for South Africa's future is "vaccinate, vote, and vasbyt! South Africans are resilient. For those of us who are here, running down our country serves no purpose. Everybody can make a difference, and this too shall pass. We need to protect our optimism and disarm the naysayers. Better days are coming if we strive to make a positive impact." Wolman's Jewish identity is also one of the driving factors that keep her going. "Jews around the world are brought up with the concept of *tikkun olam* [healing the world]. We are encouraged to be "a light unto the nations" and as the Talmud teaches us, 'whoever saves a single life is considered to have saved the whole world'. Who wouldn't want to do that if they could? It's far easier than people think." "The Angel Network will always be indebted to the Jewish community at large," says Wolman. "Though hundreds of thousands interact with us on social media, our community still makes up the bulk of our donors, without whom we would be nothing. Thank you to the SA Jewish Report, the judges, and Absa for continuing to host these prestigious awards, and my heartfelt thanks once again for this incredible honour. I'm truly humbled!"





Invest in Renewable Energy for your business

As electricity prices continue to soar, renewable energy is increasingly becoming a viable option. If you're considering ways of integrating it into your business, Absa's Green Asset Finance is the answer you are looking for.

It is specialised asset financing that caters for the long-term nature of solar investments. What's more, we can also lend against the asset and related cash flows.

Invest in Renewable Energy for your business, contact us at **RenewableEnergy@absa.africa.**

We do more so you can. That's Africanacity.

For more detailed information, please visit our website at **www.absa.co.za**

COMMUNITY SERVICE JOINT AWARD WINNER



Photo: Ilan Ossendryver

POWER COUPLE ON A SOUL MISSION

While most people are awed by the couple's achievements, according to Rebbetzin Goldman, "Our greatest achievement is our 11 children who are committed to communal causes in Cape Town, Johannesburg, and all over the world."

Goldman admits to being a workaholic, and says he would have liked to have spent more personal time with people.

During the early years, the most treasured time of his week was walking hand in hand with his young children to and from shul through Cheltondale Park on Shabbos and yom tov.

Goldman is president of the South African Rabbinical Association. He is a board member of The Torah Academy Schools in Johannesburg, and has served as a member of the religious broadcasting panel of the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

This year, Goldman, graciously passed on the distinguished mantle of leadership to Rabbi Yehuda Stern, Sydenham Shul's associate rabbi for the past 14 years.

Stern and his wife, Rebbetzin Estee Stern, have inspired the alternative minyan, the *shtibl*, and have built a considerable young adult following.

"This isn't the end of my journey, it's the beginning of a new chapter," says Goldman. "The Rebbe was cognisant of the unique nature of the South African Jewish community, and felt that it shouldn't be allowed to dissipate."

"This country has produced generations of good people. You don't find this outstanding quality of Judaism easily replicated around the world. Just ask those who have emigrated and miss it.

"People have been predicting the demise of this community since we landed. And we're still here".

Rabbi Yossy and Rebbetzin Rochel Goldman

JOINT ABSA JEWISH ACHIEVER COMMUNITY AWARD WINNERS



Rabbi Yossy and Rebbetzin Rochel Goldman arrived in South Africa a few months before the tumultuous Soweto Riots in 1976. They had with them a baby, a toddler, and a vision.

It was more like a *meshugenah* (mad) mission: to set up spiritual roots and spread light in a troubled land when many were fleeing from the darkness of apartheid.

A little more than 45 years later on African soil, it's almost impossible to encapsulate a life so rich and well spent by this truly remarkable couple who are this year's joint winners of the Absa Jewish Achiever Community Service Award.

"People thought we were mad to come here, the place was literally on fire," says Rabbi Goldman, the life rabbi emeritus of the Sydenham Highlands North Hebrew Congregation. The couple were given the option of California, but the revered Lubavitcher Rebbe of blessed memory hinted that the city of gold on the southern tip of Africa was the place to be.

So, for the young Rochel, a qualified teacher who was raised in Cleveland, Ohio, and the promising rabbi, who grew up on the streets of 770 Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn – the iconic centre of the world headquarters of the Chabad-Lubavitch movement – it was a no brainer.

"South Africa became our soul mission," says the rabbi, whose *zaida* was the gabbai in the Rebbe's shul.

When you enter the Goldman's Oaklands, Johannesburg, home, it's like walking into a loving family album. The walls of the kitchen and the banquet-size, open-plan dining room are heavy with multi-generational family pictures spanning decades, from the *shtetls* of Russia and Poland to the present day. When you have 11 children and 40-something grandchildren, there's a lot to cover your wall.

An ornate, antique wooden display cabinet houses a rich collection of

silverware and Judaica, no doubt heirlooms belonging to dearly departed from far flung corners of the world.

Goldman's father was the sole survivor of his family during the Holocaust. When he died five years ago, he left more than 80 great-grandchildren, with many more since.

"He would clutch every new great-grandchild to his chest and he wouldn't say a word, but we all knew what he was thinking. He was able to rebuild his family who were wiped out, this was his comfort," says Goldman.

In the early years, Goldman served as the founding director of the first Chabad House in Yeoville, Johannesburg, where he focused on outreach for 10 years. The young rabbinical couple made their mark with a number of innovative programmes which to this day, have left a lasting impression. Among them are the Gan Yisrael Day Camp, the Festival of Lights with a giant menorah, and popular Lag B'Omer parades.

Goldman founded and presented The Jewish Sound radio programme every week for more than 20 years, started at a time when "radio was considered unbecoming for a rabbi".

In 1983, he helped found the Torah Academy Shul, and served as its first rabbi.

A few years later, he was approached by Sydenham Shul when a position of senior minister opened.

Two weeks before Rosh Hashanah in 1986, the quietly confident New Yorker faced his new 1 000-strong congregation for the first time and after 34 years, became the longest serving rabbi in the shul's history. It was with vision, creativity, and passion that the rabbi and his ever-inspiring wife turned the shul into what late Chief Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks described as "one of the great synagogues of the English-speaking world" – all while raising a large family of their own.

Goldman became known as a great communicator. He conceived a range of educational programmes, attracting beginners and advanced students. His sermons captured audiences far and wide, many published online and translated into several languages. He's a popular public speaker, author, columnist, and lecturer, and has delivered many important public addresses.

Rebbetzin Goldman was a pioneer and role model for women of all ages. She gained renown for her popular challah demonstrations, Rosh Chodesh, Yiddish, and parenting courses; her well attended ladies shiurim; and for hosting large Shabbat dinners and yom tov meals.

She was the founder of Women of the World, an organisation dedicated to nurturing and uplifting Jewish women, promoting education, and a positive image of South Africa. In true pioneering spirit, her organisation helped raise funds for disadvantaged schools, providing them with computers and setting up libraries.



THE HOLY ART OF THE LAST RESPONDERS

The South African Jewish community has been hammered by an unprecedented number of deaths during the COVID-19 pandemic, requiring Jewish burial societies to work around the clock.

These societies have jointly been awarded the Jewish Achievers Community Service Award for the selfless and often thankless work conducted behind the scenes by small teams during the community's darkest hour.

From the outset, they had to adapt to a whole new world of figuring out how to comfort mourning families from a distance, wearing full personal protective equipment (PPE), while adhering to the health department's strict and vastly changed protocols.

During the severest waves of the illness, dedicated *mesuskim* (funeral attendants) in Gauteng were sometimes asked to put in 12-hour shifts. Tired and overstretched, they conducted themselves with devotion, sensitivity, and humility.

At one point during the height of the third wave, one of the Johannesburg funeral directors was told to go on leave in case the other two directors contracted the virus and he was needed urgently. This did occur, and the Chev was grateful for the foresight and planning which ensured that operations could continue.

In places like Durban in KwaZulu-Natal, where the Jewish death rate wasn't as high, each passing was met with a deep, profound sadness as in most cases, the deceased was known by the entire community and taken before their time.

The *mesuskim* have been dubbed the "unsung heroes" of the community, making themselves available to bereaved families, often in the middle of the night.

The focus has been on frontline healthcare workers and emergency medical personnel over the past 18 months, and the community's loyal and strained "death-care" workers have often been overlooked.

"This is the quiet work that we don't talk too much about, but it's the most crucial work. Operating something of this nature is vital for a community, and it's crucial that it's done with utmost dignity and care," says Johannesburg Chevrah Kadisha Chief Executive Saul Tomson.

These silent heroes, including funeral directors and many volunteers, touched many lives during a time of enormous sorrow. They are the last responders on the frontline, often called upon to listen with compassion and offer a COVID-19-style shoulder to cry on.

"We have dealt with many sad losses during this time," Tomson says, pointing out that the Johannesburg Chev witnessed a 40% increase in deaths over the past 18 months compared to the prior 18 months.

At the time of going to print, Johannesburg Jewry had recorded 254 COVID-19-related deaths, with the average age being 77 years old. Of these, 65% were male and 35% female.

"The third wave put a huge strain on our operational team. The team worked through the night, seven days a week, and ran up to nine funerals a day, sometimes a funeral every hour," he says.

Though some burial staff contracted COVID-19, the teams continued to work without complaint.

"There hasn't been a moment even during the worst hit months when they've said it's too risky. It's a small team that's completely committed. In spite of the pressure and volume, it continues to operate with efficiency and compassion."

Sam Galansky has been chairperson of the Cape Town Chevrah Kadisha for 40 years. He and his twin sister, Merle Rubin, perform *tahara* (spiritual preparation of bodies for burial) on every soul. During COVID-19, the pair were stretched, and called on extra volunteers to help with funerals.

"The past 18 months were terrible," says Galansky, "During normal, pre-COVID-19 times, there were about 15 to 18 deaths a month. In January alone, there were 51, the most I've ever experienced. At one point, we conducted up to six funerals a day."

At the end of August 2021, the number of deaths had surpassed those reached for the whole of 2020. "Last year, there were 190 deaths in the community. Nine months into this year, there have already been 208.

"We are grateful for the help of the Community Security Organisation, which provided us with so much support. It provided us with PPE and assisted with everything including collections. Thankfully, things have calmed down and most people are fully vaccinated."

For Nolan Karp, president of the Pretoria Chev, it has been a time of unbearable sadness having to regularly call on people to make up a *minyan*.

"Emotions ran high, there were so many funerals in such a short space of time," he said.

During pre-COVID-19 times, there are between 19 to 24 funerals a year. By September, this number had already been reached, marking a 30% increase in the number of deaths.

"The saddest funeral took place during the height of the third wave when a young man with no close family passed away. There were only 10 members of the Chev present. This has made us realise how fragile life is."

Burial Society

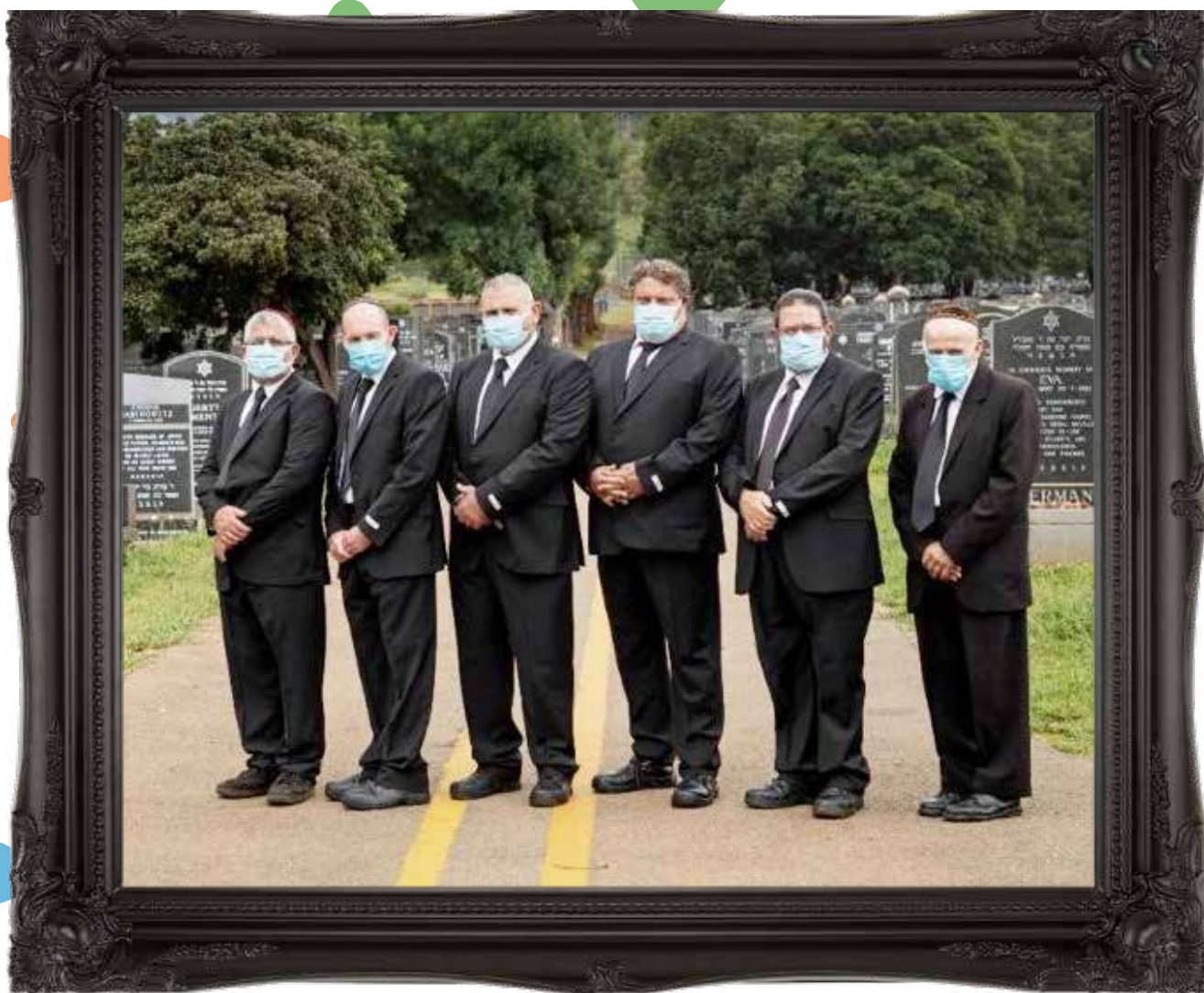
For Sidney Lazarus, the chairperson of the Durban Chevrah Kadisha, the hardest part wasn't being able to comfort mourners as usual.

"We couldn't offer our usual face-to-face love and care to mourners, and this was mentally challenging. In Durban, the Chev sits with the family before the rabbi arrives. COVID-19 made this difficult, especially because we are such a close knit community," he says.

Rabbi Pinchas Zekry, who conducts many funerals in Durban, says it has been a difficult time.

"Living in a small community where news travels fast, it created a depressive mood having to deal so often with so many funerals of people we knew.

"The usual and much-needed comforting of mourners wasn't possible. There was a feeling of helplessness knowing that there were lonely mourners out there needing consolation, which was prohibited."



“THIS IS THE QUIET WORK THAT WE DON'T TALK TOO MUCH ABOUT, BUT IT'S THE MOST CRUCIAL WORK. OPERATING SOMETHING OF THIS NATURE IS VITAL FOR A COMMUNITY, AND IT'S CRUCIAL THAT IT'S DONE WITH UTMOST DIGNITY AND CARE

He says the Chevrah Kadisha of Durban, which is made up of volunteers, has had to deal with almost double the normal annual deaths, but has "excelled in keeping up with all halachic requirements."

Due to limited attendance at funerals and travel restrictions, the Chevrah Kadisha in most provinces has made sure to transmit funerals via Zoom.

Says Tomson, "This made a huge impact. The professionals who used to video Barmitzvahs and weddings were sometimes at the cemetery all day, streaming funerals. While that's an upsetting thought, it created much-needed income for them. And it's a gift to the families to allow members who can't be there to be part of the service."

Tomson says the Chev also relies on volunteers, and there is a huge amount of logistics and paperwork behind the scenes when a COVID-19-positive community member passes away. This is in the context of hospitals and the department of home affairs being overwhelmed with deaths.

Some of the toughest moments have been funerals for young people. "We have witnessed some young deaths, but it's not the norm. One of the worst days was when we buried a husband and wife at the same time. We've done funerals for couples a week or two apart, but never both at the same time. We had to ask a whole set of halachic questions — it was totally unprecedented. It's also very difficult when families can't attend if they are COVID-19-positive," he says.

Chev Group Rabbi Jonathan Fox says doing a kindness for the departed is called a kindness of truth, because "one cannot expect anything in return".

"It's done with pure intention, and that's what makes it so holy. They are helping those who literally cannot help themselves. This is the highest form of kindness."

Says Tomson, "Even though burial is only a small part [less than 5%] of the Johannesburg Chev's activities, it's at the core of who we are and where we come from. Our *mesuskim* show compassion and care every day [and night] when a community member is most in need. I salute them."





Rooted in growing your business

AgriBusiness

As a partner in agriculture for over 100 years, Absa AgriBusiness understands that the soil connects us. It is the lifeblood that feeds our communities, opening doors to endless possibilities for shared economic growth. That is why farmers rely on us for supporting their planning and transforming their farming communities.

Absa has deep experience in developing tailored, world-class business solutions for all commodities in this sector. We understand agricultural businesses and the challenges they face. That is why we offer banking products and services that our clients need, from feeding to breeding.

We make managing your business easier by nurturing the crops that feed millions and stimulating the advancement of competitive new sector development. For Absa AgriBusiness, investing in our farming communities means investing in the the livelihoods of our people, thereby growing and sustaining our economy.

We do more so you can. That's Africanacity.

For more detailed information, please visit our website at www.absa.co.za

Authorised Financial Services Provider Registered Credit Provider Reg No NCRCP7 T&C apply

When you think of an artist showing their work, you think of a fancy gallery, but Danielle Rovetti uses Instagram to put her artwork out there.

It clearly works well for her, as she recently sold a piece to former Fox News anchor Gretchen Carlson, who was one of the first high publicity cases of 2016's #MeToo movement. Carlson contacted Rovetti through her Instagram account, which has just more than 19 000 followers.

"It was amazing, humbling, and wonderful that she contacted me and commissioned a painting of mine, which is now in her home," says Rovetti.

Rovetti promotes most of her artwork on Instagram. "If used correctly, Instagram is the most amazing marketing tool to reach people across the globe without having to pay millions in advertising. Galleries have approached me through Instagram, and now I'm in a few galleries internationally."

The 2021 Absa Jewish Achiever Awards has the honour of using Rovetti's work for the serviettes, yarmulkes, and other designs at this year's event.

Rovetti says that art, painting, drawing – anything creative – has always been her first love. She took art at school up to matric, and got a distinction. Thereafter, she studied graphic design at the Red and Yellow School in Cape Town.

For 20 years, she worked as a freelance graphic designer creating branding and marketing material for corporates. "My biggest client was Emperors Palace/the Peermont Group. I did all its branding

and marketing material for launches and upcoming promotions for its hotels."

She loved graphic design, but eventually became "a bit tired" of the corporate world and the approval process for her work, which ended up being no longer her own creation.

"With painting, I feel like I'm creating something that will always be a part of me. If somebody buys an artwork from me, they are buying a part of me, like one of my babies almost."

Five years ago, she decided to stop doing graphic design and returned to painting.

"There was so much content online that you could learn, watch videos, and get back into it. To some extent, I'm a self-taught artist."

All her artwork is picture-based, and she paints in oils. "Initially, I played with all sorts of textures – concrete, sand, thick oil paint, and slowly, I have progressed into working with raw canvas and moulding that into something

almost between a painting and a sculpture, and then working with thick oil paints

with palette knives. I

would say I'm very experimental, and a lot of texture goes into my work, a lot of layers, and they all have some sort of deeper meaning about life and the layers we have within ourselves."

Artists convey emotions in abstract work, and let the viewer have their own reaction to the artwork. "The underlying themes in my artwork are based on the emotions I'm feeling on the day, and I try to convey that to my viewer. My first lot of works were quite black and white, dark and grey, and thought-provoking. These days, I focus more on colour."

Rovetti's artwork encourages viewers to dig deeper into the

Danielle Rovetti

ARTIST FOR STARS



Absa
Jewish Achiever Awards
2021

many layers beneath the surface. "All my work has layers upon layers, whether it's concrete, then oils, then raw canvas, then oils, then acrylics. All those layers make up what you see on the surface, yet underneath, there's so

much more going on. Similarly, with people, you only see the surface. You might look at someone and think that person is so grumpy, but you don't see the layers within that person and all their memories and experiences that have made them into the person they are."

Rovetti doesn't paint for clients. "It's about painting for my soul and painting because I love it."

Aside from being a mom of two and running a home, Rovetti loves interior design. "I love painting our home and changing it up," she says.



JAWITZ

PROPERTIES

#ItsOurJawitzStory

Client-centricity has always been at our core and we continually strive to understand who our clients are, to define their needs and we are passionately driven by our values to create peak property experiences, always!

Let us do the same for you!

Visit www.ItsOurJawitzStory.co.za to view our latest client testimonials

BUY | SELL | RENT

Congratulations to all the nominees & winners!

EUROPCAR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD



MARTIN LYDALL

Europcar, CEO

“The resilience, optimism, friendship, and generosity of South Africans was proved again through the pain of the pandemic. We are a uniquely special nation of amazing people who, because we care for each other regardless of class, race or creed, will survive and thrive regardless of what is thrown at us.”



DAWN NATHAN-JONES

Entrepreneur

“We can’t always predict our future, but we can embrace new ways to navigate through situations that make us resilient and bring us hope in times of uncertainty. Sometimes hope is all we have to inspire change that creates new opportunities, hope releases the greatness that lies within all of us.”



TARYN MARCUS

Metair, Group HR Executive

“After another year of trials, tragedies, and tears, I have been inspired by the tireless efforts of kindness shown both within and beyond our Jewish community. I call this silver lining ‘hope’, and hope is the one thing that can help us get through the darkest of times. I applaud all those individuals who have stood up to be the lighthouse that shines hope on all around them.”



DORIANNE CARA WEIL

Cara Consultants, CEO

“Hope is the Difference that makes the Difference. Hope shapes our Actions ... Actions create Results and those results become our Destiny!”



JOHANNA MAKGALEMELE

Travel with Flair, Group CEO

“There is nothing you cannot achieve in life. When you dream it, you can do it!”

Judges



Mazel tov to the nominees

**CARA | CORINNE | KERRI | KIM | LISA
KARYN | MARTINE | ASHLEIGH | MELINDA
MICHELLE | MOIRA | REEVA | VANESSA
SHANA | RHONA | SIMONE**

for *The Europcar Jewish Women in Leadership Award*
at the 2021 Absa Jewish Achiever Awards!

Europcar honours the inspiring contribution that
these remarkable women have made to South African society
through exceptional leadership in their businesses and communities.

Europcar
moving *your* way

0861 131 000 | europcar.co.za | EuropcarSA [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [v](#)

Cara Saven

CARA SAVEN WALL DESIGN
(PTY) LTD



From a business that began as a working mother's attempt to have more flexibility to an international success story, Cara Saven Wall Design has achieved phenomenal growth in its 15 years of existence.

"I started this business in response to not being able to continue to meet the nine-to-five demands of a corporate when I had children," says Cara Saven, the company's founder and chief executive. "I loved my job, and was devastated to give it up, but I knew that I needed more time in my day to bring up my kids.

"That's when I decided to turn my photography hobby into something I could make money from," she says. "Large-format printing had just entered the décor space, and I loved the scale it offered me and my clients, many of whom are architects and interior designers. I started by using my photographic images to create wallpaper, and then pivoted into creating beautiful designs."

Today offering a range of more than 1 000 wallpaper designs as well as customisable options, Cara Saven Wall Design transforms walls and interior spaces. The business services the entire country, and has built an international client base with branches in the United States, Holland, Dubai, and Singapore, as well as a distributor in Australia. "We have also recently launched an artist's range called CS&Co in which we give customers access to local artists' work that would otherwise have stayed on canvas or behind glass," says Saven.

Focusing on building and designing the range as well as on marketing and social media, Saven leverages her Bachelor of Arts and Marketing Management qualifications. "I have kept in control of our social media so that the brand still has that personal edge which larger companies may have lost," she says.

For Saven, it's always been personal. "Starting a business can be lonely," she says speaking of her early challenges. "I was a sole proprietor for the first 10 years and when I started hiring staff, that loneliness dissipated somewhat. Yet, it also becomes lonely when you're growing the business. So, joining an organisation like EO (Entrepreneurs' Organization) – an international peer-to-peer network for business owners – has meant being in the company of like-minded individuals, which has helped enormously."

Today managing seven full-time employees as well as three subcontracted installation teams, Saven plays to her team's strengths. "I delegate what I don't love to do, and make sure the people doing it are passionate about the task at hand," she says. "I've built a company around the reason I left my corporate job – with and for women who work hard and know how to juggle. They are more efficient than anyone I worked with in the corporate world because they use their time so well and are able to manage multiple tasks at once." That being said, the company hired its first full-time man on the first day of lockdown who, Saven says, has brought a wonderful new energy to the team.

She and her staff used 2020's COVID-19 lockdown as an opportunity to expand their range. "Lockdown was a blessing for us because it gave us five weeks to focus 100% on our product," says Saven. "When we were allowed to trade again, not only did we have a phenomenal range, but everyone was looking to upgrade their homes." While the company's hotel projects suffered, they are now slowly coming back onstream. Cara Saven Wall Design ultimately achieved record-breaking results in 2020 in spite of more than a month of no trading. In fact, over the past three years, Saven and her team have grown the business by an average of 42% year on year.

Seeing entrepreneurship as a tool for breaking the cycle of inequality in South Africa, Saven is a mentor for educational and training non-profit ORT. "If our country can turn its focus to job creation by encouraging entrepreneurs to stay, hire, and grow, we will have a great future," she says. "We need to remove red tape for entrepreneurs, have proper incentive schemes for them to hire and train, and we need to get entrepreneurship training into our schools. We also need to find true, authentic leaders and push them onto pedestals."

Even though Saven acknowledges the challenges the country faces, the hope inherent in entrepreneurship is something she works to cultivate and spread through her work. "During the looting, we helped erect the banner of love on Table Mountain," she says. "This turned into a movement of spreading love and hope to ordinary South Africans through large-format prints that were hung from billboards, buildings, and bridges from Cape Town to Atlanta, and from Constitution Hill to Amsterdam."

Aside from inspiring hope, Saven's leadership philosophy is rooted in maintaining high standards and exuding the joy she gets from her work. "A true leader lives authentically, and others want to follow their example," she says. "With me, what you see is what you get. When a leader realises their power, they treat it with care. Most good leaders are reluctant ones – those are the ones to look out for." Saven is undeniably a leader worth watching.

"I would like every person around the world to be able to go online, buy our wallpaper, and receive that order within a few days, even though they are custom printed," she says, speaking of what's next for her company. "We are working on an e-commerce platform to do this." She also plans to grow the international side of the business as soon as travel gets back on track, and is hoping to do her Executive MBA next year. "In the long term, who knows?" she says. "I live life in flow, and look forward to seeing where it takes me."

While she's faced challenges along the way, Saven has undoubtedly accomplished her initial goal of building a happy home and a fulfilling career. "The juggle is real, and growing a business is like birthing and nurturing a child," she says. "The fact that I have two wise, kind, and compassionate kids as well as a successful business is my greatest achievement."

Mantra: "Done is better than perfect."

EUROPCAR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP NOMINEES



MARTINE AARON AND ASHLEIGH AARON BONN TURN N TENDER ILLOVO

The owners of Turn n Tender Illovo, a family restaurant with a history dating back to 1977, mother and daughter team Martine Aaron and Ashleigh Aaron Bonn are keeping a legacy alive. A legendary steakhouse known for its great food, excellent wines, and warm and welcoming atmosphere, Turn n Tender has served customers for more than four decades.

Originally opened in Greenside by the four Aaron brothers, Turn n Tender is now part of the Famous Brands franchise, and has 20 stores across South Africa and in Zambia. Yet the Illovo branch remains the family flagship, and the training base for staff who join new franchises.

“Though we never grew the empire as it is today, I started dating my late husband, Brian [one of the Aaron brothers] in 1977, and worked in the first Turn n Tender as a waitress,” recalls Martine. “While having other work commitments, I was always involved in the stores, for many years working on the admin and finance side.” Although it went through various evolutions, Brian revived the business in 2003, and took it to the next level.

Upon Brian’s tragic death in 2019, Martine and Ashleigh took up the reins at Illovo to honour his memory and build on what he started, together with their 35 loyal staff members. Ashleigh has worked in the business her entire adult life, and served as Turn n Tender training manager at Famous Brands before taking over the Illovo store.

“Her love of food, wine, and the brand started from a very young age and shaped her career, making her the dynamic, effervescent leader she is today,” says Martine. “Customers gravitate towards her as they did with Brian. She’s highly respected by staff and customers alike.”

Martine has also been integral to the restaurant’s enduring success. “I halved my working hours in the position I held elsewhere to stand by Ashleigh and support her in her passion,” she says. Facing huge personal and professional challenges, only exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, this mother and daughter team have defied naysayers who believe “this isn’t a job for two women”.

“My greatest achievement is following in my father’s footsteps in taking over Turn n Tender Illovo,” says Ashleigh. “We’ve built our team to feel they are part of a family and to understand that they aren’t just working for the company, but also working for themselves to realise their potential and provide for their families.”



Mantra: “Honesty, integrity, resilience, trust, and love.”



SHANA COHEN AND MICHELLE PENCHARZ
PEERS AND FISHER OPTOMETRISTS,
VISION DRIVE

Having owned and operated a successful optometry practice for almost three decades, optometrists, wives, and mothers Shana Cohen and Michelle Pencharz are known for offering comprehensive and personalised optometric services to their clients. “Our philosophy isn’t just to give excellent sight, but vision too,” they say.

In living this philosophy, the two have long been committed to giving back, working in schools as well as at clinics and in underprivileged areas. “From the inception of our business, we believe we have been able to bring hope to people through our commitment to social responsibility and our desire to give freely of ourselves,” they say. “Next year will mark our 30th anniversary. We continue to realise how deeply people have struggled in circumstances such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and the privilege we have of giving back to our community.”

That’s why the two recently initiated the Vision Drive project in which they identify potential “at risk” taxi drivers who service school children. The two freely

administer the necessary eye examinations and give drivers the right spectacles to ensure that their vision meets the required legal and safety standards for driving. “Pupils can therefore go to and from school trusting that they will travel safely, while also giving parents greater peace of mind.”

The ability to have this impact comes down to the strong relationships Pencharz and Cohen have forged with their suppliers, one of which is able to make spectacle lenses at no charge.

“We have also partnered with the Momba Foundation, a non-governmental organisation that works closely with underprivileged communities,” they say. “It has been sanitising taxis during the COVID-19 pandemic, and works closely with taxi organisations, helping to educate taxi drivers who transport school children.” Momba helps connect optometrists with drivers who require eye tests.

“A true leader isn’t someone who takes charge, but rather is aware of what’s happening around them and takes responsibility,” say Pencharz and Cohen.

“Through this philosophy, we empower each member of our team to develop the skills they need in their particular focus area. Pioneers don’t sit back – they make it happen and ensure people have a voice in the decision-making process.”

Pencharz and Cohen believe the secret to their success lies in their partnership, which they count among their greatest achievements. “We have worked closely together as partners for almost 30 years, and have a trusting, loyal working relationship, as well as a wonderful, caring friendship,” they say.

Mantra:
Shana Cohen: “Be better today than yesterday.”
Michelle Pencharz: “I am because we are.”

VISION DRIVE



BUY ONE
pair of glasses
and we will
DONATE ONE
pair to a school
taxi driver

brought to you by

PEERS AND FISHER
OPTOMETRISTS

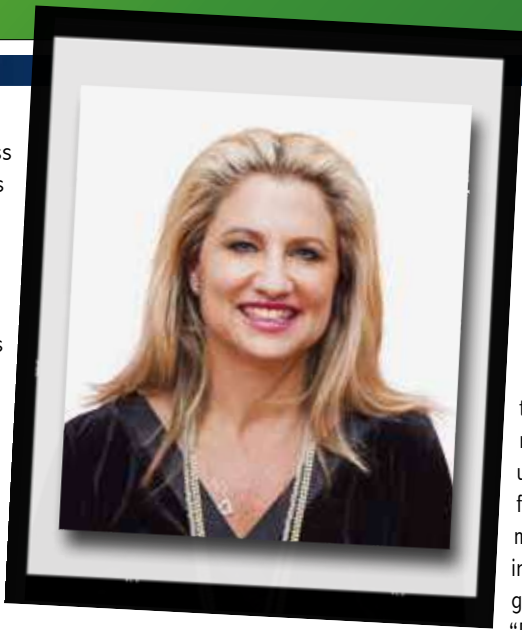
peersandfisher.co.za
Ts & Cs apply

KIM FACLIER
LIQUIDITY SERVICES SOUTH AFRICA

“Now is all I have,” says award-winning business leader Kim Faclier. “I wake up every morning as the best version of myself, choosing as wisely as possible, moment by moment.” Armed with this attitude, Faclier has achieved phenomenal success as managing director of the South African property operation of Liquidity Services South Africa, the African representative of Liquidity Services listed on Nasdaq.

“Ninety percent of our sales are conducted by way of online auctions,” she says. “Using Liquidity Services’ proprietary, in-house online auction technology, we’re able to successfully ensure access for each individual property sale to a highly targeted and relevant audience of international bidders. The pandemic has perfectly positioned us, and accelerated adoption of digital technology at a rate that we could never have imagined.”

While COVID-19 necessitated downsizing her team, Faclier has chosen to embrace the opportunities that come with adversity. “I’m an evangelist for empowering and trusting others, turning pandemic-driven problems inside out, and helping clients view issues through a different lens,” she says.



Faclier is also dedicated to giving back. “Purpose-driven and passionate about squeezing the most out of every hour of the day, my family roots have laid a unique foundation for positioning me as a ‘go giver’ instead of a ‘go getter’,” she says. “Each day is a day

based non-profit organisation in which the world’s most prominent business leaders gather to exchange ideas, learn, and share strategies to achieve personal growth and professional success.

Among her many accolades, Faclier recently received the World Women in Leadership Award. “The key to a successful business is influence, not authority,” she says, speaking of her business philosophy.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic has temporarily clipped her wings, Cape Town-based Faclier has visited more than 70 countries over the past 30 years, documenting her travels and building vast international networks.

“I’m continually blessed to experience multiple cultures, soak up exquisite vistas, and build an ever-expanding family of personal and professional relationships that enrich my life every day,” she says.

Mantra: “Be kind, loving, caring, compassionate, and present.”

(Kim Faclier is also nominated in the Entrepreneur Award category)

REEVA FORMAN
REEVA BEAUTY & HEALTH

My story is the story of “everyman” and our country – of winning, losing, and starting again,” says Reeva Forman, a successful entrepreneur and the honorary life president of the South African Zionist Federation, who has been instrumental in the huge impact made by Jewish community organisations. Yet her path has brought many unexpected detours. “In the 1980s and 1990s, I was up there with multimillionaires,” she reveals. “Then because of one wrong decision, by 2004, I had lost nearly everything.”

When Forman took out a bond to build her Parktown offices in 1991, she failed to fix interest rates as financial gurus predicted a booming economy. This flawed decision ultimately cost Forman her business premises and left Reeva Beauty & Health in dire straits.

“With the help of the Almighty, Reeva is still here,” she says. “My story hopefully can be an example to the many that have lost loved ones or felt the pain of failure in their personal life or business not to give up. I never gave up hope of rebuilding the Reeva business beyond the level it had previously achieved.” The company is developing an online job creation and training portal for young, unemployed, and digitally savvy South Africans to start their own Reeva businesses.

Living proof of the power of perseverance, Forman has an overriding commitment to



helping people realise their potential to overcome adversity and achieve their dreams and goals, be they in business, religion, or politics. She incorporates this thinking into her leadership philosophy.

“In addition to imparting practical skills and knowledge, a leader should inspire those they lead to develop their true potential and believe in themselves and their ability to achieve their dreams and goals,” she says.

While it’s brought countless challenges, the COVID-19 pandemic has also helped Forman work on her impatience and perfectionism, rooted in a fear of failure. “The past 18 months of living under the restraint of a pandemic has taught me to be more patient with myself and others, to do my best within a reasonable time frame, and move to the next task instead,” she says.

“If people do see me as an exemplary leader, it’s mainly because of my commitment to staying the course no matter the obstacles. I believe each individual you help is a step to achieving your goal. I’d like to be remembered as one who inspired others to believe in themselves, to withstand adversity, and to go on to achieve the success they desire.”

Mantra: “Never, never, never give up!”

VANESSA FRANKAL
V-TRAVEL

A travel agent with more than 20 years of experience, Vanessa Frankal was forced to sell masks and sanitiser to make a living when lockdown began and borders closed. Then, as repatriation flights slowly opened up, Frankal found a way to pivot her business when most of her compatriots were closing their travel agencies.

Hearing about the many Australians stranded in South Africa, she began to find ways to get them home via Turkey and Malaysia. Armed with tenacity in the face of adversity, she soon thrived, and her business became busier than ever. “On one flight alone, I had 26 clients,” she says. “Word spread like wildfire with each of my success stories.”

Now known as the “Queen of Aussie skies”, Frankal consistently achieves the impossible, getting people home when their flights are bumped, and assisting immigrating families to get to Australia. A one-woman show, she works in a high-pressure environment but always goes the extra mile.

“I’m absolutely passionate about what I do,” she says. “I truly care about my clients, and it shows. They know I’m by their side 24/7, and they put all their faith in me.”

Nevertheless, Frankal would like to grow her brand, and hopes to be in a position to delegate to achieve even greater success. She’s also working on her time-management skills, one of the biggest challenges she faces as a solo act.

“I’ve learned that I can’t please everyone, so I try to do less properly, rather than



doing everything half-heartedly,” she says.

“I’m honest and real,” she says reflecting on why people see her as an exemplary leader. “I provided hope during dark times, and I appear to perform miracles.” With a leadership philosophy rooted in truth, integrity, and humility, Frankal is upfront about both her successes and failures and believes in tackling challenges head-on.

“I once sent a mother and her son to the airport only to realise that I’d booked them a flight for December instead of September,” she reveals. “This was both humbling and humiliating, but I apologised profusely and got them on a flight three days later.”

It’s this humility that has helped Frankal triumph against the odds. Having lost her mother to suicide at the age of seven, Frankal sees becoming the woman she is today as her greatest achievement. “I have turned my worst nightmare into achieving closure, success, and great comfort. I also share kindness each day in many ways, and I believe that brings hope.”

Mantra: “Give and ye shall receive.”

(Vanessa Frankal is also nominated in the Entrepreneur Award category.)

EUROPCAR WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP NOMINEES



LISA HAYDEN JONATHAN HAYDEN CC.

When she was a teenager, Lisa Hayden sang for Whitney Houston and Nelson Mandela. Today, she is a top financial advisor in the Western Cape, running her own business helping final year students to prepare for post-university life.

Reflecting on the unique impact she has had, financial planner and independent broker Hayden says it all starts with fighting stereotypes and being willing to put in the hours.

“I’ve demonstrated what hard work can do, especially as a white female in South Africa, where I’ve had to fight to be taken seriously. People often mistake the way one looks for one’s abilities. I try to keep calm and carry on.”

She’s used the lessons she’s learned throughout her career to teach clients and students that anything is possible, and to show them better ways to live their life. Named the top performing independent financial advisor for Profmed nationally in 2019, Hayden has found her niche in tailoring financial advice to medical doctors and specialists around South Africa, an area traditionally overlooked by universities.

She also teaches financial literacy to students and new graduate professionals on a voluntary basis. “Education is power,” she says. With knowledge, comes the ability to empower others who can then pass on their skills. “If I help students or clients by imparting financial skills, they can use it in their own lives as well as in those of their friends and families. Through my sessions, I indirectly boost skills, confidence, education and ultimately employment.”



Armed with self-belief and a willingness to learn, Hayden has found ways to rise to the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic. “I’m most proud of the way I have adapted my business during the pandemic. I’ve learned new skills and tried to provide my sessions in a more digital way than I ever did before. There were obstacles, but I found ways to continue, and now I work on various platforms and also provide recordings of my sessions.”

She’s inspired others through her determination. “Some of my peers respect me more since I haven’t slowed down but rather worked even harder to build on what I already achieved. They seem to be motivated by this attitude, which has made them push harder at what they do.”

Although she’s now an award-winning financial professional, Hayden says people may be surprised to know she’s also passionate about singing.

Mantra:
“365 days, 365 possibilities”.

(Lisa Hayden is also nominated in the Entrepreneur Award and Absa Business Leadership in the Time of COVID Award categories)



KIM KUR COMMUNITY CIRCLE HOME SA



From reuniting sons and daughters with their dying parents to assisting women around the world to escape abuse, Kim Kur, the founder and lead volunteer at Community Circle Home SA, has helped ease unthinkable traumas experienced during COVID-19.

“I’m a firm believer that one individual can make a difference,” she says. Community Circle Home SA is a Facebook group that has assisted more than 1 400 members from more than 100 countries to navigate the stress and ever-changing and unstable regulations of travel to and from South Africa during COVID-19.

Kur was a member of the management team for Home Away from Home, a group assisting the 22 000 South Africans who were ultimately successfully repatriated during the pandemic under the Democratic Alliance’s Darren Bergman. When borders opened and the group was closed, Kur still saw a need for such a service, and Community Circle Home SA was born.

“I strive to make each person I help a lamp lighter for the next person they assist in the community circle, giving them the gift of paying it forward,” says Kur. “If anyone is in trouble anywhere in the world, they contact me to assist them through what they are needing to deal with, whether it be travel related or to ‘help them off a ledge’.” Kur has also guided countless travel agents, locally and abroad, both to obtain work, and to help their clients meet COVID-19 travel requirements.

“Everything I do is completely voluntary,” she says. “However, I get an incredible sense of joy and relief every time a life is saved, every time someone is finally reunited with their family, and every time a woman is rescued from a dangerous situation, which is tremendous payment in itself.”

Kur was also one of the organisers of Operation Mercy, which managed to feed thousands in KwaZulu-Natal after the looting earlier this year, raising an estimated R17 million and arranging and transporting aid in just one week.

While she’s also a loving wife and mother who maintains a full-time job as a senior interior architect, Kur remains dedicated to her group and other worthy causes, often working through the night so that she can continue to give 100% to her commitments.

“Try to build others up to feel confident to build up the next individual,” she says, revealing her leadership philosophy. “And never do it for remuneration! We need to do it for each other first.”

Mantra: “Individuals can change the world.”

MOIRA KATZ NATIONAL CHILDREN’S THEATRE

“We want to be able to prove that children’s theatre has a vital role to play in the education, nourishment, and enrichment of our children,” says Moira Katz, the chief executive of the National Children’s Theatre (NCT) of South Africa, the foremost children’s theatre organisation in Gauteng. “Our unwavering purpose is to transform young lives and grow society’s next generation of leaders through the kaleidoscope of vivid and engaging performance arts, original and instructive musicals, and immersive after-school programmes.”

Taking over the stewardship of the renowned theatre from her cousin, Joyce Levinsohn, in 2011, Katz – then 75 – had just sold Kavan Consultants, her training and development company, and was ready for a retirement challenge.

“I’m surprised but still delighted to be at NCT 10 years later!” she says. To this day, accepting the job remains the career moment she’ll never forget.

Though the COVID-19 pandemic presented significant challenges to the NCT, necessitating staff downsizing and a pause on productions, the team found an innovative way to keep the arts alive. “We achieved a dream to design, develop, and build an outdoor theatre on NCT’s campus grounds, holding 100 to 150 people, keeping children in their family pods, and observing all COVID-19 protocols,” says Katz. “The theatre opened in December 2020, and continuous live theatre has been presented since then to rapturous reviews from children, parents, and the media.”

Optimistic, energetic, and engaged with theatre, schools, and the education community at large, Katz is viewed as an exemplary leader. Yet, she says, it’s all about being surrounded by the right team. “An organisation such as NCT is nothing more than the collective capacity of its people to create value kinetically for all those it serves,” she says. “I have a wonderful team, and I’m proud of their skills and contribution.”

For Katz, who isn’t trained in fundraising, this area remains a challenge especially because many don’t see the value in educational theatre arts for children. Still, armed with palpable passion, she remains dedicated to realising her dream of taking NCT to underprivileged communities.

“I live in hope that one day something magical will happen and sufficient funds will suddenly arrive in our bank account,” she says. “Then, we can take theatre to all the schools in the rural areas, where children – and often their teachers – have never seen live theatre, and we can run workshops for all the children who apply for bursaries.”



Mantra:
“See the creative spirit and opportunities for growth in people, especially in children.”

MICHELLE LEN
CATERCORP

“I’m committed to my work and passionate about helping to enhance the lives of my team,” says Michelle Len, the sales director of Catercorp and the managing director of Catercorp Co-packers.

Catercorp, which makes and distributes sauces, marinades, dressings, spices, and packaging to the wholesale and retail industry, has been in the manufacturing business for almost 40 years. Len heads up the sales division, focusing on external sales and internal team management, and creating different brands for different markets in the South African food space.

“My love for people, sales, and finding solutions brought me to where I am today,” she says. When it comes to leadership, Len is inspired by her father. “A true leader is someone who chooses to work within a team while acknowledging the people,” she says.

Len’s solution-oriented nature and dedication to her team was a definite advantage when it came to navigating the impact of

the COVID-19 pandemic. Observing the decline in the hospitality and food-service industry, the company shifted its strategy to focus on retail. “In doing this, we employed funds into marketing and into our retail factory so we could keep our workforce active and our staff employed,” says Len.

Nevertheless, she sees the pandemic as one of her greatest personal and professional challenges. “My tendency to forget to look after myself was a big realisation during COVID-19, and I had to start over to get back to optimal levels. Together as a team and as a family, we took stock of where we were and how we would overcome challenges.”

Len says when it comes to building her team, it came down to hiring like-minded people. “I found people with the same ethos, drive, and commitment and together, we built each other up.” This strategy has helped foster a positive working environment built on mutual respect. “People see me as an



exemplary leader because they’re able to easily relate to me and have trust that I want the best for them as well as for myself.”

Len says many would be surprised to learn that she doesn’t have any tertiary qualifications but rather dived straight into the working world after matric. “I want to be remembered as being imperfect and not conforming to the standards of society but rather just being myself – an individual.”

Mantra: “Timing is everything.”

DR KARYN MOSHAL
CHIVA AFRICA

Training as a paediatrician and then as an infectious diseases’ specialist in the

United Kingdom (UK) in the 1990s, South African-born Dr Karyn Moshal became involved in caring for children with HIV. She was also part of groundbreaking clinical trial teams studying antiretroviral therapy in children.

“I watched our children grow and thrive on treatment, but never forgot where I came from and the suffering in my own community in South Africa,” she recalls. “I later jumped at the opportunity to make a real contribution to that community, and bring the hope and skills I had garnered over the years in the UK, and I persuaded my colleagues from across the country to join me.”

In 2004, Moshal realised this goal, founding CHIVA Africa, a South African-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) providing mentorship and training for healthcare workers in long-term management of paediatric HIV and provision of quality specialist paediatric care for children in resource-poor and hard-to-reach settings. “Our approach is one of collegiality and sharing rather than donor and supplicant,” says Moshal, who now serves as chairperson of CHIVA’s board of trustees.

Operating primarily in KwaZulu-Natal, CHIVA has trained close to 30 000 healthcare providers looking after more than 300 000 children and young people. The NGO helped to kickstart the anti-retroviral rollout for children in KwaZulu-Natal, the Eastern Cape, and North West province,



and continues to have a positive impact on the quality of care administered to children and youth in the clinics in which it operates.

In London, Moshal works as a paediatric infectious diseases consultant at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust, the oldest children’s hospital in the world. She also serves as the COVID-19 lead for the hospital’s infectious diseases department.

The pandemic has enabled her to maximise her organisational and leadership skills. “Running CHIVA Africa and keeping our team in South Africa on an even keel through this period, with all the associated challenges, while also working more than fulltime in the NHS, has been the biggest challenge of my career,” says Moshal. “But it’s one I hope I have risen to, and in spite of the exhaustion, have really enjoyed. It’s both a privilege and a huge responsibility to be on the frontlines of history, contributing to making a difference.”

Moshal defines a true leader as “a person who inspires, energises, and impassions those around her to do the best they can and be the best they can be”. It’s clear that she is the embodiment of such a leader.

Mantra: “The more privilege you have, the greater your responsibility to use the voice and influence this gives you for the good of those less fortunate whose voices aren’t heard.”

CORINNE OSSENDRYVER
JEWISH INTERACTIVE (JI)

“I give everyone in the team a chance to express an opinion, encourage brainstorming across disciplines, and then bring it all together in a successful product,” says Corinne Ossendryver, reflecting on why people see her as an exemplary leader.

One of the founding members of Jewish Interactive (Ji), a non-profit organisation dedicated to providing joyful Jewish learning anytime, anywhere, Ossendryver serves as the organisation’s global chief production officer and manager of the South African team.

Following the international success of Ossendryver’s app “Shabbat Interactive”, Ji was officially born in 2012. “It was entrepreneur, impact investor, and strategic philanthropist Nicky Newfield’s vision, sponsored by the Glatt Foundation, to reach Jewish children in the medium that they relate to,” says Ossendryver. “Today, we have offices on four continents and our portal, www.jitap.net, with more than 17 000 Jewish and Hebrew games and lessons, is used by more than 1 150 Jewish schools and synagogues in more than 80 countries.”

“I combine creativity, computer knowledge, an educational foundation, and a passion for the subject to make lessons that allow children to experience being Jewish and learn about Judaism in a fun way,” she says. Amidst a rise in antisemitism and anti-Israel sentiment, Ossendryver feels Ji’s ability to reach children who lack access to a Jewish education and to promote tolerance and a love of Israel and Judaism is particularly meaningful.



Expanding its extensive online offering when the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Ji created a home learning hub with a catalogue of courses on various subjects, helping parents to give their kids an hour of independent learning each day. It has also been instrumental in training teachers around the world to use Ji Tap online during their Zoom lessons.

“We are developing a new portal, JIGZI, which will allow teachers to create their own interactive content and games,” says Ossendryver, who is lead team member on the project, providing the link between ideation and development.

Ossendryver has been greatly influenced by the strong female visionaries in her life. “Though my mom, Edna Freinkel [a previous Absa Jewish Achiever Award winner in this category] influenced me greatly to focus on education, Nicky Newfield has been a huge mentor,” she says. “Her vision, wisdom, and insight has inspired me in many ways. I learned from her that you have to dream big, but then be able to bring it down to earth and get it implemented. That’s why we were a great team – she had the vision, and I could make it happen!”

Mantra: “Always do the right thing.”

SIMONE PENN
MOTHERS’ NATURE COSMETICS (PTY) LTD

entrepreneur Simone Penn, speaking of the main activity of her business, Mothers’ Nature Cosmetics. A proud businesswoman, student, and stay-at-home mom, Penn is actively changing lives through her products.

“I have hundreds of testimonials from people who can finally leave their homes without wet wipes, deodorant, perfume, and antiperspirant,” she says. “It’s basically impossible to quantify how terrified people feel of stinking in public, and how it impairs their everyday lives.”

Her business journey began in 2020, when Penn became “obsessed” with detoxing her life. “Deodorant was the most dangerous,” she says. “I researched home recipes ... et voila.” Penn’s vision and innate positivity have made a massive impact. In less than a year, she has exponentially increased her turnover, employed her husband as chief financial officer, and funded their entire family. She employs four permanent staff members.

Penn is inspired both by her husband and his late father, whom she says embody her definition of a true leader – one who listens first and who is always part of the solution, not the problem. “Don’t ask anyone to do something you haven’t done – and mastered – yourself,” she says, sharing her own leadership philosophy. “Successful people are the ones doing everything unsuccessful people aren’t willing to do.”

She hopes eventually to have the freedom to manage her business’s digital marketing exclusively, with other staff fulfilling her other roles. “I also intend to write a book about how to start a multimillion-rand business from your iPhone,” she says.

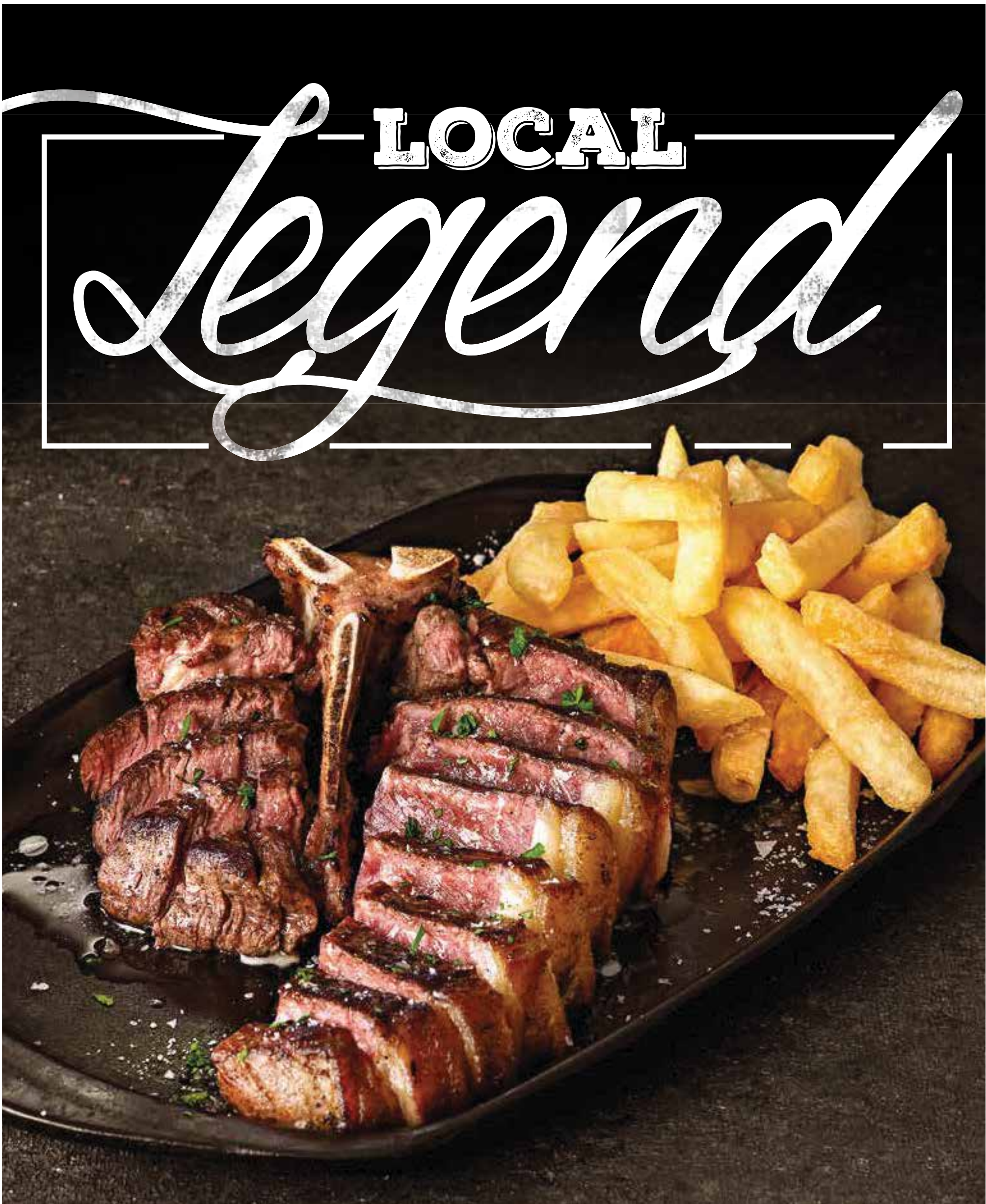
Rather than being deterred by the challenges South Africa faces, Penn is optimistic about the country’s prospects. “The fact that we are ‘behind’ others only means there’s so much for us to achieve and strive for. I, for one, am super excited, especially because I see the growth potential in the entrepreneurial space.”

Though she’s a rapidly rising entrepreneur, Penn still counts her marriage, three children, and their lives together as her greatest achievement. Aside from building her business, she’s also writing her research Master’s dissertation in psychology, but she always puts family first. “I work at home, with my husband,” she says, discussing how she creates a work-life balance. “I don’t commit to anything else. You cannot have it all, so I have only what I absolutely cannot live without: my family. Everything else is optional.”

Mantra: “Grow where you are planted.”

(Simone Penn is also nominated in the Entrepreneur Award category)





LOCAL *Legend*

Turn 'n Tender
— STEAKHOUSE —

ILLOVO | 011 268 2107
204 Oxford Road, Thrupps Illovo Centre | ilovo@turnntender.co.za

KERRI PERLSTEIN GOOGLE SOUTH AFRICA

As head of agencies for Google South Africa, Kerri Perlstein manages an all-female team at one of the world's leading technology companies, driving its advertising sales business. Perlstein lives a purpose-driven life and actively chases goals that take her out of her comfort zone, which is where she believes growth lies.

"I think what makes me unique is my outlook on life," she says. "I can manage an inordinate volume of work and life commitments that would overwhelm most, with a deep sense of gratitude and fulfilment."

For Perlstein, COVID-19 has been a whirlwind that's coincided with major life events. Not only did she give birth to her first child the day before South Africa's national lockdown began, but she was also promoted during her maternity leave. She later returned to a new senior role, working remotely to build team strategy while addressing the advertising and marketing challenges brought by the pandemic.

"This experience taught me that there is always opportunity in crisis, and I worked with my clients to diversify and in some cases reimagine their business offerings to digitally transform and carve out new revenue streams," says Perlstein. She ultimately

emerged stronger, personally and professionally.

This year, Perlstein also took on the role of leader of the South African chapter of Women@Google, which means bringing all the women of Google South Africa together to offer support and open doors for one other. "While my day job is already incredibly fulfilling, supporting women is something I believe in and I would like to be part of driving long-term impact," she says.

Though she holds an honours degree in politics, philosophy, and economics, Perlstein was inspired to complete a digital marketing course after a short-term role as media liaison for the South African Jewish Board of Deputies in Cape Town. "The experience was enough to ignite the excitement needed for my next steps," she recalls. "At the time, social media and the power of online marketing were

slowly gaining traction and I wanted to entrench myself in this space." She did just that when living and working in New York at a new fashion tech start-up. On her return to South Africa, she worked at an agency as the Google lead for Standard Bank and so her Google love affair began.

Perlstein is committed to leading by example. "I believe that people can see my passion, work ethic, grit, and determination to succeed which I hope inspires them to do the same," she says.

Mantra: "There is always a way."



RHONA SOLOMON COMPLETE CARE GROUP, SOLOMON'S SISTERS

Having started her first business at the age of 50, Rhona Solomon proves that it's never too late to take a leap of faith. Now the owner, founder, and director of Complete Care Group and Solomon's Sisters, two companies dedicated to the homecare and medical industry, Solomon has a hands-on approach when it comes to her business interests.

"I like to be involved in every facet of my companies, ensuring the services we offer are the best in the home-based care industry," she says. "By being actively involved, I ensure that my businesses can adapt to changing circumstances, especially over a period like the pandemic."

Both companies provide COVID-19 support to patients, corporates, and medical facilities. Offering home-based medical care specifically tailored to the needs of the patient, Complete Care Group trains and hires out qualified and compassionate caregivers to take care of people in their most vulnerable moment of need.

"This has been especially true during COVID-19, as the elderly and others considered vulnerable have been able to count on the high-level of care our people provide, keeping them safe in their homes," says Solomon. "Our COVID-19 corporate screening services have helped companies to keep their businesses

compliant, safe, and thriving."

"Solomon's Sisters has also played an important role during the pandemic, helping medical facilities across South Africa increase their access to quality nursing staff at various levels," she says.

"That way, we're addressing the issue of under-staffing and helping when staff fall ill with COVID-19."

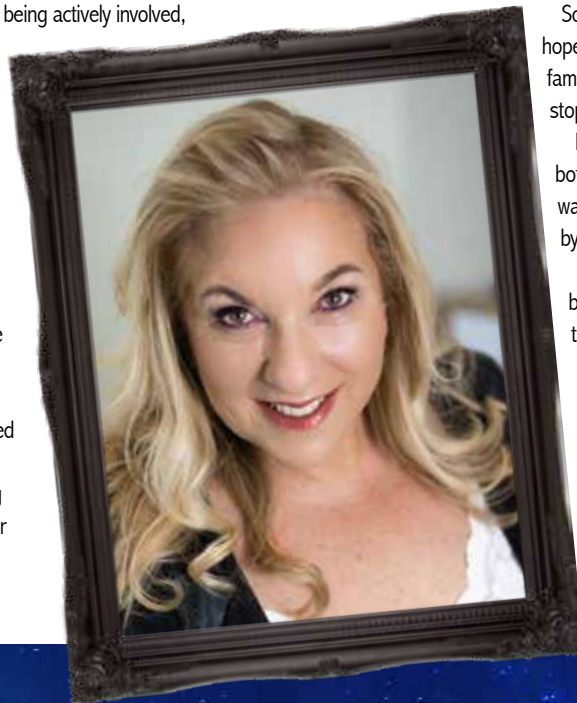
Solomon is especially proud of the way in which her businesses have brought support and created hope during the pandemic. "My greatest business achievement is to be able to allay the fears of family during the pandemic. It has brought me my most satisfying moments at a time when the world stopped knowing what to do or how to carry on."

Born out of Solomon's personal struggle to find quality home nursing care for her own mother, both companies embody her humane approach to business. "I realised that this particular industry was underdeveloped and could use a company that cares and has the person and family impacted by the decision in mind," she says.

"My businesses have a soul. I intend to uphold the integrity and passion on which they are built. My management team is therefore populated by capable people whom I trust implicitly through the lens of time and accomplishment."

Mantra: "Be kind, and make a real difference."

(Rhona Solomon is also nominated in the Entrepreneur and Absa Business Leadership categories)



LISA TOLKIN LISA TOLKIN ARCHITECTS

During a career that has spanned more than 30 years, architect, landscaper, and interior designer Lisa Tolkin has been celebrated for her work in South Africa, Africa, and around the world. Featured regularly in *Condé Nast*, *House and Leisure*, and many lifestyle publications, her company, Lisa Tolkin Architects, is known for its integrity and professional reputation in designing and building lifestyle homes of uncompromising quality and detail.

Yet, in line with Tolkin's shifting priorities, her company has evolved to include a focus on mentorship, social upliftment, empowerment, and the creation of sustainable employment.

"About 12 years ago, I started to feel that financial and creative rewards weren't enough and that there was an absence of a social contribution or societal value in what I was doing," she says. "This was the beginning of my search for meaning. I started to look around me at all the hands that had helped me craft my projects for 25 years."

Recognising the meaning and indirect employment her projects created for workers and the knock-on effect this had on their communities, she decided to actively acknowledge, honour, and celebrate every worker on site.

"The atmosphere on site started to shift, I saw and continue to see such pride and gratitude in the faces of people I work with," she says. Also dedicated to women's empowerment, Tolkin works to inspire people in both the country and on the continent who believe they have no hope.

Indeed, in her own life, Tolkin has worked hard to turn obstacles into springboards for success. "I had to balance the responsibility of being the sole breadwinner and eventually a single parent with running

a professional practice and accommodating health challenges," she says. "Yet, some of my challenges were opportunities that led to me creating a respected and busy practice."

While the challenges brought by the COVID-19 pandemic have led to mass unemployment in her industry, Tolkin is grateful that her business has withstood its impact. "In this situation, I felt a responsibility to create and sustain employment, no matter the short-term cost," she says. "We stood with our builders, rallied in their favour, and negotiated with clients in order to move whole teams from Johannesburg to Cape Town where work has been more sustainable. I feel that COVID-19 has been a humbling opportunity, and architects can share knowledge and time to help uplift disadvantaged people so that they can become entrepreneurs."

Mantra: "Throw the pebble in the pond."

(Lisa Tolkin is also nominated in the Absa Professional Excellence category)





ABSA

Judges



STEVEN BLEND

Self Employed, Financial Advisory Services

"We as a community have shown that we have the tenacity, stamina, goodwill, and expertise to be role models in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and all the nominees in this year's Absa Jewish Achiever Awards are outstanding examples of these qualities."



CLIFF MAYINGA

Absa, Head of Coverage: Relationship Banking

Lion Pride Investment Holding Limited, Director

"Allow business to develop, grow the South African economy, and provide much needed jobs and society upliftment."



RONNIE MBATSANE

Absa Retail and Business Banking, Managing Executive: Regional Coverage Gauteng and Limpopo

"In the words of Christopher Reeve, 'when we have hope, we discover powers within ourselves we may have never known' – the power to make sacrifices, to endure, to heal, and to love. Once we choose hope, everything is possible."



GEOFFREY ROTHSCILD



DIONNE ELLERINE HIRSCHOWITZ

EET, CEO

"In a world where passion, intellect, hard work, and the stars intersect, anything is possible."



SHARON WAPNICK

Senior Partner, TWB Attorneys

"Globally, we have gone through many months of extreme hardship, heartache, isolation, and uncertainty. Great strides have been made in dealing with COVID-19 through vaccinations, other preventative measures, and the enhanced understanding of its medical management. We hope and pray that with Hashem's blessings, the worst is behind us and that families and businesses can regroup, recover, and thrive."



GARRON CHAITOWITZ (AUDITOR)

BDO, Director and audit partner

"Winston Churchill encouraged hope by stating that 'The POSITIVE THINKER sees the INVISIBLE, feels the INTANGIBLE, and achieves the IMPOSSIBLE'. We are fortunate to have a community replete with optimistic leaders who continue to forge a path through our country's challenges."



BUILDING THE DIS-CHEM EMPIRE ONE STORE AT A TIME

Ivan and Lynette Saltzman

DIS-CHEM

What began in 1978 with one pharmacy in Mondeor, south of Johannesburg, is today a 200-store-strong business empire. Having met during their pharmacy studies, Dis-Chem co-founders and married couple, Ivan and Lynette Saltzman, never dreamed they would ultimately build one of the largest retail pharmacy chains in South Africa.

"In the beginning, we didn't plan on having so many stores," says Ivan. "The thought was one store at a time. There was no agenda. We took the opportunities as they came."

Expansion was slow in the beginning – the couple opened their second store six years after their first.

"When we went to the second shop, Ivan always used to say it was double or quits," recalls Lynette. "The first four shops were the biggest chance we took over the years." Luckily each new store went well making it relatively easy to expand, says Ivan. "We did it all on our capital in the beginning."

In those early days, the couple weren't only building a business, they were also building their family. Today, their three sons are all involved in Dis-Chem to varying degrees. Though the Saltzmans initially never planned to take their brand beyond Gauteng, in 2004, they opened their first Cape Town branch and officially went national.

When Dis-Chem hit 100 stores in 2016, the business listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Listing was the next logical step, says Ivan. "That's when the agenda came," he says. "When we were listed and had to answer to the public, we had to formulate a plan and stick to it."

This plan had Dis-Chem committing to doubling its stores in up to eight years, a target it met in just five. In fact, this October, the chain celebrated the launch of its 200th store in Hilton, KwaZulu-Natal. The chain also recently purchased the Medicare Pharmacy Group, which has added 50 more rural and urban stores to its stable.

"I'm too humble to answer that question") he's also a proud member of the Jewish community. "It's a great community and we do what we can to give back in our personal capacity."

The Saltzmans address the dire need for the upliftment of disadvantaged communities throughout South Africa through the Dis-Chem Foundation, which they started in 2006. The foundation receives a percentage of an eligible purchase every time a customer swipes their loyalty benefit card.

Lynette, the founder and director of the foundation, says, "Unfortunately, the needs in this country are massive, so whatever we do is a blip on the radar, but for the people that are being helped, it's huge. We work through registered 18A companies – there are hundreds of organisations that benefit on a daily basis." She's particularly proud of a recent initiative, the Dixie Water Project, which has brought healthy drinking water to a small community in Sabi Sands using Israeli technology. Ongoing, community and mobile clinics are also a source of pride.

"Dis-Chem has at least one and generally two clinics in every pharmacy which also provide basic primary healthcare – an integral part of our business. They have professional nurses, and provide vaccinations for babies and children as well as general health checks. Bringing these services to the public has given me a sense of satisfaction."

Ivan agrees. "We're building a healthcare organisation," he says. The Mom & Baby clinics are currently being rolled out to the Baby City stores.

Beyond the foundation, the Dis-Chem vaccination programme, which was initiated early and to date, has administered 700 000 doses, has been a significant accomplishment. "We got on board very early, and it worked exceptionally well," says Lynette.

A positive business strategy comes from uplifting and motivating staff, they say. "Personal recognition is crucially important for our people, and we filter that down through our human resources department," says Lynette. "To me, what has always been extremely important is the number of people who we employ in the group – about 20 000 people directly, and indirectly, it's about four to five times that amount who depend on Dis-Chem Pharmacies for employment. The number of people that each employed person then feeds is substantial."

The Saltzmans now own a third of Dis-Chem, having recently sold a significant share to a BEE (black economic empowerment) consortium. Yet, they have no plans to slow down.

"I still find the business interesting and exciting, and I know that the work that I do is important," says Lynette. Ivan agrees. "Why would I want to slow down when I'm happy working with the people that I work with every day?" he asks. "Retail is stimulating, it adapts, challenges and changes all the time, and there's so much opportunity for innovation – we always try and do better. Retail is 24/7, and that's the way I like it."

Having built a multibillion-rand enterprise, the Saltzmans are undeniably successful. But, for them, rewards – monetary or otherwise – aren't the end goal. "We just do what we do," says Lynette. "It's about always wanting to do the job as well as possible. Fortunately, with that thinking has come success, and we're gratified. It's good to have that sense of achievement."



When you live and work together, maintaining a division between home and office is basically impossible, but the couple have largely found a rhythm that works for them. "It's difficult to a certain extent because obviously, the work flows into the house, which is the problem part," says Lynette. "But otherwise, as far as work is concerned, we focus on different things and because of that, it's a lot easier."

As managing director, Lynette oversees the marketing department as well as managing the beauty category, the online store, store designs, and layouts, which she's been doing right from day one. Ivan is chief executive, and as such, is the initiator of most business projects and sees to the trading side of things.

"It's always been teamwork," says Ivan, reflecting on the unique partnership he and his wife share. Both bring their strengths to the business. "Ivan was the driver, he was the one with all the ambition, and I was good at implementing and doing the follow through," says Lynette.

Lynette says being named business icons in a Jewish awards landscape is an honour.

"It's good to be acknowledged in one's own community, one in which we're very involved," she says. While Ivan is uncomfortable with winning awards in any setting (asked how he remains humble in the face of his considerable success, he says,



GOOD BUSINESS OR NO BUSINESS

Andrew Canter

FUTUREGROWTH ASSET MANAGEMENT

Andrew Canter, Futuregrowth Asset Management's executive director and chief investment officer, pulled no punches back in August 2016 to defend the company's stance on the withdrawal of funding from the country's state-owned enterprises at the height of state capture.

He was live on the now-defunct ANN news channel for half an hour against an antagonistic panel, accused of "economic terrorism", being a racist, and a stooge of white-monopoly-capital.

"Actually, I enjoyed it. It was a good-old-fashioned bar fight," says Canter, who had previously been applauded for a TED talk he had given in 2014. "My elder sister was a great high-school debater, so I had learned the trade."

Afterwards, people from all walks of life said, "I saw you on TV. You were great!"

Backed by his colleagues and investor clients, Canter and his team at Futuregrowth have been able to make public pronouncements on topics such as the conflicts of credit rating agencies and the dangers of bad pension-fund regulations.

"We've been successful at choosing adversaries – learning to see the 'bad guys' for what they are, and calling it out," says Canter. "My father's impatience with shysters, liars, and crooks rubbed off on me. I don't tend to sugar-coat my views."

After coming to South Africa from the United States in 1990, Canter assisted in co-founding RMB Asset Management before joining Futuregrowth eight years later.

Futuregrowth is a fiduciary asset manager for South African pension, insurance, and individual investors, managing a wide range of fixed interest and developmental impact funds.

"Futuregrowth has successfully – as measured by client returns, social impact, and business growth – managed to enact the idea of being an effective investment company and a responsible, fiduciary, ethical, and principles-driven firm," says Canter.

By challenging thinking, Canter has always sought to create possibility. "'No' is always easy," he says. "My goal is always to try and create an environment where a 'maybe' can be considered and a 'yes' can be achieved."

Canter's greatest disappointment is to "realise that globally, and forever, people and institutions will act against their own morality to protect their incomes, careers, and positions. They won't make waves. They won't mobilise to do the right thing. The dominant force is the 'endowment effect' – people will do things to protect their position or wealth that they would never do to get their position of wealth. The forces of good are slow to act, and disorganised to mobilise, allowing evil to prevail."

How does he deal with this? "Well, self-evidently, I fight it. I try to live by a set of values, principles, philosophies, strategies, and tactics. Our motto has always been, 'We will do good business, or we will do no business.'"

The core business challenge Canter has experienced is performing multiple tasks right all the time – from marketing and motivation to incentivisation and investments.

"When making investments, there's no finish line – no moment when you can ever stop, rest on your laurels, and say, 'That's a job well done!' because, frankly, tomorrow is another opportunity to screw it up!"

If there's one thing he would do again, it would be to be patient more often. "My energy wants to get stuff done. As a leader and manager, I should be patient enough to know that you can't create sustainability by telling or by giving the answers. The only real path to empower your colleagues is to help them find the answers for themselves."

He has learned that, in many ways, leadership is repetition. "Every day, in every way, you should remind your partners and colleagues what you are trying to accomplish, the why and how."

His leadership philosophy centres on the belief that if you live with integrity, you have nothing to fear. "What is there to hide if you've played by the rules and done your job well?"

Business aside, the birth of his second son, Benjamin, and the support he received from the Jewish community helped to heal his heartbreak following the tragic death of his first son, Nathaniel.

On a lighter note, Canter covers more kilometres cycling than he does driving and, during COVID-19, he has baked brownies and cookies in board meetings. He loves a bargain. "One of my partners once said, 'Andrew, if elephants were on sale, you'd buy two!'"

However, his insistence on always doing right always prevails. "Though the South African investment management industry is remarkably

ethical, the combination of being ethical, responsible, and developmental is rare," he says.

During the pandemic, Futuregrowth created a match-funding programme for staff who wanted to make charitable contributions to COVID-19 relief, funded third-party research dedicated to finding solutions for the failure of whistleblower protection in South Africa, and worked with the Association for Savings and Investment South Africa to pursue reform in the Johannesburg Stock Exchange's bond market.

One of Canter's proudest moments at Futuregrowth was in 2007, when he and Paul Rackstraw, the company's chief executive, were in negotiations with Henk Beets from Old Mutual Group. The latter saw no value in conducting due diligence on Futuregrowth, saying, "Given what we know about Andrew and Paul's character, we don't need to dig too deep as we aren't really worried about finding anything."

Canter is also proud of having served investors for more than 23 years in a manner that has been consistent, reliable, and trustworthy.

"I have always kept to the core principles and practices of a fiduciary, such as duties of loyalty and care. I have produced superior investment results while also being a responsible investor." He has also been a developmental investor in water, transport, and housing.

"I have been lucky to land in the position of professional stability, independence, and success to be able to wield a degree of influence – and have sought to use that position to make a positive impact in the country."

Mantra: "The harder you work, the luckier you get."



ABSA BUSINESS LEADERSHIP - FROM COVID TO HOPE AWARD NOMINEES

ALLAN HIRSCH HIRSCH'S

Allan Hirsch believes it was his innate resilience that enabled him to overcome the looting and partial burning of one of his huge retail business's stores during the civil unrest in South Africa in July.

"When most people went for their passports, my amazing team and I went for our brooms and our spades," says the founder and chairperson of Hirsch's, the biggest independent home appliance and electronics retailer in the country.

Within seven days, the store in Durban was entirely rebuilt and refurbished.

Hirsch's conquered the challenges posed by COVID-19 with similar efficiency. "We learned to plan better and changed the way we advertise. Our forecasting of stock has improved, and we radically changed the way we look for business. Now customers don't come to us; we go to them. We now have events where we interact with customers, thus promoting feet to come into our stores. Our online store has also grown phenomenally."

The whole company has evolved. After struggling with dyslexia and dropping out of Pietermaritzburg Technical High School in Standard 7, Hirsch opened a tiny electrical appliance repair store in Durban North with his wife, Margaret, in 1979. Their children, Richard (chief executive) and Luci (brand manager), eventually joined the management team after working their way up through the ranks. Today, Hirsch's is a multibillion-rand organisation with 750 employees and branches mainly in KwaZulu-Natal, Gauteng, and Cape Town. And, it's opening two new concept stores in the latter in spite of the economic downturn.

Hirsch sees his family as his greatest achievement. "We are fortunate to have a family business. We work together, we communicate with each other, and we try to spend every Sunday together at our farm."

Hirsch is a cricket enthusiast and gets his company involved in various sporting events. "We also look after five pre-schools, and assist young ladies who miss school by educating them and supplying them with reusable sanitary pads."

He describes himself as approachable, a listener, and a man of action. "I believe my team look up to me because I look up to them. We appreciate each other."

Mantra: "I believe I can achieve."

(Allan Hirsch is also nominated in the Entrepreneur Award category)



BRADLEY JOHN FISHER ADREACH SDI (SUPPLIER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES) B&B MARKETS (FOUNDER AND OPERATOR OF ROSEBANK ROOFTOP MARKET 1993 TO 2013)

Nobody, including Cyril Ramaphosa, would blink an eye at the fact that Bradley Fisher has been nominated for the Absa Business Leadership Award in a year in which South Africa has been plagued by COVID-19 and civil unrest.

That's because Fisher has always used his business to drive community development. In 1999, this mission resonated so much with Ramaphosa, he invested in one of Fisher's businesses, Adreach, and served as a director on its board until he entered politics.

Adreach was one of the early pioneers of the shared value business concept – driving community development while still achieving a good return on investment. It did it through the Adopt-A-Light initiative in which corporates were allowed to install streetlights in impoverished areas in return for valuable brand exposure in wealthy areas. Adreach launched Street Pole Ads, commercial adverts placed in display frames on streetlights in South Africa.

Since then, the business has generated more than R180 million for the City of Joburg, shown a positive return on investment with its successful Street Pole Ads product, and become the subject of the award-winning film, *Beyond The River*, due to its successful socio-economic development sporting initiative.

Based at Soweto Canoe and Recreation Club, this initiative aims to uplift township youth through canoeing. Fisher himself represented South Africa at the 2002 Canoeing World Cup in Denmark.

His use of the sport as a lever to change lives, build discipline, and self-esteem resulted in him being named a finalist in the

Sowetan/Jack Cheetham

Award for contribution to sports development.

As a businessman, he has proven that big business can and should drive support for SMMEs (small, medium, and micro enterprises) while simultaneously achieving profitability.

One of his businesses, Supplier Development Initiatives (SDI), gives small-business owners greater market access.

"If SDI reached its full potential, it could boost more than 500 000 SMMEs in South Africa with massive job-creation prospects," says Fisher.

When lockdown commenced, Fisher decided to volunteer his time and SDI resources on a no-charge basis. Quick to move towards ensuring that Johannesburg's informal waste recyclers, car guards, and homeless didn't starve, SDI provided 10 000 food parcels and hygiene packs to waste pickers, street vendors, car guards, and the homeless.

"It is my natural way to build others, and I believe this comes back to serve the business longer term," he says.

Mantra: "Credit to the doer of good deeds."



MORE THAN JUST A WORKSHOP

In 2016 Made In Workshop opened its doors with only a small laser cutter, 3D printers and miscellaneous hand tools and machines. As members came and went, Made In Workshop moulded a space that was not only an essential asset to our customers/members it was also their community.

Made In Workshop is not just about the tools and machines.

Made In Workshop is not just about the workspace.

Made In Workshop is the spark of inspiration that is the culmination of tools, machines, workspace and the community that we are creating.



Henry Levine, CEO of Made In Workshop



An ego to own really big machines was probably the real reason Henry started Made In Workshop. I liked the ability to make things that other people would normally purchase.

What was better that I could use this ego to help other people and SMEs to start and grow their own businesses. I enjoy being with members, teaching members how to use machines and I also learning from members.





AFRIKA TIKKUN'S COMMITMENT TO

HOLISTIC TOWNSHIP REVITALISATION

There is little doubt that township systems, economies and social capital have been hit hard in the last 18 months. As an organization that acts as a catalyst for change and transformation at the community level, Afrika Tikkun has intensified its response to community needs in a number of ways.

COVID-19 Relief

We are proud of our agility during the hard lockdown in 2020, resulting in us working with 112 community-based organisations to deliver over 76, 000 food parcels. In partnership with individuals and entrepreneurs, we also launched the #FaceUpToCovid campaign to distribute over 305 000 masks to community members. Recognising that already marginalized groups were going to experience further hardship during the pandemic, we partnered with the Department of Social Development to deliver over 62, 000 hot meals to homeless individuals. We are grateful for our work with Uber, where drivers were tasked with delivering food to families in need and subsequently were given coupons to shop at Boxer Superstores. A total of 16, 625 Uber vouchers were handed out.

Reviving Township Economies

Knowing the key role that community-based organisations played in ensuring that hard-to-reach communities were not left behind, we were extremely disheartened by the riots and destruction in townships in July 2021. We knew we had to use our standing as a viable and credible community vehicle to help in the reconstruction efforts and as a result, initiated the #RevivingTownshipEconomies campaign. This initiative is intended to rebuild township economies one business at a time. We have already been able to assist some small and medium businesses across a range of sectors including education, retail, events planning, dentistry, telecommunications, and agriculture, among others. All are uninsured and required funding to replace stolen or destroyed equipment and to re-stock and refurbish their premises.

Improving Food Security

We learned important lessons from the pandemic, in particularly, the fragility of our food security systems in South Africa. In response to this, we are implementing an Agripreneurship Programme at three of our five community centres where unemployed youth are skilled on mixed farming methods and entrepreneurship. Most participants in this programme have already set up their own individual backyard gardens in their homes.

Vaccination Roll-out

Taking our cue from the national response, and committed to facilitating access to health for our communities, our centres now include vaccination services. Through this initiative we address the issue of "vaccine hesitancy" and provide accurate information from reliable sources to eliminate the barriers faced by rural and underserved communities.

National Scale-up

Our award-winning Cradle to Career (C2C) model has caught the attention of a number of partners, including the Department of Social Development. C2C programmes invest in education, nutrition, health, social welfare, personal development, skills development and work placement. Aspects of C2C are now being scaled up in communities in Kensington (WC), Port Shepstone (KZN), and Waterberg (Limpopo) and are designed to enhance the work already underway by community-based organisations.

In keeping with our commitment to influence holistic development at community level, Afrika Tikkun will continue to educate, skill and place young people in work opportunities, all the while working to revive township businesses that many of our young people and their families have come to rely on.

For more information visit www.afrikatikkun.org



ABSA BUSINESS LEADERSHIP - FROM COVID TO HOPE AWARD NOMINEES

HILLEL AND JARED KAHN
CONTINENTAL LINEN
& WHITEHOUSE

Hillel Kahn and his son, Jared, have seen their company, Continental Linen & Whitehouse, accomplish many milestones during the COVID-19 pandemic. This family-run business has created many jobs, manufactured locally, achieved record production output, and exponentially grown its e-commerce offering. By the end of this year, it will have opened 10 new retail stores.

The company is a retailer with in-house manufacturing capability, selling linen, towels, home textiles, and a broad range of homeware through bedbathhome.co.za and 40 company-owned stores across South Africa.

Although Hillel, the company's chairperson, suffered an occipital lobe stroke at the start of the COVID-19 lockdown, the management team decided to reopen Continental Linen & Whitehouse's factory to make re-usable fabric facemasks.

This motivated Hillel so much, he soon recovered and, with the company's chief executive, Jared, the team begin sampling prototypes for what would become the Snugfit facemask. "At the time, there were few masks of any sort available in the South African market," recalls Jared.

Together with other local cut, make, and trim factories, Jared and his siblings produced and sold more than 1 000 000 masks in eight weeks. Their 20-hour work day bore fruit as they saved many small businesses from closing their doors and financially aided local factories, local feeding schemes, and the Ikamva Labantu Charitable Trust.

"Thinking of others" is an approach that makes Continental Linen & Whitehouse special, says Hillel, who bought the company in 2005. Its policy – luxury for less – is about leveraging the company's manufacturing and direct sourcing to deliver the lowest prices to customers.



"A business needs to learn and evolve in order to remain relevant to its customers," he says.

His philosophy, "Nothing is forever – innovate!" was exemplified by Jared.

After studying and doing everything required to become an equity analyst and fund manager, Jared struggled to get a job in South Africa.

He joined Earthchild Clothing for sweat equity and no salary, eventually becoming chief operating and finance officer, helping to grow the company to more than 50 stores. In 2015, he took up the opportunity to join Hillel's business. "Everything important I have learned about being an entrepreneur, trader, and leader comes from him," says Jared. "Think big and don't sweat the small stuff, do the basics well, and never lose touch with the shop floor."

Mantra: "Never forget where you come from!"

(Hillel and Jared Kahn were also nominated in the Entrepreneur Award category)

MARC LUBNER
TIKKUN GROUP/SMILE FOUNDATION

Marc Lubner believes he was blessed to have a father and grandfather who taught him the importance of working hard but also giving back to the community.

"I've tried to keep focused and committed to what I believe is of real value – being of service to others," he says.

Through this wildlife enthusiast's roles as group chief executive of Afrika Tikkun and executive chairperson of the Smile Foundation, he has assisted in the fight against COVID-19 and gender-based violence in South Africa.

Afrika Tikkun, founded by the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris and Lubner's late father, Bertie, is a non-governmental organisation that focuses on developing youth from early infancy to the time they are ready to look for jobs or create small businesses. Its "responsible kindness" model ensures the development of youth who believe in themselves and are ambitious instead of dependent victims.

At the onset of the pandemic, its township-based centres were converted into emergency relief centres, providing thousands of food parcels to the most vulnerable at the coal face.

"We needed to give thousands of township folk personal protective equipment [PPE], food, sanitiser, and now vaccines, but most of all, we give hope and support through gender-based anti-violence programmes, counselling, and an array of humane support," says Lubner.

The Smile Foundation, a non-profit organisation which Lubner founded with the late Nelson Mandela, has been very active during the pandemic. When state hospitals were closed for elective surgery and Smile's work to address the surgical needs of deformed children was halted, it immediately started assisting frontline workers by securing and distributing masks and sanitisers.

"We engaged our social workers and psychologists to provide online counselling to nursing staff and doctors who were under severe stress. And when the window of opportunity lifted for a few months, we packed as many surgical wards as possible with children whose surgeries had been backlogged, funding aesthetics and other consumables to ensure no child was left without hope."

Whereas his most meaningful business achievement is the creation of Afrika Tikkun's sustainable "cradle to career" development model, Lubner is most proud of bringing a team of various skilled individuals from all walks of life together, to "focus on a shared cause, dealing with building hope for unemployed youth and changing the dynamic of thousands of lives".

Mantra: "Show responsible kindness when dealing with all people."



3 SEASONS IN 1 JACKET

New K-lite
R999



OUR MOST PACKABLE AND LIGHTWEIGHT DOWN JACKET EVER.



SHOP ONLINE | WWW.CAPEUNIONMART.CO.ZA | [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) FANS FIND OUT FIRST

Call 0860 3333 29 or visit www.capeunionmart.co.za . Stores nationwide. Products subject to availability. All our products are covered by our famous 5-way Guarantee, ensuring that you get the best price and advice along with the fairest exchange policy.



ABSA BUSINESS LEADERSHIP - FROM COVID TO HOPE AWARD NOMINEES

RAMBAM CHARITABLE TRUST

According to Moses ben Maimonides, the Rambam, the greatest charity is to strengthen the hand of a fellow Jew through, among other things, the endowment of a loan.

This is the work of the Rambam Charitable Trust. Named after Maimonides, the medieval Sephardic Jewish philosopher, the trust provides interest-free loans to members of the Jewish community in a confidential, dignified, and expeditious way.

Since its inception in 1995, it has given loans of more than R180 million to more than 5 500 applicants, some more than once.

At the outset of the pandemic, the trust was inundated with applications for assistance. The trustees implemented a COVID-19 emergency initiative in which more than R3 million was raised in three weeks to assist almost 400 individuals and families affected by the first and subsequent lockdowns.

The trustees adapted to the urgency, and instead of face-to-face trustee meetings and interviews with applicants, the process was truncated to be held 100% online. Interviews would now be held within 24 hours of receiving an application, and funds were paid within hours of the loan being granted. In addition, the normal requirement for applicants to provide sureties was waived in order to deal with the abnormal circumstances.

The trust has also since donated more than R100 000 to destitute individuals who didn't even meet the much-watered down criteria required for the

COVID-19 emergency fund.

"With the trust adapting to the changing environment and the challenges of COVID-19 and lockdown, it has been able to meet the additional inflow of applications, and we believe we can use the experience gained to assist us in improving our service offering going forward," say trustees.

They point out that the trust "has kept the wolf from the door on many occasions". Not only does it provide loans, it also offers a platform for people to get financial or other advice.

If there was one thing the trustees would do over if they could, it would be to get a greater reach throughout South Africa and acquaint more people with its existence, objectives, and ability to assist.

The trust does its best to help the country to create jobs, improve education, and develop skills "by assisting individuals who run their own businesses and institutions who employ many employees".

"Through the provision of loans for educational purposes, the trust assists in job retention and students' ability to improve their education and skills development," say trustees.

Mantra: "To assist those who are in need of assistance."



The Rambam Trust is represented by Arnold Connack

MARTIN SACKS GESHER SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF FUND

In the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, when many small to medium-sized businesses (SMEs) faced almost certain ruin, Martin Sacks was called to lead the establishment of a relief scheme to assist majority Jewish owned small businesses that were severely hit by the pandemic and had nowhere else to turn.

He was approached in April 2020 by the board of the Chevrah Kadisha, the Donald Gordon Foundation, a cornerstone donor, and the chief rabbi. Within a month, the Geshet Small Business Relief Fund was launched.

To date, Geshet has granted 131 loans of about R175 000 (a total of R34.7 million has been paid out). In the process it has rescued the livelihoods of 1 500 employees and their 15 000 dependants. Over this time, it has received more than 230 applications for loans, which were assessed thoroughly with discretion and confidentiality.

Sacks, also on the Chevrah Kadisha's board of governors, says, "The alternative was a possible welfare tsunami which would have overwhelmed the small capital bases of community organisations and threatened the funding model of the Jewish way of life."

Geshet was launched in tandem with the Chev, which is primarily a welfare-oriented organisation without the expertise to evaluate this kind of business assistance. However, the Chev supported and assisted Geshet's administration.

Sacks worked tirelessly with funders and key stakeholders to establish the framework, purpose, and strategy of the organisation. This included selecting a board that was relevant and representative, and giving preference to majority Jewish owned businesses where the funding had the widest possible societal impact, primarily preserving jobs. The fund would also grant interest-free, last resort loans.

"We have a huge amount of respect for all entrepreneurs and business owners," Sacks said. "They have taken incredible risks and navigated obstacles to create a better future for their families and staff."

"Their survival is imperative for the future of the South African Jewish community and infrastructure, which is almost entirely private and community funded. These SME owners are productive and paying members of our schools, shuls, healthcare, security, welfare, and cultural organisations, and the community would be faced with financial ruin should these businesses not survive and provide a livelihood for their stakeholders."

The involvement of the Chevrah Kadisha enabled Geshet to keep its running costs extremely low, with a single employee. "To our executive's and the Chev's credit, we believe our reporting to stakeholders is of an extremely high commercial standard and best in class in community organisations."

Sacks puts the success of Geshet down to the efforts of more than 60 people and stakeholder entities actively involved in various areas of funding, strategy, governance and oversight, evaluation, execution, and management of many candidate borrowers and loans.

He is a firm believer in mentoring young talent, and values personal qualities over experience. "Talent always emerges in a meritocratic organisation with a 'horses-for-courses' approach, focusing peoples' time and energy on their strengths rather than their weaknesses," he says.

Mantra: "If you will it, it is no dream" - Herzl



Bring growth to life with tailored Greenhouses

For 28 years, we've been partnering with farmers, around Africa, to achieve crop success.

Find us on vegtech.co.za to start your next Greenhouse project.

Vegtech

NETAFIM™



Catercorp is a manufacturer and distributor of sauces, marinades, and packaging to the market

We strive to offer only the best for our clients and are passionate about what we do. Our team's passion, dedication, and energy are testament to this.

www.catercorp.co.za

"Love what you do and you never have to work a day in your life."

Michelle Len, Sales Director



Enjoy these ranges of Kosher sauces and marinades exclusively manufactured & distributed by Catercorp



Professor Lucille Blumberg

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NICD),
A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

It's not just anyone who can design a COVID-19 national hospital surveillance system for South Africa. Professor Lucille Blumberg, who lays claim to this achievement, and so many others, is well known in the field of public health and communicable diseases. Her innate ability to spot a gap and initiate programmes in response to it has helped her build an illustrious career that has spanned more than four decades.

"I had the vision to create a hospital-based surveillance system for persons admitted with COVID-19 infections to describe the clinical and epidemiological picture of COVID-19 in the South African setting and look at risk factors for severe illness, management, and outcomes," she says. "It went from vision to reporting within a week, becoming the Datcov system, which is now used in the private and public sector as well as in chronic-care homes. The programme has attracted and employed an extraordinary team of volunteers and people from various organisations, building their skills and provide amazing information and data on COVID-19 disease in South Africa." This has ultimately reduced mortality rates and improved service provision.

Not only did Blumberg devise this system, she has also played a key role in the country's COVID-19 response, serving on the Ministerial Advisory Group for COVID-19 in 2020, and is currently taking part in the chief rabbi's medical group for COVID-19. Further afield, she's the vice-chairperson of the WHO (World Health Organization) committee for the review of international health regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic, and even served during the Tokyo Olympics as a member of the expert group for the COVID-19 (RAEG) review of laboratory results.

She may be globally recognised, but Blumberg is committed to improving healthcare closer to home. Reflecting on South Africa's prospects, she says the pandemic can be viewed through a positive and negative lens.

"COVID-19 has been economically devastating for this country, but it has also created many opportunities to look at different ways of doing things, and has created new partnerships, especially in the private and public sectors," she says. "It been instrumental in building a brave new South Africa."

Yet, there's no denying the challenges we face. "We need to open up the economy, get people back to work and school, deal with burgeoning crime problems, and improve opportunities for women," she says. Blumberg herself has been instrumental in creating opportunities for women and men she has mentored and taught in the field of communicable diseases.

She considers training to be amongst her greatest achievements. "I've been involved in the registration of the new infectious diseases specialty for South Africa and in training fellows and providing ongoing support and mentorship," she says. "Infectious diseases sub-specialists have shown tremendous value, and have contributed throughout the



important public-health impact," she says, speaking of her leadership philosophy.

"Get the best team members around you, and ensure that they have the skills that you don't have. Give the team credit and opportunities to solve problems, to identify multiple solutions, and to be creative and innovative. A true leader is able to inspire others, to identify qualities in people, and move them to the next level both for their career and your greater goal. A leader is the bigger thinker who's not scared to go outside of the box."

While bringing big ideas to life isn't always easy, Blumberg never backs down from a challenge. Her flair for problem solving and coming up with a workable solution when the door seems closed has allowed her to break barriers.

"The biggest problem is that it's not always easy to implement what you think is best or right," she says. "Public-sector agencies aren't always implementers. To address this, you need to show people the benefit and provide the 'how to' and 'where to', not just the 'what'."

Having dedicated much of her life to her career, Blumberg says her personal, community, and professional commitments often merge. "Yet, work is something I love, and for me, these components are closely related."

COVID-19 pandemic response." Up until the end of September, Blumberg was deputy director of the NICD and the founding head of the Division of Public Health Surveillance and Response, now one of the largest units at the NICD. This has grown over the years to have an impact on the private and public sector and exemplifies Blumberg's remarkable talents.

She has now embarked on a new professional journey as a technical consultant at Right to Care, a leading healthcare organisation that has delivered prevention, care, and treatment services for HIV, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, and Hepatitis C, while also responding to global healthcare emergencies through its various programmes. Blumberg will be responsible for establishing a one health programme to cover rabies and other zoonotic diseases, as well as working on outbreak response within the emergencies programme, areas in which she's long specialised.

Blumberg may claim to be nearing the end of her formal career, but with recent developments in her active professional life, she doesn't seem close to slowing down any time soon.


"There are still many opportunities," she says. "If I remain physically and mentally fit, I can contribute a lifetime of knowledge and experience to improving health security and the practice of communicable diseases."

In so doing, she continues to inspire new generations of healthcare workers and pioneers. "I look to identify unique opportunities and gaps, looking for strategic interventions that make a difference and have an

Not just cooking up medical breakthroughs, Blumberg says many would be surprised to learn that she has experience in a completely different field. "I have a formal chef's qualification, and have taught cooking and catered for functions," she reveals.

Armed with a zest for life and a can-do attitude, it's clear why Blumberg excels at whatever she sets her mind to. "I'd like to be remembered as someone who made a difference on many levels, and took others along on the amazing journey," she says. "And, as an enthusiastic person who saw the positives in most situations."

Mantra: "Be generous and respectful."



The partner you and your business needs

A dedicated Universal Banker as your single point of entry to deliver our full set of financial solutions for you, your business and your employees.

We do more so you can. That's Africanacity.

For more detailed information, please visit our website at www.absa.co.za

Authorised Financial Services Provider Registered Credit Provider Reg No NCRCP7 T&C apply

ABSA PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE — FROM COVID TO HOPE AWARD NOMINEES



JACK BLOOM
DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE /
GAUTENG PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Jack Bloom has been a serving politician for 30 years, having begun his political career as city councillor for Highlands North, Johannesburg. He’s also the longest-serving elected member of the Gauteng Provincial Legislature. Since first being elected in 1994, Bloom has asked more than 2 000 official parliamentary questions, revealing wrongdoing in provincial government contracts and shining a light on social issues that the provincial government would have preferred to keep hidden.

“I’ve always seen myself as an activist politician fighting corruption, inefficiency, and injustice,” he says. “In my capacity as health spokesperson since 1994 for my political party – the Democratic Party, and then the Democratic Alliance [DA] – I have exposed poor conditions in public hospitals and assisted many desperate patients to get proper treatment.”

Arguably Bloom’s greatest impact was in exposing the Life Esidimeni tragedy. “I regard this as my greatest achievement in saving lives as more would have died had I not asked the crucial question to the health MEC which forced her to reveal that 36 mental-health patients had died after being sent to deficient NGOs [non-governmental organisations],” he recalls. “This ultimately halted the programme, and led to the resignation and dismissal of the MEC and other implicated officials after it was found that a total of 144 patients had died.”

Since the dawn of the pandemic, Bloom has provided a daily analysis of the COVID-19 figures shared by DA public representatives on their social-media groups. “My volume of calls skyrocketed with the pandemic, with people desperate for advice and information, and many were worried as hospitals weren’t allowing visits to sick relatives,” he says. “I used my hospital contacts to ensure at least some communication on the condition of their relatives, as well as to facilitate better treatment.”

He has also been actively involved in exposing PPE (personal protective equipment) corruption, has encouraged the procurement of vaccines, and has worked to dispel the misinformation surrounding them.

Through his work, Bloom spent the night in a burnt shack in solidarity with those who lost everything in a devastating fire. The experience spearheaded his journey to religious observance at the age of 50.

“Helen Suzman said, ‘Go see for yourself’, which I have always tried to live up to as an activist politician,” he says. “I discovered through overnight sleepovers in 30 informal settlements that ‘go experience for yourself’ is more meaningful and effective in understanding the reality of peoples’ lives and what can best be done to assist them.”

Mantra: “Go experience for yourself.”

DR GRAHAM CASSEL, MILPARK HOSPITAL

Headhunted to open the first private cardiology unit in the country at Milpark Hospital in 1979, renowned cardiologist Dr Graham Cassel (74) went on to spearhead the hospital’s heart transplant programme 20 years ago. Under his leadership, this programme performs between 15 and 20 transplants a year.

“We performed the first temporary artificial heart transplant in the year 2000 and more recently have been implanting a permanent LVAD [artificial heart] in many deserving patients,” he says. Cassel, in fact, heads up one of the two LVAD units in the country.

Among his many other achievements, Cassel started the South African Society of Cardiovascular Intervention, led the first coronary angioplasty at Milpark, and later deployed the first stent in South Africa.

“It’s difficult to say what my greatest achievement is,” he says, “but on balance, to be able to offer care to deserving patients and save lives has to be the greatest gift that I have been given.”

Yet in 2019, this gift came under threat when Cassel suffered a catastrophic illness that left him in hospital for two months and away from his practice for four. “Why I required this major challenge in my life, I don’t know, but my belief in Hashem has become all the more evident since my own brush with illness and possible permanent disability,” he says. “Being back at full occupation is a true blessing.”

With the rise of COVID-19, Cassel therefore had to be especially careful to restrict his work to non-COVID-19 positive cardiac patients, many of whom had been too scared to visit their cardiologists. “That means the patient is dying from heart attacks and strokes at home rather than seeking medical attention,” he says. Cassel has worked tirelessly to encourage this group to take care of their health, have routine screenings, and to take advantage of available facilities.

Cassel calls his late father, a well-known pathologist, his guiding light. “He fled Nazi Germany in 1933 and has been my role model over the years,” he says. “I attribute my training and success to the great lineage he has given me.”

Cassel’s family has sometimes suffered at the hands of his profession, yet his four children understand the weight of his calling to save lives. “My professional path has been extremely hard work but unbelievably rewarding,” he says. “I have been at the cutting edge of amazing developments in healthcare over this period, and I wouldn’t change my career for anything in the world.”



Mantra: “To save a life is to save a nation.”



DR MELINDA SUCHARD
CENTRE OF VACCINES AND
IMMUNOLOGY, NATIONAL
INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNICABLE
DISEASES

“I followed a passion in a subject that wasn’t taught to me, but I found by following my own interests,” says Dr Melinda Suchard, the head of the Centre for Vaccines and Immunology at the NICD (National Institute for Communicable Diseases), and lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits). “I tell students that life has no syllabus. They need to work out along the way what’s important to learn, and follow the trail.”

It’s this way of thinking that has guided Suchard to achieving her dreams and helping others to do the same. During her specialisation in clinical pathology, Suchard found that every disease she came across seemed to have an underlying connection to the immune system.

“Yet, strangely, in South Africa there’s no way for a doctor to specialise in immunology – there’s no such discipline registered with the Health Professions Council,” she says. “This realisation came as a shock, and is something I would like to see resolved.”

Suchard has made great strides towards this goal, actively working to empower medical doctors in South Africa to train in immunology and vaccinology, which holds the key to new vaccines and therapies. In fact, she co-founded a Masters in Vaccinology at Wits. The first cohort of students has recently graduated, something she counts among her greatest achievements.

Through her role at the NICD, Suchard has led the South African Collaborative COVID-19 Environmental Surveillance System (SACCESS). “This is a network of laboratories monitoring SARS-CoV-2 circulation in sewage, which gives independent information on circulation of the virus without relying on patients to go to health facilities for testing,” she says.

In the past year, she also published a theory related to why the severity of COVID-19 varies with age, related to vitamin B3 metabolism.

In a global landscape in which vaccinology is increasingly in the spotlight, Suchard sees hope for the eradication of other diseases that have long-plagued society. “Intense interest in vaccines and lessons from COVID-19 vaccine development should be a real boost to the development of vaccines against HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria,” she says.

Suchard is inspired by the hope and optimism inherent in the field in which she works, traits she herself embodies. Speaking of her leadership philosophy, she says it’s about self-belief. “Be yourself. Trust yourself. If you don’t know, ask. Learn from those around you. Speak up when you have an opinion. Don’t do anything yourself that others can do – you should do only tasks that need your unique skills.”

Mantra: “Do the good that you can, in the time that you have, in the place that you are.” – Nkosi Johnson, AIDS activist who died aged 12

(Dr Melinda Suchard is also nominated in the Europcar Women in Leadership Award category)



ABSA PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE — FROM COVID TO HOPE AWARD NOMINEES

HOWARD FELDMAN AND DR ANTON MEYBERG
SYNTHESIS PODCAST



As head of people and marketing at Synthesis Software Technologies, Howard Feldman has spearheaded the company’s approach to COVID-19. “We have set up a number of initiatives to assist with the possible alienation that people might experience,” says Feldman.

One such initiative is the weekly Synthesis Podcast, where Feldman and pulmonologist Dr Anton Meyberg address questions surrounding the pandemic submitted by the public. The podcast shines light on the facts at a time when misinformation is rife, providing comfort and education.

“Questions often reflect the mood and anxiety of people,” says Feldman, who is also a columnist, author, and the presenter of the *Morning Mayhem* show on ChaiFM 101.9. “We have been told that the podcast has been a lifeline for many.” To date, more than 80 podcasts have been recorded, reaching more than 350 000 people.

Meyberg is proud to have uplifted and educated the public through the podcast. “I’m giving people an understanding of what we are dealing with in the COVID-19 hospital ward and trying to break it down so that it’s less scary for them and easier to digest,” he says. “Our aim is to enable people to live through this with a degree of normality.”

During the pandemic, Meyberg has also served as a medical advisor for Jewish schools as well as for the Chevrah Kadisha.

For Feldman, providing education through the podcast and his other professional endeavours has been a highlight. “Giving people the ‘permission’ to think, to challenge, and to educate themselves is what I see as my role and hopefully my achievement,” he says. “The magnificence of living in South



Africa is that we are able to change people’s lives every single day. Although we by no means celebrate adversity, the fact that there’s such great inequality gives us all the unique ability to make a real and tangible difference each day.”

Meyberg has been on the frontline of medical care since the pandemic first hit South Africa. Although it has presented a myriad of heart-wrenching challenges, Meyberg is proud to have made a difference by providing hope through leadership.

“Actively taking up the fight against COVID-19 and being a role model for those around me – whether to my children, family, friends, or patients with COVID-19 who needed guidance – is among my greatest accomplishments,” he says. “I’ve been a captain who led from the front to impart sage advice to people who so desperately needed it.”

Howard Feldman
Mantra: “Find out who you are, and then do it on purpose.”



Dr Anton Meyberg
Mantra: “Treat the person, not the disease.”



HIRSCH'S

The kitchen is the heart of our home



www.hirschs.co.za

KZN: Ballito 032-946 7400 • Umhlanga 031-570 4000 • Springfield Park 031-242 2600 • Hillcrest 031-761 7500
Cape Town: Milnerton 021-528 6700 • Somerset West 021-001 1066
Gauteng: Strubens Valley 011-858 4600 • Centurion 012-621 6300 • Hyde Park 010-001 8590
Silverlakes 012-001 2640 • Meadowdale 011-657 2400 • Carnival 010-822 2050 • Fourways 011-707 8000

Shopping hours:
Mon – Fri : 8:30am – 17:30pm
Sat : 8:30am – 16:00pm
Sun 9:00am – 16:00pm

ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

Judges



ROBERT FIHRER

Capricorn Capital Partners, CEO

“The quality of entrepreneurs in this year’s category should give the community and country much hope as these talented people will build companies that will employ many people, pay taxes, and generally contribute to our great country.”



HEIDI BRAUER

Hollard, Group Chief Marketing Officer

“When things feel huge, as they do now, do as the wonderful philosopher 94-year-young Swami Parthasarathy says, and focus on ‘the next single perfect action’. One foot in front of the other in single perfect steps and progress will be sweet.”



BARRY SWARTZBERG

Vitality Group,
subsidiary of Discovery, CEO

“It’s inspirational to interact with entrepreneurs as they use their initiative to create economic growth and employment. Being an entrepreneur is not an exclusive club, anyone can join – all it takes is the first step. Go for it!”



SUZANNE ACKERMAN-BERMAN

Pick n Pay Stores,
Director of Transformation

“I was incredibly inspired by the innovative entrepreneurship in this year’s level of candidates. The standards and range of business we had to choose from was phenomenal, and gave us all renewed hope in the future of our country. We were particularly encouraged by the businesses that have transformed themselves to accommodate the fundamental issues we face as a nation, and as humanity – those being how we adjusted to living a life ‘online’ as a result of the pandemic, prioritising public health and information regarding COVID-19 and the vaccines, and addressing the scarcity of resources we face across the continent of Africa as we all grapple to stabilise food security.”



THE FUTURE IS IN OUR HANDS

At Futuregrowth we create the difference we want to see in the world. As a leading investor in development in South Africa, we're building a stronger economy and delivering social benefits to communities while targeting sustainable returns for retirement funds. The future is in our hands. Let's build it together.

www.futuregrowth.co.za

FUTUREGROWTH
/ ASSET MANAGEMENT

A MEMBER OF  **OLDMUTUAL** INVESTMENT GROUP

Futuregrowth is a licensed Financial Services Provider.

ENTREPRENEUR AWARD WINNER

GREENHOUSE GURU FINDS FERTILE GROUND

Barney Isralls

VEGTECH NETAFIM (PTY) LTD



Food and water security is vital in Africa, and Barney Isralls and his company, Vegtech Netafim, are well placed to help farmers and governments achieve it. “Vegtech was started as a dream to export Israeli agricultural expertise around the world,” says Isralls, who established the company with his wife, Ann, in 1989. Their company has grown exponentially since then.

Vegtech is one of the leading greenhouse project and engineering companies in southern Africa. It designs and executes projects for growing all types of agricultural products. “This is unique as undercover farming is a niche sector of agriculture and not many companies in the world focus on this activity,” says Isralls.

Isralls has grown Vegtech into the largest supplier of commercial agricultural greenhouses and irrigation in South and Sub-Saharan Africa, with a market share of about 70%, according to the person who nominated Isralls.

It all began when he and his wife, having made aliyah, were farming in the Arava Valley and “wanted to expand their horizons”.

After matriculating at King Edward VII School in 1973, Isralls made aliyah and went to live on Kibbutz Revivim in southern Israel, where his interest in agriculture was peaked when he began working in the field



crop section before being appointed irrigation manager.

He studied vegetables and field crops at the Ruppin Institute in Israel before moving to Moshav Iddan in 1982 to farm his own land. In 1983, he was the first farmer to erect and farm in a greenhouse in the Arava Valley. Besides contributing to communal orchards of dates and mangoes, he also cultivated for the local market and grew tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, melons, flowers, and baby vegetables for export.

“The opportunity arose when we were approached to produce melons in the southern hemisphere to supplement those grown in Israel for export to Europe during the winter months,” says Isralls.

This led to the Isralls family moving back to South Africa, to Paarl, to grow and export melons. They also imported technology and products from Israel required for growing melons. “Word spread about these Israeli farmers in Paarl, and we started getting requests for other Israeli agricultural products, which we began to import,” he says. And so, Vegtech was launched.

“Like all entrepreneurs, we were short of cash and had serious problems with liquidity,” recalls Isralls. “We made the mistake of accepting help and a cash injection from an investor, which in the long-term, cost us 50% of our company. We were naïve and had no paperwork, and when we wanted to exit and repay the money, we found that 50% of our company had literally been stolen from us. We decided to pack up and go back to Israel to our moshav, but the companies in Israel that we represented had other ideas.

“They persuaded us to stay on a while and build a proper business with one of them coming in as a legitimate partner. This was a second

beginning, and the company started to get real traction. We moved our focus from general horticultural products to the more specific focus of greenhouses and undercover farming and, in 1998, sold our first greenhouse project.”

In 2000, Isralls moved Vegtech to Kraaifontein, where it remains to this day. As Isralls describes it, adapting to the scenery change wasn’t the only transition for the business. Vegtech stopped the farming operation to focus on the sale of Israeli agricultural hardware.

“One of the fundamentals of Vegtech that has helped us to build our success has been that we aren’t scared to market and implement cutting edge technology. Like all industries, the advances in technology in agriculture have been huge.”

In 2005, Netafim bought a 50% share in Vegtech.

That year, Vegtech’s name was changed to Vegtech Netafim after Netafim bought the fourth biggest Dutch greenhouse, Company Gakon, and called it Gakon Netafim.

Isralls believes he has a great management team at Vegtech because, he says, “To use a cliché, I surround myself with smart people who have skills that I don’t have.”

During COVID-19, this running enthusiast made sure that all his employees were vaccinated, and helped those who needed extra financial or other help to get through this period.

His greatest business achievement during the pandemic, he says, is “to keep our staff safe, keep our customers happy, and show real growth in spite of limited opportunities”.

To bring hope to South Africa, his company has developed an

incubator and community-based model to create jobs and train people in the agricultural sector.

Education plays a vital role in Vegtech’s approach. “One of our big commitments is to educate because in rural Africa, there’s a serious lack of knowledge, and you need technology increasingly to offset the effects of global warming and less available land and water.”

As part of its social responsibility drive, Vegtech provides greenhouses and tunnels for schools and educational facilities to encourage learning and to have a positive impact on the entire industry. “We also make a huge effort to procure from South African companies whenever possible.”

His business philosophy is always to be “ethical and honest”, and remember “that the customer is the most important person”.

Although he shuns the limelight whenever possible, Isralls is “honoured” by his nomination, and hopes it can motivate many young people to build their own businesses.

Describing himself as determined, stubborn, diligent, kind, and shy, Isralls says he lives by the mantra: “Always give your best, and be humble.”

He suggests that South Africa might be improved by “getting rid of black economic empowerment and letting the people most qualified do the job”.

Mantra:
“Always give your best and be humble.”



We're serious about contributing to a better tomorrow.

Our societal purpose strategy aims at ensuring that we make an impactful, sustained contribution, for our clients, our people, and our communities. It's about helping to build trust and deliver sustained outcomes.

It all adds up to The New Equation.

www.pwc.co.za



© 2021 PwC. All rights reserved. (21-27460)

ENTREPRENEUR AWARD NOMINEES

BRADLEY DAVIS
READY SET DELIVERED

Does your newborn need nappies or ointment late at night, or do you know of a hospital patient who wants personal toiletries delivered?

If so, Ready Set Delivered is the business to call.

As someone who loves helping others, Bradley Davis started this Gauteng-based personalised shopping and delivery service just 10 days after he lost his job in car sales in March 2020.

“COVID-19 catapulted me into the realisation that people need assistance with the basics like shopping, renewing drivers’ licences, purchasing vehicles, and so on,” he says. “The business started as an idea to assist people, and it has burst its banks. It has absolutely exploded.”

It delivers all sorts of products and carries out gas refills, gas heater services, and drivers’ licence collections.

“While COVID-19 numbers are low, we’re doing lifts to the airport,” Davis says.

Through Ready Set Delivered, this recreational tennis player has enhanced people’s lives by assisting those

cooped up in their homes.

“I’ve been able to protect others from exposure to this terrible virus even though I take the risk myself. The business relieves people from worrying about shopping for essentials, and allows them to feel calmer,” Davis says.

“So many of the elderly and high-risk population have needed to be sheltered at home with no way of getting the basics. Many of them are terrified to go out and do the shopping. This business ensures that people don’t have to worry about it.”

The business also does charity work, delivering gifts of foods from various corporates to charities to feed the undernourished.

Although financial constraints have been a stumbling block, Davis visualises creating employment by opening



Ready Set Delivered franchises nationally.

“I’m a resilient individual who doesn’t allow life circumstances to control me,” he says. He has bounced back not only from seeing “terrible things” during his time as an active member of the Community Policing Forum, but also nearly losing his father to the Costa Concordia disaster in 2012.

Yet, when he heard about his nomination for the Entrepreneur Award for the second consecutive year, he was so overwhelmed with emotion, he “just sat down and burst into tears”.

Mantra: “Do what you need by helping others.”

MANDI FINE
F/NE

Mandi Fine frequently hears the word “finest” being bandied about when she is in the office of the company she founded, F/NE For Good.

“We judge ourselves and our work on the ‘finest’ principle,” says Fine, the chief executive of this strategic marketing and brand building consultancy. “If it’s the ‘finest’ we can achieve, then we have delivered. If it’s mediocre, we rethink. That applies to everything we do.”

Some of the finest results the company achieved this year were achieved between April and June 2021 when its advocacy for increased marine protection reached 20 million people in South Africa, and its launch of a new corporate social responsibility

initiative resulted in many taxi drivers having their eyes tested.

Over the past two years, most of F/NE’s work has been focused on supporting South Africa’s healthcare companies in managing COVID-19 and vaccine communication. “We have had the privilege of being commissioned by hospital groups, biotech companies, pharmaceutical manufacturers and the like to manage communication to millions of South Africans and hundreds of thousands of healthcare workers.”

To motivate for behaviour change, vaccination, and appreciation of frontline workers, F/NE has used facts, testimonials, voice notes, videos, and stories from healthcare opinion leaders around the world.

“Our business is about the balance of science and storytelling,” she says. “We employ

individuals with clinical or scientific backgrounds as well as those with creative and marketing skills.”

F/NE upskills and uplifts certain non-profit organisations through strategic marketing and communication support.

In its 22-year history, F/NE’s highlights include launching the country’s top-selling pharmaceuticals like Celebrex, Concerta, and Viagra.

A personal highlight of Fine’s this year was when she sat on Cannes Lions Health and Wellness jury, judging the world’s best healthcare communication. “Cannes Lions is the Oscars of the advertising world and given the COVID-19 year this was, being involved was an honour beyond any expectation,” she says.

Fine spends almost half her working time in the non-governmental-organisation arena. “This is my passion project. I’m inspired how social entrepreneurs can shape and change our country, but also how they have shaped and changed me and my attitude to the world.”

When she’s not climbing mountains, rafting rivers, and walking through “the beautiful biomes of South Africa”, Fine finds time either to be involved in community work or immersed in Jewish learning.

Mantra: “Be the Finest.”



SELWYN CHATZ
CHATZ CONNECT; VODACOM 4U;
BITCO

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the charity division of Chatz Connect has worked tirelessly to produce food

parcels, clothes, and blankets for those badly affected by the pandemic.

The exclusive and independent network provider has provided anything from prepaid services, cash phones, airtime sales, lay byes, contracts, red premium plans, and even fibre as well as business deals.

Since the inception of mobile communication in South Africa in 1994, it has been a major player in the cellular industry under Chief Executive Selwyn Chatz.

The Kroonstad-born Chatz worked in his father’s butchery as a teenager. He needed to be there at 05:00 daily. “Tardiness wasn’t accepted,” he recalls. As a result, he lives by the philosophy that no one’s time is more important than anyone else’s.

He had a colourful time in high school, constantly pushing the boundaries. He became the local “DJ and movie guy” to ensure he had some financial independence. This would contribute to much of his success in his later years, showing a need not merely to accept the status quo. It also contributed to his entrepreneurial flair and sense of leadership.

After starting his career at Andre Jewellers, Chatz joined his father-in-law’s business, the Shaw Group. Interested in new mobile technology, he explored different options with MTN and Vodacom. Eventually, he signed with the latter’s fully owned service provider, Vodac.

He managed to buy out the other shareholders, rebranded the Shaw Group to Chatz Connect, and quickly started growing it into the successful company it is today.

Based on the outstanding performance of Chatz Connect, a former Vodacom chief executive awarded Chatz the management

agreement of the second Vodacom franchise, Vodacom 4U, in 2003. It now boasts 75 successful franchises nationally and, like Chatz Connect, numerous awards.

Chatz hopes to achieve similar success with his third company, BitCo, an independent service provider that operates a carrier-grade network.

“I’m a motivated individual, always looking for opportunities, and have surrounded myself with a dedicated team which is agile and focused.”

Chatz describes himself as dedicated, determined, and passionate. He is a Formula 1 fan, three-time Comrades Marathon participant, and former pilot licensee whose business philosophy is, “Don’t make excuses; make improvements.”

Mantra: “Don’t fear failure, rather fear not trying.”



ENTREPRENEUR AWARD NOMINEES

ARIEL NAVARRO ONECART

Ariel Navarro tapped into the need for South Africans during the COVID-19 pandemic to order everything they needed not from one shop, but a whole shopping centre. And so, OneCart, the virtual shopping mall Navarro co-founded, took off and became an essential service.

The company went from receiving 180 orders a day in January 2020 to 1 300 orders a day halfway through the year. During that period, its employees increased by 350.

"This was one of the most challenging, demanding, and financially distressing periods in OneCart's history, and thus one of my greatest business achievements to date," says Navarro, the business' chief commercial officer.

OneCart offers customers the convenience of shopping at multiple stores across South Africa on a single platform, with on-demand or same-day delivery.



What makes OneCart special is that the company was founded to create jobs and allow its customers to spend more time doing the things they love.

The business focuses on fast-moving consumer goods including groceries, household items, fresh food, toiletries, pet supplies, and daily essentials.

"We are also a software developer of e-commerce solutions in which OneCart manages the full customer-facing front-end solution and end-to-end logistics for our clients," says Navarro.

Navarro is proud of the fact that since the start of the pandemic, his company has also partnered with Food Forward SA, a non-profit organisation that distributes food parcels across the country for 85c per meal. "Since April 2020, we have raised a lot of money for the organisation, reaching more than 300 000 families," he says.

Driven by fear of failure, Navarro says he has developed a high perseverance threshold. "Sometimes I can have an overly optimistic outlook on life and situations where the probability of failure is greater than the probability of success."

Next year, Navarro aims to grow OneCart's revenue and increase its staff to more than 3 000 – it has 800 employees after starting with just two. "Our marketplace technology will improve, giving the opportunity to hundreds of SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) to list their stores on the OneCart platform."

Navarro firmly believes in "letting your values guide your decisions" and "adopting work-life integration".

He explains the latter by saying, "You live your work, and so do the people around you, especially family and partners. It's crucial in your entrepreneurial journey to surround yourself with like-minded people, to share war stories, and learn from each other's failures and successes."

Mantra: "Always be true to yourself."

HENRY LEVINE MADE IN WORKSHOP

Throughout history, many people named Henry have had a great fondness for something or other. King Henry VIII was seemingly partial to cheesecake, Henry Ford adored beans, and Henry Levine loves machines.

Although the latter always wanted to make things that other people would normally purchase, a desire to own and be around big machines was the real reason he started Made In Workshop in 2016.

Since childhood days spent dismantling and reassembling toys, Levine has loved woodwork.

When he visited a well-equipped makerspace in San Francisco several years ago, he was inspired to create his own workshop.

Little did he know then that Made In Workshop would become the largest co-working workshop and makerspace in southern Africa. Based in Randburg, Johannesburg, the workshop boasts machines such as 3D printers and laser cutters.

"We have built up a great community here with people from all walks of life, and we help a lot of small businesses in terms of access to knowledge and machinery, helping them to cut down on their overheads," says Levine.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Made In Workshop created an outlet for SMMEs (small, medium, and micro enterprises) and individuals to start something new and maintain their spirit and self-worth.

"We have helped businesses not only to survive but to thrive with the adaptations we have made. We now have side-hustle options, and a space that's constantly evolving to cater to new needs," says Levine.

Levine approaches potential employees directly because he has already recognised their strengths. "From there, they get my support and respect. I don't



micromanage. I also – and this is the most important point – respect the difference between work time and home time. I don't email, WhatsApp, SMS, or smoke signal them after hours."

Although Levine encourages people to listen, he urges them to beware those who spread false COVID-19 warnings and fake news. "I have learned to remove them from my life. At Made In Workshop, we encourage thinking outside the box and positive problem-solving."

Aside from creating things, Levine enjoys thinking of new and exciting ways to embarrass his kids. He has picked up 23 cuts, knicks, and bruises this year alone, and has suffered 11 slight electrocutions. "It would be 12, but apparently tasing yourself doesn't count," he quips.

By the way, he doesn't like cheesecake.

Mantra: "Look after your staff."

BRING ISRAEL INTO YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS!!!

Become a Member/Supporter of the
South Africa - Israel Chamber of Commerce



The pride and pleasure will be all yours - **TAX FREE**

Contact us
073 673 8355 | jonathan@saicc.co.za

SAICC
SOUTH AFRICA ISRAEL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

ENTREPRENEUR AWARD NOMINEES

LARRY NUSSBAUM
YOUVIEW – ANY EVENT LIVE

“I really battled through school, to the point that I was told that I might need to consider writing matric elsewhere,” says Larry Nussbaum. “I was told that I wouldn’t be able to achieve anything because of my attitude.”

As an adult, he was diagnosed with ADHD (attention deficit hyperactivity disorder). “It was a huge confidence boost as it was affirmation that my drive to be successful was true, and everyone else didn’t understand me.”

Today, this community-driven man juggles working as a senior IT consultant and serving as technical director of YouView – Any Event Live.

The latter is a powerful, affordable, and accessible community service that livestreams events, simchas, and funerals.

With the COVID-19 pandemic preventing many from attending such events in person, YouView has become an in-demand service.

Having worked in the wedding industry for 25 years and in IT services for almost 20 years, Nussbaum founded YouView at a

time when South Africa was badly hit by pandemic-related death, illness, and loneliness.

“We saw a gap in assisting families to get closure by being able to attend the funerals and memorials of their lost loved ones. We have taken on partners, and are now the key men on the ground when it comes to webinars, Zoom, and Teams meetings.”

YouView assists the Chevrah Kadisha to livestream its funerals and unveilings online. It also employs members of the Jewish community who have hit hard times due to the pandemic.

So far, Nussbaum has given three community members regular work. He trained and upskilled them to understand basic photographic skills and the necessary technical skills to manage a livestream on their own.

He learned to be kind from his role model, his father, a pioneer in the wedding video industry in the early 1980s who “would give the shirt off his back to someone who needs it”.

As YouView grows, it will open more positions for people to



develop themselves. “One of the sectors we have targeted is education. We have already run events for Wits Medical School. We hope that we can give access to teachers and students who otherwise would have no access.”

Nussbaum believes educating people to interpret the validity of information online is essential for youth and adults. “Our biggest challenge is learning how to interpret what is and isn’t real on digital platforms. Information spreading like wildfire has been a major contributing factor to our

issues as a nation.”

Mantra: “Focus on the positive of every situation.”

SIMONNE SOLARSH
INTRINSICURLY ME

In a world where sleek, straight hair is considered desirable, curly-haired entrepreneur and innovator Simone Solarsh has helped young girls and older women to realise that they are beautiful the way they are.

“Through my business, IntrinsicCurly Me, I have offered hope and a sense of empowerment to people who, for most of their lives, have actively changed who they were every day to be accepted by society,” says Solarsh.

IntrinsicCurly Me was born out of Solarsh’s frustration with her own curly hair and her desperation to find a locally available and professional range of products she could trust. Encouraged by her desire to formulate and make such products for curly girls and guys, she started

IntrinsicCurly Me with no funds or outside investment. After many months of local and international research, its

products were taken to market and ready for sale in 2017.

The business has grown into the only local producer of salon professional hair products specifically for wavy, curly, and coily hair. Sold via an e-commerce store as well as a network of more than 50 hair salons in South Africa, these products have grown to become South Africa’s most trusted curly hair brand recommended by salon professionals countrywide.

Located in Bryanston, the business is made up of Solarsh and her close-knit team of eight. “I make it my mission to ensure that I provide them with an environment where upskilling and growth are recognised,” she says.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the business grew e-commerce sales, retained staff with full salaries, hired new staff, and successfully launched new products.

“By having an existing online store, IntrinsicCurly Me was perfectly positioned to provide at-home hair care during the pandemic,” says Solarsh.

With the business’s footprint in salons countrywide growing daily, Solarsh aims to make IntrinsicCurly Me the most trusted and reliable brand in the local curly hair market.

“As international interest in the brand grows, the business will be able to hit the overseas markets soon, allowing us to reach more people and touch more lives,” says Solarsh. “Continuous growth is integral to a successful business, and my massive vision for the business means growth for everyone personally. I subscribe to Richard Branson’s belief that if you look after your staff, they will look after your customers.”

Mantra: “What you think about you bring about.”

A globally
recognised
private equity
business built on
partnership and
family values

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners. You inspire us.



CAPRICORN
CAPITAL PARTNERS
Partnership Investing

Capricorn Capital Partners (Pty) Ltd

Call: +27 (0)11 666 0723

Email: info@capricorncapital.com

Website: www.capricornsa.com

Visit: Capricorn House, 32 Impala Road, Chislehurst 2196, South Africa, 2196

WHITEHOUSE

CONTINENTAL
LINEN BED BATH HOME

*Congratulations to all
the nominees*

SHOP LUXURY FOR LESS

WWW.BEDBATHHOME.CO.ZA



I **can** save towards my future plans with an Absa Depositor Plus Account

The Depositor Plus Account has the following benefits:

- Immediate access to your money.
- The higher your balance, the higher your interest rate.
- You pay no monthly fees.
- Your capital is guaranteed.
- There is a stop order functionality on request.

Save your money in this risk-free account with a minimum opening balance of R15 000 and ensure that your financial journey is worthwhile and gives you more!

Apply on absa.co.za/depositorplus/ or call us on 0860 11 15 15. Alternatively, visit your nearest branch.

We do more so you can. That's Africanacity.

Terms and conditions apply | Authorised Financial Services Provider | Registered Credit Provider Reg No NCRCP7