

russelkaplan rka
auctioneers

Indian silver and jewelled
wooden elephant
SOLD R7,000



Lalique Avallon,
opalcent vase
SOLD R30,000



Keith Savel Alexander,
The Fallen General and His Ruin,
oil on canvas
SOLD R400,000



**Art, antiques, objets d'art,
furniture, and jewellery
wanted for forthcoming auctions**

For more information 011 789 7422 • rka@global.co.za • www.rkauctioneers.co.za
Bram Fischer Centre, Lower Ground, 95 Bram Fischer Drive Cnr George Street, Ferndale, 2194

Russian late 19th century
cloisonné teaspoon
SOLD R7,000

south african Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

■ Volume 26 – Number 06 ■ 17 February 2022 ■ 16 Adar I 5782

www.sajr.co.za

Concourt orders Masuku to apologise for hate speech

NICOLA MILTZ

South Africa's highest court has ordered Bongani Masuku to apologise to the Jewish community for a series of hateful comments he made more than 13 years ago. He has been ordered to tender an unconditional apology within 30 days.

The long awaited and much anticipated Constitutional Court judgment confirmed on Wednesday, 16 February, that the former Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) international relations secretary must apologise for offensive and inflammatory remarks he made against the Jewish community in 2009.

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) has welcomed the judgment.

It brings to an end a protracted legal saga, shining a light on what exactly constitutes freedom of speech and hate speech in South African law.

In February and March 2009, Masuku made a series of inflammatory and hateful comments directed at the Jewish community supporting Israel, following deadly violence in Gaza.

The SAJBD laid a complaint of hate speech with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) which found in its favour, and referred the matter to the Equality Court which, in turn, found Masuku's statements to be hate speech in terms of the Equality Act. Masuku was ordered to apologise unconditionally to the Jewish community.

He refused to apologise, and took the matter on appeal.

The Supreme Court of Appeal (SCA) upheld his appeal against hate speech, finding Masuku not liable for committing an act of hate speech. The SCA found that the words

were protected speech, and didn't constitute hate speech in terms of the Constitution.

The SAHRC has continued to pursue the case against Masuku on behalf of the SAJBD since 2009.

"The ruling substantially upholds the conclusions reached initially by the SA Human Rights Commission and thereafter by the Equality Court that Masuku was guilty of contravening Section 10 of the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act 4 of 2000 [Pepuda]," said the SAJBD on Wednesday. "The SAHRC found Masuku's statements to have been of 'an extreme nature that advocate and imply that the Jewish and Israeli community are to be despised, scorned, ridiculed, and thus subjected to ill-treatment on the basis of their religious affiliation', and accordingly, as being 'offensive and unpalatable to society'."

The entire matter has to do with four disturbing statements made by Masuku in relation to the protracted conflict in the Middle East.

On 6 February 2009, Masuku stated on the website supernatural.blogs.com:

"Bongani says hi to you all as we struggle to liberate Palestine from the racists, fascists and zionists who belong to the era of their Friend Hitler! We must not apologise, every Zionist must be made to drink the bitter medicine they are feeding our brothers and sisters in Palestine. We must target them, expose them and doo all that (sic) is needed to subject them to perpetual suffering until they withdraw from the land of others and

stop their savage attacks on human dignity."

The Constitutional Court found this to be in contravention of the Pepuda Act.

The SAJBD said it was of the view that since the great majority of Jews in South Africa support and identify with Israel, Masuku's threatening and offensive comments in practice target the Jewish community.

expulsion of one's fellow citizens because of their political views. Such rhetoric crosses the line between legitimate comment and prohibited hate speech, especially when the targets of such hate speech are known to belong to an identifiable religious and ethnic group. Bongani Masuku's taunting reference to Jews who supported Israel as being

University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), Masuku made three further statements, also while representing Cosatu. When referring to Cosatu's intentions towards those who support Israel, he stated, "Cosatu has got members here even on this campus. We can make sure that for that side it will be hell."

He further remarked, "The following things are going to apply: any South African family, I want to repeat it so that it's clear for anyone, any South African family who sends its son or daughter to be part of the Israel Defense Forces must not blame us when something happens to them with immediate effect."

Finally, he stated, "Cosatu is with you, we will do everything to make sure that whether it's at Wits, whether it's at Orange Grove, anyone who doesn't support equality and dignity, who doesn't support the rights of other people must face the consequences even if it means that we will do something that may necessarily cause what is regarded as harm."

"It's quite telling that Cosatu basically refused for 13 years to apologise, given the insistence of the community

and the various branches of the law that this was an antisemitic remark," said Benji Shulman, the chairperson of the South African Union of Jewish Students at the time, and in the room when Masuku made the remarks. "It's unfortunate it took so long, but I'm happy that the Concourt has decided that this is what it is. I look forward to the apology."

Continued on page 5>>



Bongani Masuku addressing Cosatu members outside the Constitutional Court in August 2019

Photo: Nicola Miltz

'friends of Hitler' was especially hateful and was clearly intended to cause maximum hurt and offense."

"This ruling reaffirms the zero-tolerance towards any form of hate speech that underpinned our country's democratic culture, and as such, is a victory for all South Africans."

On 5 March 2009, at a rally convened by the Palestinian Solidarity Committee at the

SAJBD Chairperson Professor Karen Milner stressed that while the Board fully supported the right to freedom of expression, it didn't make it permissible to infringe on the fundamental right of others to equality and human dignity as enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

"Freedom of expression doesn't permit people to incite harm against and call for the

LAST WEEK

The Sky's THE LIMIT

Donate essentials online and help them reach for the stars.

STATIONERY & BOOKS

LUNCH & TREATS

OUTINGS & FUN STUFF

EXTRA MURALS & THERAPIES

UNIFORMS & HAIRCUTS

ARCADIA BACK TO SCHOOL 2022

WWW.JHBCHEV.CO.ZA/ARCADIA

Pandor doubles down on excluding Israel from AU

TALI FEINBERG

South Africa's Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor, this week vowed to ensure that Israel was excluded from the African Union (AU) in spite of the debate about Israel's observer status being officially suspended. She also alluded to distancing South Africa even

more from the Jewish state.

"We all know that our history of struggle and the values derived from it – against racism and colonialism – make us duty-bound to be a voice for the oppressed and marginalised everywhere," said Pandor during the State of the Nation debate on 15 February.

"We have vehemently, as South Africa, opposed the granting of African Union observer status to Israel by the chair of the AU Commission. Our objection stems from our own Constitution and its values, and the AU charter which rejects colonialism, racism, and the illegal occupation of the land of others. Our concerns are substantive, and they are shared by at least 24 other AU member states," she said, to supportive calls from the audience.

"Yes, it's true that South Africa has diplomatic relations with Israel, but this can't be used by anyone as a reason for bringing Israel into our union," she said.

"Our governing party resolutions directed us to downgrade our embassy in Israel," continued Pandor. "We withdrew our ambassador as part of this process of downgrading, and we're considering further measures to indicate our significant dismay at the continued apartheid practices of Israel against the long-suffering people of Palestine. We're studying the recent human-rights report on Israel [possibly referring to the Amnesty International report calling Israel an apartheid state], and hope to approach cabinet with a further proposed direct action against

well-documented apartheid practices of Israel."

Importantly, President Cyril Ramaphosa didn't talk about Israel or any foreign policy during his State of the Nation Address (SONA), choosing rather to focus on South Africa's myriad challenges. So, it's unclear why Pandor was speaking about Israel at a SONA debate.

When Pandor's speech was shared on social media, one person, Yasien Mohamed, pointed out that "The ANC [African National Congress] favours a two-state solution – she doesn't speak about that."

Another person, Saber Ahmed Jazbhay, said, "Yet SA [South Africa] has diplomatic ties with this country, Israel. Man, it's complicated."

But these more rational voices were overshadowed by extremists, including one Hanif Manjoo, who wrote, "[We] should identify all Zionists and deport or charge them for crimes against humanity or strip [them] of citizenship and deport them."

The question remains if Pandor would be so extreme if she knew her comments were fanning the flames of such antisemitic rhetoric. Her previously more moderate stance, where she spoke about a two-state solution and that South Africa wouldn't fully cut ties with Israel, seems to have gone out the window.

Responding to parliamentary questions on 7 June 2021, Pandor said, "South Africa recalled its ambassador accredited to the state of Israel, Mr Sisa Ngombane, in May 2018. The government remains seized with the modalities related to its diplomatic relations with the state of Israel. The department



Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor

will communicate any further actions still under consideration."

Then, she essentially held the line against pressure for South Africa to turn its back fully on Israel. Now, she seems more open to the idea.

Perhaps she's infuriated at the remarks made by AU Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat on 6 February 2022 at the AU summit in Addis Ababa, in which he defended his July 2021 decision to grant Israel observer status. He also criticised those who had campaigned against it – possibly pointing to South Africa – and implied that they had double standards.

Asked if her more extreme stance could be in response to the AU summit, local political analyst

Continued on page 4>>

Appliance Repairs on Site
Fridges, Dishwashers,
Washing Machines, Stoves
Tumble Dryers & more
Call Jason
082 401 8239 / 076 210 6532
FREE QUOTATIONS

**APARTMENT FOR SALE
IN PLETTENBERG BAY**
PRIME POSITION
Recently renovated 4 bed, 3 bath
fully furnished apartment.
With a small private garden overlooking
a green belt. Ideal opportunity (and
in time for PESACH) to have your
lock up and go place in Plett.
CALL COLIN: 082 411 5354

FRANK SOLOMON HEARING CENTRE
Have a love at first sound experience.
Phonak Audéo™ Marvel
A new all-in-one solution that improves
your hearing in everyday life and even
in the noisiest environments.

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

AFFORDABLE RANGE FOR PENSIONERS
CONTACT US TODAY:
(011) 849-6256
082 953 4628
Fairmount
6 George Ave,
Sandringham
Additional branches in
Benoni and Germiston
We are COVID-19 compliant

**VEHICLES
WANTED**
Any make, any model, any condition
Best prices guaranteed!
Arnold Orkin 082-823-7826
AUTO AFRICA

Torah Thought

Date with G-d shouldn't be rushed

I was sad when I read Howard Feldman's column in last week's *SA Jewish Report* (10 February 2022) advocating for shorter shul services. He writes beautifully, with humour, and to the point, and I often turn to his article first when I get my hands on the paper. It was precisely because his comments were so much to the point that I was so sad. I felt sad because if his opinion is shared by many, then my colleagues and I have failed dismally.

This week's Torah reading is the third, in a series of five, detailing the building of G-d's sanctuary. In the travelling tabernacle and subsequently in the temple built in Jerusalem, one visited and enjoyed the presence of Hashem, up close and personal, through the experience of daily miracles. Though we're no longer blessed with this level of divine revelation, we're fortunate to have mini-temples – our synagogues – wherever Jews live. There, we can, as King David describes in Psalm 27, "sit in the house of G-d to see the pleasantness of G-d and to visit His sanctuary".

Indeed, if shul attendance is a chore, if prayer is a mere obligation, then the quicker and the more expediently we do this the better. If, however, we learn to appreciate the privilege it is to be in the house of G-d, the blessing it is to be in His presence, and the gift it is to be able to address Him in the second person – "Thou", or in more modern times, "You" – then every additional moment is to be savoured and cherished.

Think of it as date night with your significant other, one that's going really well. You're enjoying every minute of each other's presence, and dread the moment the magic will end. You linger on, trying to make the evening last as long as possible. You order dessert, not because the menu selections look so interesting, but simply because this will delay the end of this magical tête-à-tête.

Could it be that some view shul as a very poor night out, when the conversation is really strained,

the atmosphere tense, and you want the waiter to bring the bill even before the plates have been cleared?

For months on end, lockdown after lockdown, our synagogues stood empty. Naively, we thought that the adage "absence makes the heart grow fonder" would apply, and that the moment the doors swung open, our flock would flock. If what our congregants now want is a leaner, more compact service, then we as rabbonim have failed to convey the privilege that is "sitting in the house of G-d and visiting His sanctuary". This makes me feel really sad.

I will leave the final word to King David once again, with the line from Psalm 26 we recite in the Ma Tovu prayer upon entering the synagogue: "G-d, I have always loved coming to Your house, the dwelling place where Your glory resides."

Rabbi Yossi Chaikin,
Oxford Synagogue
Centre



Shabbat Times brought to you by
Spencer Schwartz from You Realty
Residential Property Sales and Rentals (countrywide)

	Starts	Ends
Johannesburg	18:15	19:20
Cape Town	19:15	20:10
Durban	18:15	19:13
Bloemfontein	18:15	19:31
Port Elizabeth	18:15	19:41
East London	18:15	19:30
Jerusalem	16:48	18:05
Tel Aviv	17:10	18:06

The accepted practice is that once a woman finishes lighting her last candle, she automatically accepts Shabbat upon herself and may not even extinguish the match.
If a man wishes to light but not accept Shabbat until right before sundown, he should consciously stipulate so beforehand.

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

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

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

Audit Bureau of Circulations of South Africa
transparency you can see

INTERNATIONAL OPPORTUNITY / CALLING ALL CA (SA)s / RELATIONSHIP MANAGERS

Looking for CAs with 2-3 years post Articles commercial experience who are interested in relocating to Israel (English language essential) for an exciting opportunity.
This global organisation has offices across 11 jurisdictions with approximately 900 employees.
They are seeking a hands-on CA who is detail-orientated, methodical, thorough and has the ability to build and maintain strong relationships.
If you are looking to relocate and build your career with international exposure in Israel, we have the perfect role for you.

Please mail me on julie@ prismplacements.co.za or 082 454 9897 for a confidential chat

All quiet on Wits’ front, as community aids smooth registration

NICOLA MILTZ

Communal leaders and Jewish students have been integrally involved in ensuring a protest-free start to the academic year at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), with the registration process taking place peacefully.

Over the past few years, protests have erupted during registration because so many previously disadvantaged students have been unable to afford registration fees as well as other historical costs.

Many have taken to the streets in frustration after having been turned away by the university for unpaid fees. Protests turned to violence and vandalism and led to arrests.

Last year, a Wits student-led protest in Braamfontein led to the death of a bystander, Mthokozisi Ntumba, 35, who was allegedly shot by police during the clashes between them and protesting students.

The shooting left haunting images of the young father’s body lying on the pavement of Braamfontein. It occurred in the midst of protests around the campus as students raised grievances about unaffordable registration fees, a delay in National Student Financial Aid Scheme funding, and other issues such as accommodation woes.

Ntumba had just left a doctor’s office when he was allegedly shot. There was mayhem on campus and in the streets of Braamfontein, and several students were arrested and charged with public violence. The trial against four policemen accused of killing Ntumba is ongoing.

But, this year, things have been dramatically different.

Members of the Student Representative Council (SRC), South African Students Congress, and several members of the South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS) have tried to find an innovative solution to prevent the annual registration-related violence and mayhem.

Earlier this month, Wits SRC President Cebolenkosi Khumalo embarked on a marathon walk from the university’s Great Hall to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to help raise funds and awareness of the plight of students facing financial hardship. Students started the #PavingTheNext100 campaign, encouraging donations from corporates and civil society.

Several Jewish students and others accompanied Khumalo along the way.

Two thousand students will benefit from the R12 million raised jointly by the university and several sponsors, including the United Arab

Emirates (UAE) and Investec Bank and other student educational trusts.

Zev Krengel of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies approached the UAE explaining the issues, and was instrumental in obtaining R1.5 million from the UAE embassy.

“This is an incredible success story. The South African Jewish community and students have done their bit to make sure students can get back to university by helping to raise money to help them register. This has stopped the violence we have seen in Braamfontein in the past. Jewish students accompanied the proactive president of the SRC, Cebo Khumalo, as he walked to the Union Buildings to raise funds and awareness.”



Gabi Farber and Wits SRC President, Cebolenkosi Khumalo walking through the quiet Wits campus during registration week

Photo: Ilan Ossendryver

Student Shmuel Krengel, who assists the SRC president, accompanied Khumalo for 25km of the 60-odd kilometre walk on 2 February.

“It was an incredible day. We started at 05:00 in the morning,” he said. “Cebo got to the Union Building at about 18:00. Last year, Cebo said that we needed to come up with a plan to help 2 000 students at risk of exclusion due to financial difficulties. He wanted to try something different that would stop the violence, Krengel said.

“The walk wasn’t just about raising money, it was symbolic, and brought to life the need for conversation on the enormous problem of student debt, higher education in general, and the problems around registration.

“As a Jewish student, it’s important to



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

engage in the real problems facing South African students today. This is the society we live in, and we need to play a role to make this a better place for all.”

Wits SAUJS leaders Bethia Milner and Natanya Porter also took part in the walk to help raise funds and awareness.

recover from the harms of the past. As Nelson Mandela said, ‘Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.’”

Porter, SAUJS Wits vice-chairperson, said, “I don’t think it’s fair that students are excluded based on funds, and if there’s something I can do to help and show my support, I’ll do it. An uneducated South African will have an impact on us all. I believe we all have a role to play in solving this issue.”

Gabi Farber who is a member of the ANC Youth League Wits leadership told the *SA Jewish Report* there had been no protests this year.

“It has been a completely different environment to last year, where we were running in the streets getting shot at, suspended, and fighting tooth and nail for students. This year, we’re walking them straight to the admissions desk and getting them registered.”

Farber said it was important for Jewish students to get involved.

“We cannot fully experience privilege if others cannot experience that same privilege. Judaism prioritises education and as Jewish students, why should we be different?

“We have an obligation to *tikkun olam* [to heal the world] whether that be at Wits University or in South Africa. Wherever we go, we are missionaries of Hashem, and have an obligation to represent our Jewish values. For me, that means supporting the fight for free, decolonised education in South Africa. It’s the only way to fix our country, because once you give someone an education, it’s something nobody can ever take away.

“What I want to make unequivocally clear is that support doesn’t mean liking a post, it means truly getting involved and being on the ground. We can choose to be passive or active citizens of our beautiful but fractured country. I have chosen the second option, and hope with all my heart that other Jews will do the same,” Farber said.

JAWITZ

PROPERTIES

FOR SALE



GLENHAZEL | R 2 599 000

Ultra-modern 2/3-bedroom executive cluster on Glenhazel border. There is "Juliet" balcony off the main bedroom. It exudes style and has exquisite finishes from the triple volume front door to the interior. 2 Bedrooms with 2 bathrooms en suite and a separate guest powder room. An exciting "Ferrari" red Kitchen with separate scullery opens onto a very large dining and lounge area. The double volume aspect of the dining room enhances the beautiful open study on the upper landing. Private garden with open patio.
🏠 2 🚗 2.5
Joel Harris 082 926 0287
Laureen Shalpid 083 789 0229
Web Ref: RL82917

INVEST IN PROPERTY IN ISRAEL
FROM R5 MILLION

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

FOR SALE



GLENHAZEL | R 3 999 000

Asking More. A Rare Gem Indeed - 4-bedroom simplex cluster in Prime, Prime location of Glenhazel. 3 Spacious open plan reception rooms lead out to covered patio with built-in braai, delightful splash pool and manicured garden. Large modern eat-in kitchen. Fitted study. 4 Bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (main en suite). Double automated garage and single carport. Staff accommodation. Close to shops, schools and shuls in the area.
🏠 4 🚗 2
Joel Harris 082 926 0287
Laureen Shalpid 083 789 0229
Web Ref: RL83941

REAL LIFE

Real Estate.

FOR SALE



WAVERLEY | ASKING R 3 750 000

Secure and spacious cluster in Waverley with receptions flowing to an entertainers patio. It boasts a super kitchen with scullery, guest loo, main bedroom with walk-in closets downstairs accessing the garden and 2 beds and 1 bath and a study upstairs. Staff quarters and double garage all set in a well-manicured garden. Close to schools, shuls and shopping hubs, a must view.
🏠 3 🚗 2
Chrissie Hammer: 082 568 0440
Web Ref: RL85194

Registered with the PPRA



FOR SALE



MORNINGSIDE | R 16 999 000

Life with luxury, indulgence & convenience. This 6-bedroom all en-suite cluster of grand proportions in an exclusive security estate, is conveniently situated in Morningside! Set on an impressive 1000sqm stand, this home of approximately 1100sqm under roof has all the amenities that every high end buyer demands. Within walking distance of the Sandton Shul, in close proximity to excellent schools and on the doorstep of the Sandton CBD. A home where privilege and lifestyle converge.
🏠 6 🚗 6.5
Jeremy Craig: 076 246 4900
Web Ref: RL80344

Message in a bottle found hidden in Rustenburg Shul

TALI FEINBERG

A time capsule hidden behind the foundation stone of the Rustenburg Shul and discovered two weeks ago has unearthed documents written by people who founded that congregation, bringing to light memories and new connections for families now scattered around the globe.

The bottle was discovered by Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, the chief executive and spiritual leader of the Small Jewish Communities Association of South Africa, best known as “the travelling rabbi”. This isn’t the first time capsule he has discovered – he has found many behind foundation stones of defunct shuls over the years.

“It was the practice in those days to bury a time capsule to record history,” says Silberhaft. All the documents he has found have been recorded and archived in the South African Jewish Board of Deputies archive at Beyachad in Joburg.

One of Silberhaft’s finds was a time capsule in Uitenhage in 1999. “I’ve had that one for 20 years, but have been too scared to open it as I didn’t want to damage the documents inside,” he says. But after finding the Rustenburg capsule on 3 February 2022, he decided to try to open both bottles together.

The bottles were placed behind the foundation stones when each one was laid – Uitenhage in 1911 and Rustenburg in 1924. After asking on Facebook for someone who could help open the bottles without damaging the documents inside, Johannesburg glass expert Keith Feldman offered to open them.

Here, Silberhaft found another story that goes back more than a hundred years. “The business, Furman Glass, is 124 years old, owned by the same family for all that time. For the Rustenburg bottle, he cut open the base. The Uitenhage one was a big medical bottle. Keith was able to remove the documents with specialised tweezers.

“Inside the Rustenburg bottle, we found the list of the members of the executive at the time of the opening of the shul, and the original order of service for laying the foundation stone,” says Silberhaft. “Inside the Uitenhage capsule was a list of the founding members of the shul.

It was signed by the attorney general of the Eastern Cape, and the mayor of the town. There was also a community magazine dated 10 February 1911, a copy of the *Uitenhage Times* from 29 March 1911, and two one-shilling coins.”

According to the documents, the Rustenburg Hebrew Congregation foundation stone was laid by the president of the congregation, AH Wulfsohn, on 9 April 1924.

“AH Wulfsohn is Abraham Herman Wulfsohn, my maternal grandfather’s brother,” says Leanne Nathan, who lives in Johannesburg. “My mom knew him as Herman. There were five brothers: Moses, Sholem, Hyman Ber [Chaim Ber], Philip, Abraham, and a sister. I have a photo of all of the brothers with Harry Gavron [not related]. My mom’s dad was Hyman Ber. My mom, Rose [now 88, also in Johannesburg], left Rustenburg in 1952 when her parents passed away about six weeks apart in her matric year.”

The ceremony, as recorded in the time capsule, included the lighting of the perpetual lamp, a procession with the “Scrolls of the Law” (Torah scrolls) during which psalms were recited, the opening of the ark, the Torah being placed in the ark, a prayer for the royal family, and the singing of *Hatikvah*.

“I’m moved to note that *Hatikvah* was sung at the conclusion of this inaugural service, 24 years prior to the declaration of the state of Israel in 1948,” wrote Diane Wulfsohn Saulson – one of the many excited responses on Facebook to Silberhaft’s post about the time capsule.

United States. Is the shul of my childhood, adolescence, and early adult years to be demolished?” she asked.

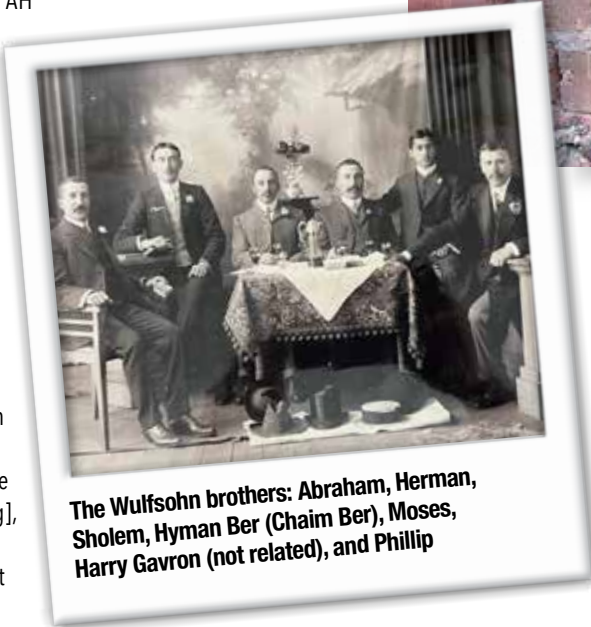
Silberhaft says that 98 years after the foundation stone was laid, the shul is in the process of being sold as there’s no longer a community in Rustenburg. The communal

Jacob Finkel Hall is being used as a primary school, while the shul has stood unused for 22 years. “When we sell a shul, we remove the foundation stones, which are then placed at the cemetery along with a history of the community,” he says.

“My grandfather built his family residence near the shul using similar building materials,” said Wulfsohn Saulson on Facebook. “We lived in that gracious home until 1987. We walked to shul for cheder lessons and Habonim activities. On Shabbat, we were often followed by our Alsatian dog, Romulus, who after opening the door with his nose would enter soon after services commenced. He would walk confidently to my dad’s seat and lie curled up at his feet for the duration of Shabbat evening services!

“Together with my nephew, Joe Turpin, we visited the shul in October 2018 with the help of Royden Chatz, who opened the shul for us. The familiar fragrance of the sanctuary and the old siddurim was immediately evident. Many precious memories.”

Talking to the *SA Jewish Report*, she says, “My grandfather arrived from Lithuania at the age of 16. His brothers followed him. The shul was



The Wulfsohn brothers: Abraham, Herman, Sholem, Hyman Ber (Chaim Ber), Moses, Harry Gavron (not related), and Phillip

built in honour and memory of their parents, Abel and Zena, who they never saw again. The time capsule is phenomenal. Realising it was there, untouched, through poignant events from 1924 until now is enormously emotional.”

A number of people also reconnected with long-lost family members thanks to the discovery. Nathan’s cousin, Sheryl Goldstuck, says, “My late mother was Jeanette Wulfsohn, the eldest of five children. Her parents were Hyman Ber (Chaim Ber) and Sorka (Sarah) Wulfsohn. Through the time capsule, I have managed to connect with distant cousins that I have never met. Joe Turpin and his twin brother, Sam, are the sons of the late Gisèle Wulfsohn, a well-known photographer. She was also Diane Saulson’s sister.

“Today [14 February 2022], Joe and Sam became Facebook friends as a result of the time capsule. Through Joe’s comments on Facebook, I also discovered Gisèle’s brother, Philip Wulfsohn, Joe and Sam’s uncle. I have

now connected with him, and we plan to meet the next time I’m in Cape Town.

“I always knew my mother came from an observant family, but I never realised how involved my grandfather was in the Jewish community of Rustenburg, and how pioneering the entire family was,” Goldstuck says. “The discovery has given me a great sense of pride in my forebears as well as a feeling of greater connection to the history of the Jewish community in country communities.”

Turpin, who is an artist in Johannesburg, says, “It’s bittersweet. I would rather that the bottle remained hidden forever. But this is the reality of urban migration. I’d like to produce a series of artworks about this bottle. It’s so extraordinary, especially when one considers the 98-year time frame.”

Adds Goldstuck, “I come from a small town myself, [Belfast, Mpumalanga], where my mother came to live after getting married. The town had only two Jewish families when I was growing up. So I didn’t have that sense of a community history. This time capsule has brought some wonderful perspective to my family story.”

Concourt orders Masuku to apologise for hate speech

>>Continued from page 1

“I can still recall his chilling threats and the hostile atmosphere that day in the Wits classroom,” said Alana Baranov, who was there in her capacity as diplomatic liaison for the SAJBD.

“With an epidemic of hate crimes in South Africa and rising levels of hate around the globe, all forms of hatred and discrimination in South Africa must be condemned.”

British academic David Hirsh, who teaches sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London, gave evidence when the matter was before the

Equality Court.

“South Africa is hugely important to the struggle against antisemitism. The memory of apartheid is appropriated to denounce Israel, and the Jews for whom it is important, as uniquely evil. Today’s news is that the court of the Constitution that replaced apartheid has spoken out against the demonisation of those who are called, with hatred, ‘Zionists’.

South Africa understands the difference between criticism of Israel and antisemitism. The rest of the world should follow.”



Committee of the Rustenburg Hebrew Congregation with Chief Rabbi Dr J L Landau, April 1924

She was saddened to see that the foundation stone had been removed. “I’m the granddaughter of Philip Wulfsohn and daughter of Cecil and Perla Wulfsohn, living in Atlanta in the

ISRAEL IS OPEN AND WE ARE BACK

From R7 429! Book now!



EL AL

www.elal.co.il

IT'S NOT JUST AN AIRLINE. IT'S ISRAEL

Changes may occur in the aircraft type due to operational considerations and the class may not be available. Terms and Conditions Apply. E&OE.

Justice is served – hate speech is not okay

It took 13 years to get the highest court in the land to demand that former Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) leader Bongani Masuku apologise to the South African Jewish community for his antisemitic hate speech.

Thirteen years is a long time to fight any case and, all along, there was an unrepentant man who refused to accept that what he said was hate speech.

I won't go over the things he said because putting it to paper again makes me quite sick. Suffice to say, it was ugly and you can read it in the story on page 1.

Whether he abides by the Constitutional Court judges or not is still to be seen, however the fact that he has been ordered to do so has, indeed, inspired much faith in our legal system.

In a number of recent cases, there seems to be a slight bias in favour of those who are unashamedly Israel haters. The most recent example is that of former Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng, who was ordered to apologise for something he said that was construed to be pro-Israel and political when it was really so much more about calling for peace and love for all. But then, that's how I read it. Others clearly differed, and he was forced to make an apology.

In an interview that was aired on eNCA after his apology, Mogoeng said he still believed that he said nothing contrary to government policy on Israel (which is what was raised in his appeal). But as a judge, he complied with the court order.

With regard to Masuku, whose statements represent the other extreme – ugly, hatemongering speech – his case has been taken through a number of courts. The appeals court dismissed his guilty verdict, but this has now been overturned by the Constitutional Court.

It's a relief, and I can only imagine the sighs of satisfaction in the offices of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies as it took on this mammoth task, seeing it through to what I hope is now the end.

I also hope that it sets a precedent that will ensure those who want to mouth off about Jews and spew hatred towards us think twice before doing so. Hopefully, if they aren't discouraged, we now have a legal path to ensure they don't get away with it.

This "othering", in other words separating people and making out that they are less than you are, is unacceptable on every level. Whether it's directed against Jews, black people, Muslims, Chinese, women, or any LGBTQ+ folk, it's never okay. It's unnecessary, and speaks volumes about the people who insist on spewing hatred, not the people being spoken about.

I remember many years back, someone asked me if Italians come from Italy, and Greeks come from Greece, where do Jews come from?

I battled to answer, because although Israel is a Jewish State, most of my family is from Lithuania and I have two grandparents who were born here. So, I'm fourth-generation South African, which makes me as much a part of this country as anyone else.

However, this same person then went on to suggest that us Jews should go back where we belong.

I can assure you this person didn't get away with their comments, but it did leave me taking stock of the Jewish community's contribution to South Africa. At the time, it was immense. It's even bigger now.

And though it's true that Jews' contribution to the economy is great because of our natural entrepreneurial and business acumen, that's just scratching the surface.

This isn't a brag session, I'm just trying to set the record straight on our priorities and our dedication to this country and its people.

While most of us have a genuine love and support of Israel, this is our home, and we're committed to doing what we can to develop and improve it. This includes helping to uplift all South Africans.

This week, we found out about the contribution that individuals in the community and Jewish leaders have made to ensure that young students are able to continue studying, with their university registration paid. Nobody called on our community to do this. It's something individuals and leaders have chosen to do off their own bat.

Could it genuinely have resulted in the cessation of protest marches, which have led to violence and vandalism in the past? I cannot say for sure, however, there haven't been the almost annual protests at universities this year.

Those being helped aren't Jewish. They aren't necessarily close to our community either. They're just students, who may or may not like the Jewish community. They may or may not get involved in Israel Apartheid Week. They may have strong opinions about Israel. Who knows?

The point is that nobody was asked what they felt, they were just helped. Such is the strength of commitment to this country and its people.

Such is our commitment to educating our South African nation. Such is our commitment to uplifting those in need. Such is our commitment to South Africa as a whole.

In this week's newspaper, we introduce you to another inspiring South African. Adam Levy is passionate about bringing people back to the city. He and many others are improving the Johannesburg city centre, doing their best to make it trendy and enticing to the young and fabulous. This is an amazing contribution.

Then, we look across this page at the op-ed by Lisa Klein, who makes it so clear what we can do to help create jobs. We can do it, and in so doing, we will once again be improving our country.

As we do that, we'll be inspired to do more. That's what happens when you help others.

Having said all that, when the Masukus of this world feel they can demean us and inspire hatred towards us, they really should remember that we are as much a part of this country as they are.

Shabbat Shalom!
Peta Krost Maunder
Editor



SONA offers businesses an opportunity to step up

OPINION

LISA KLEIN



"We all know that government doesn't create jobs. Business creates jobs." With these words, President Cyril Ramaphosa became the first South African president to give an unequivocal and public signal that the state's role is to "create an environment in which the private sector can invest and unleash the dynamism of the economy".

The opportunity is clear: there's an open door and, as business, we need to step in and step up. But how do we do so?

The story of Business for South Africa (B4SA) is a case study of an extraordinary public-private partnership set up to marshal business resources and capacity to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and support the national vaccination rollout. There are some key lessons from this historic and unique initiative that can inform our response to the opportunities presented by the SONA.

Briefly: in March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, B4SA was established by business organisations to assist and support government, including securing personal protective equipment and pharmaceuticals for the country, devising social and economic interventions to support small businesses and others negatively impacted by the crisis, and supporting the vaccine rollout.

Indeed, the achievements are many and world-class: private sites administer 31% of all vaccines (for both insured and uninsured); we have a more-than-sufficient vaccine supply (70 million doses); 42% of all adults are fully vaccinated; and the Unemployment Insurance Fund/Temporary Employer/Employee Relief Scheme paid out more than R64 billion to help businesses survive the pandemic.



Business, and in particular the private healthcare sector, made an immense contribution to saving hundreds of thousands of lives and accelerating the country's economic recovery.

We have learned some critical lessons that we can apply going forward:

1. Shared sense of purpose: in spite of their differences about how best to solve inequalities in access to and quality of healthcare in South Africa, leaders from the private healthcare sector and health department worked exceptionally well together in teams focused on specific deliverables. This wasn't the place for ideological debate;
 2. The best and the brightest: companies and professional firms (law, accounting, consulting) seconded pro-bono resources, and many others volunteered – at the peak, more than 450 individuals and 100 companies. All were of exceptional calibre. Egos didn't feature. Energy and smarts were key;
 3. Clear targets and timeframes: each workstream had targets, such as vaccinating 300 000 per day by August 2021. Targets focus activity on what matters and drive work rate. In fact, behavioural science motivates for both vision and goal setting. Ironically, we are doubly motivated by what we have to lose – loss aversion – rather than what we have to gain.
- The last point is particularly profound, because as a country, we suffer from declinism – we

believe our country is on an irreversible downward trajectory and we seek out negative signals to affirm our world view.

The latest global Ipsos "What worries the world" poll highlights that 81% of South Africans believe the country is headed in the wrong direction (versus the global average of 65%). South Africa tops the poll in terms of worries about unemployment and financial and political corruption – six in 10 people are concerned, and South Africa comes second out of the 28 countries on worries about crime and violence.

The central questions are twofold: first, are we in decline, and if yes, what do we do about it? The data is instructive. Before 2010, we experienced progress – for example, between 2006 and 2011, poverty levels reduced from 66.6% to 53.2%. However, since then, poverty has increased and our unemployment levels are at a record high of 34.9% according to the narrow definition. We also have visceral experience of decline: loadshedding, poor infrastructure, lack of progress on prosecuting those responsible for corruption and violence, and in the past two years, the COVID-19 pandemic. We experience poorer services which cost more: in the past decade, municipal rates and taxes have increased 118%. As Mayor Dr Mpho Phalatse put it, "The City of Joburg is in ruins."

So, if we're in decline, how do we choose to respond?

Again, behavioural economics is instructive: we can either choose to leave (flight) or stay and fight for a better country. The SONA provides us with an opportunity to do this. Again, we can be cynical, say it's more of the same, and retreat further from the public sphere, or we can change

our narrative and step up. From my involvement in business leadership organisations, I know that there's a real desire in the presidency and many government departments to collaborate with the private sector. B4SA was a spectacularly successful example, as demonstrated above.

As South Africans and as Jews, we have an amazing capacity to solve problems. We're entrepreneurial and have a can-do culture. We don't rely on others for our success, nor do we see our problems as intractable. Small initiatives can produce tangible results. In 9.5 months, Pothole

Patrol by Discovery and Dial Direct has filled more than 79 000 potholes using 27 workers and five trucks. Imagine replicating this and fixing our cities. Wouldn't this make us feel happier and more positive? More like we have something to lose, and more like we have something to fight for?

What we need right now is more of this positivity and the confidence that we can address our challenges. Attitude can change fundamentals, not the other way around.

Of course, the government has to stick to its side of the bargain and rapidly begin to deliver on and implement already agreed policies. This includes fixing the failing state-owned enterprises, moving decisively on crime and corruption, improving the business environment for all companies, and implementing structural reforms. If not, the flight response to decline will become more appealing.

However, for now, the upside of our many problems is the opportunities they create for entrepreneurs to build, and the freedom individuals have to genuinely make a difference. Let's use this opportunity of the SONA to continue to lead, to fight for and build a country we don't want to lose.

• *Lisa Klein is a member of the Business for South Africa steering committee, a director of the SA SME Fund, and works with Business Unity South Africa's leadership.*

Not implementing Concourt rulings is distinctly unkosher

OPINION

PAUL HOFFMAN



The long-awaited and much hyped State of the Nation Address (SONA) – delivered by President Cyril Ramaphosa from the Cape Town City Hall after Parliament was “Guy Fawkes-ed” – has been pored over and dissected ad nauseam.

This note concerns the paralysis about addressing the failure of the state to issue orange overalls to those involved in state capture, kleptocracy, serious corruption, and, since the pandemic, “covidpreneurism”.

In the vast majority of the corruption cases pending in South Africa, this bilateral, calculated, consensual crime involves at least one player in the public sector and at least one in the private sector. The huge backlog of cases and the avalanche of work for our prosecution service stemming from the work of the State Capture Commission (SCC) and the Special Investigating Unit on “covidpreneurism” has stacked up. This is simply because the criminal justice administration in South Africa is broken, hollowed out, and infested with saboteurs who make it their business to see to it that orange overalls aren’t issued to the corrupt.

HE KNOWS THAT THE RULE OF LAW IS SUPREME, AND HE SURELY KNOWS THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS IN BREACH OF THE RULINGS IN THE GLENISTER CASE THAT MADE THE STIRS CRITERIA BINDING ON HIS GOVERNMENT.

The culture of corruption with impunity is allowed to flourish in the absence of any deterrent effect attributable to successful cases leading to long sentences and the forfeiture of loot. This parlous position has been the case since the Scorpions unit in the prosecution service was closed down immediately after Jacob Zuma came to power at the Polokwane conference held in 2007. His comrades resolved that the Scorpions be dissolved urgently and replaced with the tame and inefficient police unit, the Hawks. The Hawks haven’t once landed a corrupt “big fish” during their entire existence. This unsatisfactory state of affairs has been litigated all the way to the highest court in the land, not once but three times, by Johannesburg businessman Bob Glenister. He won a famous (and unexpected) victory in March 2011 when the narrowest possible majority of the court found that the Hawks weren’t constitutionally compliant. The court found they weren’t structured and equipped to function as an effective and efficient anti-corruption entity of adequate independence. In reaching this conclusion, the court set out the criteria for corruption busters. They must be specialised, trained, and independent, with

guaranteed resources and secure tenure of office. These criteria have been compressed into the STIRS acronym, which even features in the National Anti-Corruption Strategy. The effect of closing the Scorpions down is that today, investigation of corruption is done by the Hawks (sometimes) and prosecution without fear, favour, or prejudice, is done by the National Prosecuting Authority after actionable dockets are presented by the Hawks. The combined failure of these two institutions to deal with the avalanche of work isn’t their fault. It’s the fault of the government because it was Parliament that was ordered by the Concourt to put in place effective and efficient anti-corruption machinery of state. Very little capacity to do this work exists, as is plain from the track record of the Hawks and those prosecutors involved in anti-corruption work. This illegality is less than kosher, and hasn’t gone unnoticed. Since 2012, Accountability Now has been advocating for the establishment of a Chapter Nine Institution to fulfil the task set in the Concourt judgment. The government has remained deaf to its advocacy and entreaties. Since 2020, matters have started to move in the direction of the issuing of orange overalls. The president was asked to address the lack of attention to certain developments on the anti-corruption front in South Africa. A direct request that he deal with the following developments was essentially ignored:

- The resolution of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress (ANC) announced on 4 August 2020 in which Cabinet was urgently instructed to establish a new, permanent, specialised, and independent anti-corruption entity;
- The draft legislation and constitutional amendment proffered by Accountability Now in August 2021 which put flesh on the bones of the ANC resolution in a way that seeks to be constitutionally compliant by recognising the binding nature of the majority judgment in the 2011 Glenister case;
- The efforts of the Democratic Alliance to prepare a private members bill that addresses the shortcomings of the Hawks who are supposed to investigate grand corruption but don’t; and
- The recommendations of the SCC as regards the need to counter corruption in the procurement field.

(Let’s all pray that a recommendation to end cadre deployment in the public service and state-owned enterprises will follow in the third tranche of the SCC report due at the end of February 2022.) There’s simply no political will to seize the nettle and take the necessary remedial steps by way of legislation that addresses the contemptuous failure to implement the STIRS criteria both by the Zuma and Ramaphosa administrations. The fact that both administrations harboured – and still harbour – the kleptocrats is explanation

for the lack of compliance with the binding court rulings. It’s worth reflecting on the fact that had the Scorpions enjoyed the secure tenure of office available to all Chapter Nine Institutions in our law, they would still be in existence today. And then Zuma would most likely not have been able to occupy the west wing of the Union Buildings because of the interest the Scorpions took in his corrupt relationship with his financial advisor, Schabir Shaik. Ramaphosa is a trained lawyer. He brokered the settlement that gave rise to the constitutional order now in place in South Africa. He knows that the rule of law is supreme, and he

surely knows that his government is in breach of the rulings in the Glenister case that made the STIRS criteria binding on his government. He needs to develop the spinal fortitude necessary to enable him to pilot the remedial legislation required through Parliament. His electability is at stake – he’s dithering around his desire for ANC unity and his personal political ambitions. It would be a lot more kosher to focus on reforming the criminal justice administration.

• Paul Hoffman SC is a director of Accountability Now. He was lead counsel for Glenister.

ALL THEY NEED IS YOU, LOVE & A YUMMY SCHOOL LUNCH!



REMEMBER
YOUR DONATION
IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Help parents who battle to provide school lunches
Donate to the Ohr Natanel School Lunchbox Project
So kids can have a nutritious school lunch
With some delicious snacks too!

OHR NATANEL SCHOOL
LUNCHBOX PROJECT

DONATE NOW

YADAHARON.CO.ZA



PROVIDING FOOD FOR CHILDREN

Call: 011 485-2076 or 011 640-2106

Danilee.co.za 16/01/2022/2001

HOLD REAL ESTATE

SECURING YOUR FUTURE IN ISRAEL

Your Dreams,
Our Business

LET US HELP YOU FIND THE
PERFECT PROPERTY IN ISRAEL!

From new complexes in cities along the Israel's coastline to projects in new areas of development and growth, our portfolio offers a variety of solid investments for people abroad looking to buy property in Israel.



44 Yehezkel Street
TEL AVIV

Live in the heart of the city in this boutique building located in Old North Tel Aviv. This prime location is situated where the city, beach and Hayarkon park converge.

PRE-SALE PRICES FROM
NIS 4,700,000



Rovina
HERZLIYA

This development is a gem in the heart of one of the most popular cities. Located near the IDC overlooking the beautiful Herzliya Park, with sprawling lawns, sports fields, and playgrounds.

PRICED FROM
NIS 3,200,000



Savyon View
JERUSALEM

Enjoy a luxurious lifestyle in the heart of Jerusalem. The Savyon View Tower residents have spectacular views from unique roof gardens and more.

PRICED FROM
NIS 2,550,000



Set up an appointment:

Contact Julian Nathan
✉ julian@hold.co.il

+27 87 551 0734
+972 58 631 9754

Visit our website:
www.hold.co.il

www.hold.co.il

Why abuse should be dealt with by professionals

OPINION

Of late, our attention has been drawn to the scourge of sexual abuse within our communities both here and abroad, often with catastrophic outcomes.

As a community, we’re required to be alert and vigilant to any devious and suspicious circumstances surrounding children that could put them at risk.

We respond to this by providing compassionate support and care to victims, while concurrently reporting these disturbing and heinous acts to authorities so that the persons who perpetrate them can be investigated and prevented from pursuing their nefarious conduct unabated.

These disturbing practices may be perpetuated over time as they are shrouded in silence and rendered invisible due, in the main, to fear of exposure, confusion about reporting, and being unaware of the investigative process itself.

Abuse of children in particular is one of the most heinous crimes we are faced with as a society, and it generally elicits an equally heightened emotional response of outrage and protest.

As a response to the plethora of reaction, it’s necessary to clarify what seems to be at times distorted views about how a Child Protection Organisation (CPO) operates.

As context, we have to consider society’s experience of the exposure of sexual-abuse matters, which can be captured by the following:

Emotional response – As children are deemed vulnerable and precious, witnessing or hearing about them being hurt or



THERE CAN BE NO KEENER REVELATION OF A SOCIETY’S SOUL THAN THE WAY IN WHICH IT TREATS ITS CHILDREN.

neglected awakens appropriate protective and at times highly emotional responses. This may result in reactions that have minimal awareness of consequences and that may complicate the problem rather than solve it.

Incomprehensible – People are generally loving and kind towards children, and want to see the best for them, therefore it’s difficult to understand abuse of children in any form.

There’s much discourse about the reasons for child abuse. The factors leading to child abuse, by their very nature, have to be individualised and therefore, thorough investigation with a professional lens is required.

It’s hard for community members to allow authorities to deal with the situation, as the outrage and protest against such abhorrent

behaviour is loud and demands immediate response.

However, taking matters into one’s own hands may hinder and even sabotage more helpful processes and responses.

This reactive approach of wanting to expose the offender at any cost is based on the hope that this exposure itself will immediately deter the offender and other potential offenders. Sadly, this type of intervention, no matter how well intentioned, may have an undesired alternate effect.

Exposure isn’t a “treatment method”, and may have unintended consequences.

Once exposed, the alleged perpetrator may simply go underground, destroy incriminating evidence, and sabotage investigations that have been triggered. Denial of any wrongdoing is likely to emerge.

The victims and their families may feel extremely vulnerable and fear personal exposure which throws light on them without adequate support and guidance. This may result in tragic outcomes such as suicide and self-harm and at times, the wish to withdraw the report or failure to participate in the investigation itself.

This lack of appreciation of the impact that premature exposure may have both on the alleged victim and the alleged perpetrator/offender, is an aspect that cannot be ignored.

Harsh punishment

The “lock up and throw away the key” response is often deemed to be the only meaningful consequence to alleged abuse of any kind. This leaves one satisfied that this proclivity has been dealt with and because we’re so outraged, the reaction by activists is often applauded. Sadly, this may have short-term gratification and a limited effect on others who perpetrate abuse.

Abusive practices in families

It’s often believed that people who neglect or abuse children (even their own families) should be harshly punished and should never have access to children again. But, strong bonds are formed between parents and children. These bonds prevail regardless of the practices of neglect or abuse, with children often wishing to maintain those positive parts of their relationship with their parents.

So, while removal would seem the wisest response, children often grieve the loss of their family relationships, resulting in agonising self-harming behaviour and withdrawal. Ideally then, restorative and family preservation interventions for both parents and children may emerge as more favourable options.

These interventions are the purview of CPOs regulated by legislation through Children’s Court enquiries and the criminal justice system to ensure that necessary

steps are taken.

In instances, however, criminal acts may result in abusers being removed from society, and it may not be to children’s advantage or interest to resume the bond.

That said, restoring broken relationships is individualised, and it’s designed according to the voice of the child and their well-being, even if it’s difficult for the community to understand or accept.

Society’s response to allegations

When people hear about abuse, blame and shame is triggered.

Fingers are pointed at teachers, religious institutions, organisations, the police, or at each other.

In reality, abuse is often hidden by victims and abusers, therefore it’s not easily identified. In acknowledging this, there are factors that would alert professionals to possible abuse.

Altered behaviour in a child, such as depression, poor school performance, social withdrawal, oppositional behaviour, and self-harming practices, should be taken seriously, and professional advice should be sought.

In regard to reporting, there’s unfortunately a plethora of misinformation and misunderstanding in all sectors of our community as to the process of reporting, the implications thereof, as well as how these investigations are approached.

HOWEVER, TAKING MATTERS INTO ONE’S OWN HANDS MAY HINDER AND EVEN SABOTAGE MORE HELPFUL PROCESSES AND RESPONSES.

In general, once reported, the alleged perpetrator will immediately be investigated and arrested.

There is a failure to appreciate that we are all bound by the laws of the land, and these investigations are often complex, difficult, highly sensitive, and subject to the same scrutiny and voracity as any other alleged serious impropriety.

Calculated and strategic responses seek to professionalise the disclosure or revelations of allegations of abuse. This requires measured, regulated, and impartial investigation and assessment leading to well-thought-through responses.

This may be perceived by the community as “slow” progress or “a hesitancy to take action”. This view is inaccurate.

It’s imperative that all those concerned with the well-being of children in our community collaborate in the service of deeply held values and mutual purpose.

All said, “There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children. Let us do whatever we can to support their fight to rise above their pain and suffering” – Nelson Mandela

• *Brenda Lasersohn is on the Chevrah Kadisha’s board of governors. She has been a psychologist in private practice since 1986. She has extensive experience as a psychotherapist and forensic psychologist, and has provided consultation, supervision, and psychotherapy training to Chevrah Kadisha Social Services for more than 30 years. Brenda was appointed to the Chev Board in November 2018.*



BRENDA LASERSON



PESACH AT THE PRESIDENT

Bantry Bay, Cape Town
15 – 24 April 2022

The iconic President Hotel invites you to experience an inspiring Pesach at our popular hotel in Cape Town. The highest level of Kashrut will be maintained under strict Rabbinical supervision of **Kosher SA**. The President Hotel offers breathtaking views of the Atlantic Ocean set against the backdrop of the famous Lion’s Head

and Table Mountain, a stone’s throw from the Sea Point Promenade and beachfront. Located in sought-after Bantry Bay, within the **Eruv** and easy walking distance of **five Shuls** and a **mikvah**. Other nearby attractions include **Jewish Museum** and **Holocaust Centre** tours, as well as the flagship **Gardens Shul**.

HERE’S WHAT YOU CAN LOOK FORWARD TO

- Exquisite Pesach Cuisine by Avron’s Catering
- Serving Glatt Kosher, Cholov Yisroel, Bishul Yisroel
- Chol Hamoed Entertainment
- Kosher Dairy and Meat Kitchen
- Sedarim Accoutrements (Private, Semi Private or Rabbi-led Sedarim Options)
- Fully Stocked In-house Shul
- Stimulating and Dynamic Guest Speakers
- Authentic and Inspiring Experience
- Spacious Rooms and Apartments
- Exceptional Personal and Friendly Service
- Kids Programme and Kids’ Play Area
- Babysitting Services
- Outdoor Infinity Pool
- In-house Spa, Hair and Nail Salon



Experience Pesach. At The President

FOR INFORMATION OR TO BOOK
Email pesach@presidenthotel.co.za or call +27 (0)21 434 8111





MATANOT LE'E'EVYONIM

EVERY RAND IN THE HAND OF SOMEONE IN NEED

ON PURIM DAY

SMARTCAN

Search
"Chevrah Kadisha" or
"Smartcan"



EFT

Chevrah Kadisha
Standard Bank
Johannesburg

Account number

00 154 253

Ref: Full name
& ML22

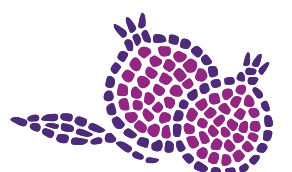
WEBSITE

www.jhbchev.co.za

SMS

"Purim"
to **37613**
and we will call
you back

SNAPSCAN



ChevrahKadisha

Ex-Herzlia boys turn crypto arbitrage into an exceptional investment



Ex-Herzlia boys Josh Kotlowitz and Harry Scherzer are making waves in the crypto arbitrage space due to their exceptional product and service. Kotlowitz and Scherzer are the co-founders of Future Forex, a Cape Town-based company that offers automated crypto arbitrage trading.

Kotlowitz and Scherzer had separately been investigating the crypto arbitrage space for a number of years prior to partnering. Each was investing their own funds and enjoying remarkable returns. A chance encounter at an Ohr Somayach event led them to realise that they both wanted to create something new, and that each had the grit and skills needed to build a business. These two childhood friends, Scherzer an actuary and Kotlowitz an engineer, have used their complementary skills in entrepreneurship, technical engineering, and finance to create a unique business model that allows clients to maximise their returns with minimal risk.

In spite of its rather cryptic name, crypto asset arbitrage is a relatively straightforward process. It involves buying a crypto asset such as Bitcoin or Ethereum on an offshore exchange and instantly selling it on a South African exchange at a profit. This is possible because crypto assets are typically cheaper to buy overseas, but hold higher value in South Africa due to greater demand and less availability. Crypto assets typically trade at a 2% to 5% premium in South Africa. Arbitrage allows you to capitalise on this market inefficiency by buying the asset at a cheaper price on the overseas market and selling it at a higher price locally. This process is repeated multiple times throughout the year, generating exceptional returns for clients. Unlike buying actual crypto currency, which is volatile, investing in crypto arbitrage is a low-risk process.

To minimise risk, Future Forex has developed a fully hedged trading system that ensures that clients aren't exposed to any foreign exchange or cryptocurrency fluctuations which they would otherwise be vulnerable to when performing crypto arbitrage. Its fully hedged system is achieved by locking in the sell rate of the crypto asset at the same instant that it's bought. This allows Future Forex to predict reliably a client's return on their trade at the instant it's being executed. Clients can choose to set a minimum targeted return, such as 1.5%, and Future Forex will initiate a trade only if this target will be met or exceeded.

The beauty of this system is that profit is low-risk and quite predictable. Future Forex estimates that, in

current market conditions, its clients can make up to R150 000 annually. Profit is dependent on a couple of factors, namely the amount invested per year and the amount of annual foreign exchange allowance you utilise. Clients can trade multiple times per year until they reach their foreign exchange allowance cap.

South Africans are permitted by law to send up to R11 million abroad per calendar year. This comprises a R1 million single discretionary allowance and a R10 million foreign investment allowance. A portion of your foreign exchange allowance is used each time your funds are sent

Harry Scherzer matriculated from Herzlia in 2011. He studied actuarial science at UCT, and is a qualified actuary with a strong financial and risk-management background. Scherzer's technical ability and strong interpersonal skills have allowed him to create successful relationships, aiding the growth of Future Forex.

As chief executive of Future Forex, Scherzer heads up the company's business development, trading desk, and strategic oversight while also taking a hands-on approach to building close relationships with his clients.

Josh Kotlowitz matriculated from Herzlia in 2010. He graduated top of his class at UCT and University College London, where he received his MSc in Space Science and Engineering with distinction. Kotlowitz brings his rocket-scientist skills as chief technical officer at Future Forex to lead the product development and automation teams. His comprehensive technical engineering and software background allows him to focus on trading efficiency, streamlining the client experience, and exploring new investment opportunities.



Harry Scherzer



Josh Kotlowitz

abroad to purchase crypto assets. This caps the total value that each individual can invest within one year, effectively limiting the profit that can be made annually. It's both a blessing and a curse in that the foreign exchange allowance limits an individual's total profit, but is the very reason this arbitrage opportunity exists in the first place. Regardless, returns of R150 000 per year are nothing to sneeze at.

The investment process has been streamlined to be as simple as possible. Future Forex has developed an automated system, and facilitates the process from start to finish. It assists clients in registering a Future Forex account and in opening a foreign exchange account with Mercantile Bank (a division of Capitec Bank). Funds are sent to clients' offshore accounts and trades are then executed by Future Forex's in-house traders using automated and proprietary software. Profits are returned to the client's local bank account, and the process is repeated.

To make the experience as administratively hassle-free as possible, clients have access to a relationship manager, who guides them through the process step-by-step. Future Forex has assembled an expert team of dedicated professionals whose goal is to maximise profit for their clients.

This goal has certainly been achieved, with an average annualised return of 70%. Future Forex has processed more than R1.5 billion in trades at the time of writing, and has a track record of 100% profitability. Owing to the predictability of returns and hedging of market risks, every client has made a profit. To partner with Future Forex in the crypto arbitrage space, a minimum investment of R100 000 is required.

Future Forex doesn't take any management fees for its service. Rather, to ensure that its clients' interests are aligned with its own, it takes a percentage of profits earned. One of the chief reasons Future Forex uses this model is its desire for an alignment of interests between the company and its clients. Transparency is another key ethos. Clients receive detailed statements highlighting their return and the costs involved at the completion of each trading cycle. There are zero hidden costs, and open communication is prized.

Find out more by visiting www.futureforex.co.za.

Alternatively, contact the Future Forex team on info@futureforex.co.za or 021 518 0558.



Future Forex

Your partner in low-risk, high-yield
Crypto Asset Arbitrage

**Profit off the crypto space without
the associated risk**

70%

Average
Annualised
Return



futureforex.co.za



+27 (0)21 518 0558



info@futureforex.co.za

Zetlers at forefront of Ramaphosa’s cannabis revolution

TALI FEINBERG

Just days before President Cyril Ramaphosa devoted a section of his State of the Nation Address (SONA) to the opening up of the cannabis industry in South Africa, two Jewish entrepreneurs achieved a first for the country by exporting cannabis tissue culture to Israel. Though the Zetlers are most well-known for farming strawberries, they have now branched out – literally – into the booming field of medical cannabis.

In his SONA, Ramaphosa said, “The hemp and cannabis sector has the potential to create more than 130 000 new jobs. We are therefore streamlining regulatory processes so that the hemp and cannabis sector can thrive like it is doing in other countries such as Lesotho. Our people in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and elsewhere are ready to farm with this age-old commodity and bring it to market in new and innovative forms.”

Four Zetler generations have worked the land in Stellenbosch, and now brothers Barry and Leslie Zetler are taking the business into the 21st century and beyond. In 2017, their medical cannabis company, Felbridge, applied to become a licensed cannabis producer. The move came soon after the landmark Constitutional Court ruling which decriminalised private, personal use of cannabis.

Felbridge’s licence to grow cannabis on 14 000 square metres of farmland was granted by the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority in 2019. The Constitutional Court ruling has played an important role in drawing the roadmap

for the commercialisation and industrialisation of cannabis, and now Ramaphosa’s promise to formalise the industry means the “green economy” should explode in the months to come.

And the Zetlers are first out of the gate. “Cultivation is our heritage – it’s in our blood,” said Felbridge Chief Executive Leslie Zetler, the day after the SONA. “This is just another crop. Like all crops, it needs fertiliser, water, and sunlight. At the same time, it’s new and interesting and is a difficult, technical crop.”

They knew they wanted to get into the industry as soon as the regulations changed, and submitted the application as soon as they could. “We were first through the door. I think we were the fifth company to be licensed in the country,” Leslie says. “It’s not straightforward, as there’s a lot of documentation required and you need a lot of extra security. This is a long term play. You don’t get returns on day one.”

So, what exactly is cannabis tissue culture? “There are three ways to grow a plant,” says Leslie. “The first is with seed. This is the cheapest and easiest, but the quality is uneven because each seed is slightly different. Even in the same strain, there’ll be variety. So it’s not the best way for medical cannabis, which needs absolute consistency and stability to get the exact same result. A seed can’t guarantee this.

“The second way is to take a cutting from a ‘mother plant’, which is also a good way to farm, but the quality can deteriorate over time.

“The third option is to take tissue culture from the plant, which is then



grown in a laboratory under artificial light, in a sterile environment, and using artificial intelligence. “Tissue culture is the gold standard in propagation of any plant,” says Barry, chief financial officer of the company.

“Working with tissue culture creates a genetic library that’s of the highest biological quality. These cultures grow exponentially – so from one to two, two to four, and four to eight. It’s a complete genetic copy, and is completely consistent, free of viruses, disease, or pathogens. Tissue culture also allows cultivators to reproduce harvests at a lower cost than alternatives such as rooted clones or seed, which can be inconsistent and time consuming.”

Leslie notes that to get agricultural produce through international borders is extremely difficult. “There’s no other commodity more difficult to ship than cannabis,” he says. It has to go through customs, agriculture, and health departments. And in Israel in particular, where the market is highly regulated and incredibly bureaucratic,

it’s a significant achievement – especially because it was shipped without any delay.”

The shipment to Israel was in partnership with Perfect Plants, a leading biogenetics company based in the Netherlands, and it’s the first time that cannabis tissue culture has been exported from South Africa to a licensed producer in Israel. They have also shipped thousands of tissues to producers in Spain, North Macedonia, Switzerland, and Lesotho.

Though the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement may be disappointed that South Africa is exporting to Israel, the venture “has created 40 jobs from scratch, which we hope to double within the next year, and has created a very positive image of South Africa. In addition, we’re working with the Western Cape agriculture department to grow the industry. We’re assisting in training people from previously disadvantaged backgrounds,” says Barry.

They feel that Ramaphosa’s comments are “promising, and we

hope to be part of that growth”. “There’s a lot he can do to open up the industry quickly, that will really accelerate things,” says Leslie. For example, changing regulations around hemp farming would open up many new avenues for production and job creation, and could even be used to create bioplastics that are biodegradable. “Because we have an agricultural economy already, we’re well-positioned to do this,” he says. “This could be the answer to the country’s unemployment woes. Agriculture is the perfect entry point to employment. We’re optimistic about South Africa, and we want to be the driver of positive change.”

Another entrepreneur in the medical cannabis industry, who asked not to be named, says regulating the industry will also have benefits for people consuming cannabis in South Africa.

“Civilised societies don’t criminalise mildly dangerous activities. Tobacco, alcohol, and gambling are legal and regulated, and each is more dangerous and harmful than cannabis – by a fair distance. We need a regulated market in South Africa in which the government plays an important role in ensuring quality and safety, just as it does with food and medicine. That way, adults will be able to know the dosage and effect of any cannabis they put into their bodies. If the government can see its way to doing this, as has been done in Canada and various states in the United States, it will weaken organised crime, increase tax takings, and create jobs. Let’s hope it does it quickly!”

Ramaphosa “not our second chance, he’s our last hope”

SAUL KAMIONSKY

South Africa has unreliable electricity, water scarcity, record unemployment levels, a lack of women in leadership positions, and two published state-capture reports showing wide-scale looting. Easy solutions are hard to find – this is the real state of the nation.

So said former Democratic Alliance leader Tony Leon, Professor Bonang Mohale, and billionaire businesswoman Magda Wierzycka, who spoke at a *SA Jewish Report* webinar titled “South Africa – this is the real state of the nation!” on 9 February 2022.

Never mind the past year, the week leading up to the webinar had been shape shifting in South Africa, said Leon.

He cited the “devastating” report on the July 2021 civil unrest, which according to Mohale, led to “More than 60 million South Africans having collective trauma, from which they haven’t recovered.”

The findings show the failure of leadership, “including in Ramaphosa’s office and his person”, said Leon.

“The second debacle over the past few days is the non-appointment of the chief justice, with scumbag politicians going after Dunstan Mlambo, an outstanding jurist who didn’t deserve that kind of revolting treatment,” he said.

The former South African ambassador to Argentina continued, “This attack on the judiciary and judicial officers is being fuelled by a senior member of

Ramaphosa’s own cabinet, Lindiwe Sisulu, who attacked them from another perspective, talking about ‘house negroes’, independent judges who happen to be black. The president has been largely silent on this matter. He needs to actually man up, and say, ‘Look, there have been some mistakes and failures on my watch.’”

Mohale, the president of Business Unity South Africa, described the African National Congress (ANC) as a “waning, corrupt, morally bankrupt, self-serving, self-indulgent, self-absorbed, rand-seeking, mostly rural, indecisive party, now best known for differing on key socio-economic issues with a tempestuous approach to policy”.



As for corruption, Sygnia Chief Executive Wierzycka said, “There’s functional corruption and dysfunctional corruption.”

The former, she said, was present in a county like China. “The government kind of strikes a little bit of a social contract with the population. The social contract is, ‘Let us steal what we want to steal, but we will make the economy work, we will create jobs, we will make sure that infrastructure works.’”

Dysfunctional corruption, on the other hand, can be found in South Africa and India, where, according to Wierzycka, “There’s just looting. There’s no giving back.”

Leon said Public Prosecutions Director Shamila Batohi hadn’t been successful in getting the corrupt behind bars. “Miss Batohi seems to be a snail. [Her predecessor], Shaun Abrahams, was a sheep. So, no one’s going to see – unless something dramatic happens – those who are responsible for the plundering of our resources going to jail.

“That puts the ANC in a very difficult position. Ramaphosa told us last August that he would rather be a weak president than preside over the disintegration of his party. But actually, you can’t move forward while the crooks, charlatans, and the RET [radical economic transformation] faction stay together with more mainstream constitutionalists such as Ramaphosa himself. It’s just not possible. Both are pulling in totally different directions. The electorate will react against that. It will do it either by staying away or by voting for an opposition party.”

Leon thinks the ANC won’t get more than 50% of the vote in the next general election.

“Ramaphosa is going to use the basic income grants to try and keep support or buy it,” Leon said. “But really, at R350 a month, you’ve got to be hard-pressed to have enormous gratitude to a government that delivers this as opposed to the national minimum wage of R3 500 a month, or even more than that. There’s a ten times differential between the legal amount you have to pay workers and the handout, as it were.”

Leon believes Ramaphosa can do nothing to address that, except further bankrupt the country.

“Ramaphosa isn’t our second chance, he’s our last hope,” said Mohale. “If we mess it up this time, we’re just going to be another failed African country. So, all indications are that come the ANC elective conference,

he’ll be elected. I’m hoping that because it will be his second term in the ANC, he’ll go for broke, because instinctively, he knows what needs to be done. He’s yet to find his bite.”

Asked by the webinar’s host, Howard Sackstein, what prevented Ramaphosa from being the president we would love him to be, Mohale said, “Our problem has been the doing, the execution. If there was an Olympic sport about developing plans, South Africa will win hands down.”

According to Wierzycka, that’s not going to change. “The man we’re seeing is the man we’re going to see for the remainder of his term,” she said. “We’re pinning our hopes to the optics of the man. I think he’s charming. He has charisma. But will he make the hard decisions? Will he suddenly develop a strategy for the country? No.”

On a positive note, Wierzycka said, “There’s a heck of a lot of money waiting to be deployed into credible infrastructure projects.”

She talked about three such projects: “Independent power production will allow people to produce their own power and link to the grid. The second is water infrastructure. It’s one thing to deal with blackouts, it’s another to deal with no water, or the water being unfit for consumption, then you’re dealing with a humanitarian crisis on as massive a scale as the pandemic. The third would be transportation – fixing up railways, making ports more efficient, fixing roads, and potholes.”

Regarding the issue of blocking foreigners from coming to South Africa, Wierzycka said, “It’s horrific in terms of its implications because we should be importing skills. In fact, we’re in a position where we should be recalling from retirement those people who know how to maintain power stations.”





The
South African
Gold Coin
Exchange
THE MARKET LEADERS

INFLATION-PROOF YOUR MONEY WITH GOLD

When you've got less in your pocket but more costs to cover.
Gold is the only real money to stand the test of inflation.

CALL 011 784 8551 OR VISIT [SCOINSHOP.COM](https://www.scoinshop.com)

VISIT US AT: THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOLD COIN EXCHANGE HEAD OFFICE -
TOWER 2 AT THE MARC, 129 RIVONIA ROAD, SANDTON • BROOKLYN MALL • SANDTON CITY
WALMER PARK • EASTGATE • SOMERSET WEST • GATEWAY • MALL OF THE NORTH
PAVILION MALL • CANAL WALK • V&A WATERFRONT



The World's Strongest Currency

Mike Ellis, CFA, Chief Investment Officer, Pioneer Wealth Management Israel



The Israeli shekel has arguably been the strongest currency in the world against all major currencies over the last 15 years.

South Africans planning on a future or investing in Israel have a double-edged currency problem. Not only are they trying to protect their Rand-based wealth from a depreciating Rand by investing in USD or GBP, but they have also had to face a strengthening shekel too. Converting your Rand into USD over the last ten years has not been enough to protect your purchasing power in Israel. In 2004, 1 Shekel would have bought R1.3 and, in 2022, R5.13! (currently 4.7). Over that period, the Rand/USD rate depreciated 2.4 times, and the Rand/Shekel rate depreciated nearly four times.

One of the most basic financial planning principles is matching your assets to your future liabilities. The legacy of the collapsed shekel of the early 1980s and the geopolitical realities of Israel hang over many skeptical heads and has prevented Olim from converting their wealth to shekels. Over the last 25 years, Israel has dealt with wars,



military campaigns, terrorism, the second intifada, significant internal political instability and Covid19, and yet the shekel has still been on an incredible strengthening trend. Immigrants to Israel are not

familiar with the language and culture of investing in Israel, in addition many were incentivized to stay in foreign currency because of the 10-year tax holiday available to new immigrants. The result is that many immigrants are heavily underinvested in shekels. This has cost them dearly in terms of shekel purchasing power. One would be wise to learn from their mistakes.

Why is the shekel so strong? Better-known reasons include the massive inflow of capital into the tech sector, disciplined government fiscal management, and generally strong economic growth. However, other causes are likely to be even more significant. Firstly, there are the gas exports from the enormous gas reserves in the Mediterranean ocean that have only really started in the last few years. Secondly, and in my opinion, the most significant reason for the strong shekel is institutional hedging. Israel has very high compulsory saving laws. For example, if a company employs someone for a gross salary of 10,000 nis per month, then the cost to the company is about 30% more for pension, severance, and educational fund saving contributions by the employer, in addition to contributions made by the employee. Across the Israeli economy, with over 4.5 million employed people, this means that every month the long-term savings industry grows by billions of shekels. The local fund managers who manage these vast amounts of money have been allowed to invest a growing portion of these assets outside Israel. However, they do not want the currency

exposure, so they hedge it back to the shekel, which effectively means they are buying billions of shekels every month to hedge their currency exposure.

To see the impact of this, look at March 2020. As the global stock markets crashed significantly due to Covid fears, so did the amount of USD needed to be hedged on a daily basis. As these hedging positions were unwound and shekels were sold, the shekel weakened in a matter of days from 3.45:1 to 3.83:1, and then by mid-April climbed back to 3.5:1. During that critical period, not much else was happening, so we can attribute these huge swings in the rate to the reversal of hedging activity. As the Israeli economy continues to grow, the amount of money being invested abroad and hedged back to shekels is likely to increase. This creates enormous continued demand for the shekel.

The unknown factor is to what extent the Bank of Israel (BOI) will intervene in the market to protect the economy from a shekel that is too strong, something which they regularly do. If they didn't intervene you can be sure the shekel would be even stronger.

Currencies always have two sides contributing to the rate, the shekel is not the only player here. The USD is still by far the world's reserve currency and is likely to remain so. However, Covid-19 has seriously changed the quality of the USA government balance sheet, so while the USD is still far ahead, there is long-term pressure weakening the USD that will also contribute to the shekel's relative strength. We can debate the relative contribution of the above points, but the bottom line is this: All the reasons for the strong shekel, whatever they may be, are permanent and not temporary. Therefore, we should expect the shekel to stay strong and probably likely to continue to strengthen.

What does this mean for those outside Israel looking to invest?

If you see future expenditure in Israel, or wish to hold foreign currency in another currency that is not the USD, GBP or CHF, then you can start to build up a portfolio of shekel investments. Even if your future plan is to buy a property in Israel, you need to build up the resources in shekels so that when you find your dream property you are not vulnerable to the rate on that day. Too many property buyers have been caught relying too much on luck.

Historically the main investment made by South Africans in Israel has been property. However, there are many other options to invest in shekels. In addition to investing in Israeli companies, one could purchase exposure to USA equities and be fully hedged back to shekel. Other liquid and semi-liquid solutions exist in the form of a managed portfolio or institutionally supported funds, very similar to the managed portfolio and funds you may have through one of the well-known South African financial services firms.

Currencies are very difficult to predict in the short term, but we do recommend that investors think about currency strategically. Given the arguments stated above, that would mean for many of the JR readers building up a meaningful percentage of your offshore wealth in shekels instead of the traditional USD or GBP.

Braamfontein’s new playground – an urban market “on steroids”

NICOLA MILTZ

It takes gumption, grit, global vision and good-old-fashioned chutzpah to turn the inner city of Johannesburg into something enticing and attractive for urbanites, hipsters, and trendsetters.

Property entrepreneur Adam Levy, 45, of development company Play Braamfontein, has all these qualities and then some. Combined with a passion bordering on an obsession and cultivated over 18 years in the game, Levy is breathing new life and creative soul into COVID-19-drained Braamfontein with his recent opening of The Playground – a weekly market with a difference.

Levy, born and raised in Johannesburg, was the co-founder of the once thriving Neighbourgoods Market that opened in 2011 in Braamfontein and sadly closed during lockdown. Determined to re-create a world-class venue for city dwellers and international tourists, Levy has resuscitated it as the new and improved Saturday market, The Playground.

“The Playground is the Neighbourgoods Market on steroids,” said Levy this week.

A stickler for quality design and artistry with an eye for new local talent, Levy said The Playground had been reimaged and repurposed at the original market site, the landmark 73 Juta Street building, with its iconic Edoardo Villa sculpture façade. This will play host to a weekly artisan market with gourmet street food and cocktails.

“This isn’t just a market space, it’s as focused on the visitor experience as it is on creating a platform for exceptional young talent in Joburg,” he said.

Each vendor, artist, musician, and designer has been carefully chosen, said Levy, who sees them all as unique story tellers. “All of us has a power story to tell and great stories need to have a gramophone. I’m going to be the guy that does that for them.

“The Playground is an empowerment station that brings together a myriad of different enterprising entrepreneurs all doing amazing things, and I’m giving them a platform to share their stories through

their craft,” he said.

It has a new covered rooftop live performance area with a purpose-built stage and wraparound balcony deck area offering views of the city.

“It’s a transformative beginning of a whole new magical city experience that I think will tell a localised story to the world,” Levy said.

Levy’s passion for city development started in the early 2000s when he was doing his articles in Braamfontein.

“I soon realised law wasn’t my calling,” he said, and with just six months to go before becoming a certified lawyer, he said goodbye to the legal profession and promptly secured the property rights to a nearby building. He had a vision to completely transform number 155 Smit Street into a sought-after location, where he landed up living in its Swiss and Austrian designed uber stylish penthouse for 15 years. Levy continued to build and develop nearby properties.

He launched Play Braamfontein as part of his vision to transform the entire area into a world-class, aspirational urban neighbourhood in Johannesburg.

He’s uncomfortable with the term “property developer” saying, “There’s something loathsome about this description. Rather, my life is really about hospitality, creating dynamic spaces that afford people the luxury of finding the best in themselves.”

After some time, Levy felt his wanderlust rear its head, and spent several years travelling extensively, sampling what global cities had to offer.

“I became a global nomad, travelling the world prospecting for a different life, commuting between Johannesburg and Cape Town, and living in different cities around the world,” he said.

He found himself in South Africa during lockdown, which gave him an opportunity to refocus and resulted in a fresh fervour to develop Braamfontein.

“Joburg is my medina,” said Levy who attended King David Victory Park and credits his beloved parents, the late Ivan Levy, esteemed commercial attorney and philanthropist, and his artistic and stylish mother, Barbara, for everything he knows and holds dear.

“My innate, intuitive governance comes from what I saw and experienced at home. My family gave me a certain gravitas to operate in life with conviction,” he said, pointing out that weekly Shabbos meals were some of the most magical moments of his childhood.

He spends his days finding solutions to problems like potholes, water leaks, and crumbling infrastructure in a city that he says has “failed itself”.

“The system is busted. I’ve just taken a view that there’s a certain little segment of Braam which I happen to own a significant portion of, and which I treat like a different world,” he said. “I don’t sit and wait around for things to happen.”

Before The Playground opened and after asking for help from the city dozens of times, he spent thousands to get a private asphalt company to fill up every pothole within six city blocks.

“I focus on the things I can control, and I try to make it dynamic. Whatever you see for four city blocks is painted, has illumination, has a commissioned mural, and looks like someone gives a shit. It’s Adam’s little Switzerland.

“I can’t spend the rest of my life talking about the complexities of failure in the city. I’m not in the fail realm, I’m in the win department, and if I have power and conviction, that’s where my power is best served.”

When he drives around parts of the city, he asks himself why he does what he does.

“My need to make beauty in this life supersedes all of it. So long as I’m here, I’ll live with both feet firmly entrenched on the ground, and give it my all.”

He recently sold his penthouse to cultural phenomemon, DJ Black Coffee. “To me, it felt like he needed to be a standard bearer of what the future of this place can be,” Levy said.

He sees The Playground as the starting point of the regeneration of the entire neighbourhood.

“I’m going to make it happen because I’ve done it all before. I’m using the experience and knowledge gained over years with a non-distracted conviction.”

Josef Talotta, the executive head of precinct development for South Point, a Braamfontein-based

student accommodation development and management company, said, “It’s great to have Adam as a neighbour in Braam. He’s been instrumental in developing creative and sustainable hooks to help build an inspirational destination district that’s unique in South Africa, while helping to lift and define the ‘Braam brand’ in the process. He’s tenacious, creative, and has an unwaveringly finessed aesthetic that’s inspired and inspirational and, above all, relevant to time and space. But what I enjoy most about him is that he’s a forward thinker who’s also a doer – a powerful combination that’s so very Joburg, in the best-possible way.”

Laurice Taitz, the publisher and editor of the *Johannesburg In Your Pocket City Guide* said, “Adam is a pioneering property developer in the city. The Neighbourgoods Market that he co-founded was the Saturday heart of the city for many years, where almost two million people visited. Adam has reinvented it, and no doubt it will become a regular attraction for the city, a real platform for creative talent. He has seen it all in his time in this city. It takes a real survival instinct to keep going.”

The Playground artisan market is open from 09:00 to 18:00 every Saturday, and includes an afternoon music line-up. It’s free to enter from 09:00 to 11:00, thereafter a R20 entry fee is payable at the door by card only.



Pioneer provides investment advisory and portfolio management solutions in USD, GBP and Shekels to High Net Worth Individuals.

Pioneer Financial Planning (92) Ltd is an authorized Financial Services provider in Israel and South Africa
Visit our website:
<https://www.piowealth.com>

Invest in Shekel - the World's Strongest Currency!

With over 35 years of experience, Pioneer Wealth Management Israel provides independent and holistic wealth management services to families, business professionals, and individuals, in Israel and abroad.

Investing in shekels

- Offers a prudent diversification to USD investing
- Allows better matching of future liabilities if you have Aliyah plans

Pioneer Wealth Management Israel

- Strictly independent portfolio management in Shekels or USD – no conflicts of interest
- Extensive experience dealing with South Africans
- Assistance dealing with Israeli banks
- All documentation in English
- Competitive fees

Find out how we can provide you with solutions, including shekel portfolios, by contacting us at info@piowealth.com



Pandemic poet puts words to our predicament

Larry Borowitz may appear an unlikely poet, but appearances are deceiving. His first book of poetry, *Poetry in the Pandemic*, has just been published internationally. We speak to him:

Tell us briefly about yourself.

I was born and bred in Johannesburg, and went to King David Linksfield. I was mazkir klali and rosh machaneh of Habonim Dror for two years. I have university degrees in information systems. I also have a Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt certification. My work experience includes consulting, leading systems and operations environments, and being a subject-matter expert in fields like quality, treating customers fairly, and data privacy. I'm intellectually curious and creative. I live in Johannesburg, and am married with a daughter and two sons.

What drew you to writing poetry, and when?

Over the years, I've composed music and written lyrics as a hobby. Some songs include a Habonim Machaneh camp song for one of the machanot, a song for my wife at our wedding, and a song my wife sang to our daughter at her Batmitzvah. Though I enjoy composing music, I've always enjoyed being creative with words. In terms of writing formal poetry, you could say the talent lay dormant, and the pandemic was the catalyst to liberate words and ideas.

What about writing poetry appeals to you?

Poetry brings rhythm and rhyme together. It enables the creation of imagery using a succinct form of writing. It allows deeper meaning to be captured in relatively few words, which keeps the reader engaged and encourages further analysis. It enables the use of language and punctuation in ways one feels like using at the time of writing, with no expected format. It also has an element of problem solving (such as deciding what words will work in a rhyming sequence) which adds to the enjoyment of creating the piece. If one is short of time – which I am – it provides the opportunity to pen one's thoughts in a few hours, self-edit, and then circulate while having fun seeing a blank page transform into words with structure, depth, and meaning.

This is a book of poetry written during the pandemic. What exactly inspired it, and when did you find time to write it?

One Saturday morning in April 2020, when South Africa was in lockdown level 5, it was exceptionally quiet and I thought to myself, "I can hear myself breathe." I thought this would make a good title for a poem. Since we were locked down with not much to do, I started writing the first poem of what has become an anthology. With the encouragement of my family, I posted the poem on Facebook and got an enthusiastic response from my friends. I realised I had a receptive audience across the world for the thoughts I wanted to express.

I wrote all the poems after working hours and on weekends. I used the time which was previously used for other leisure activities to write them.

How did the pandemic influence the content of the poems?

The poems cover a wide array of topics and themes. I'm an avid reader and used my general knowledge and observation of what was happening across the world to decide what subjects to write about. The poems range from the physical impact of COVID-19 on our daily lives to deeper subjects like purpose, identity, and loss.



Larry Borowitz

What kind of response have you had?

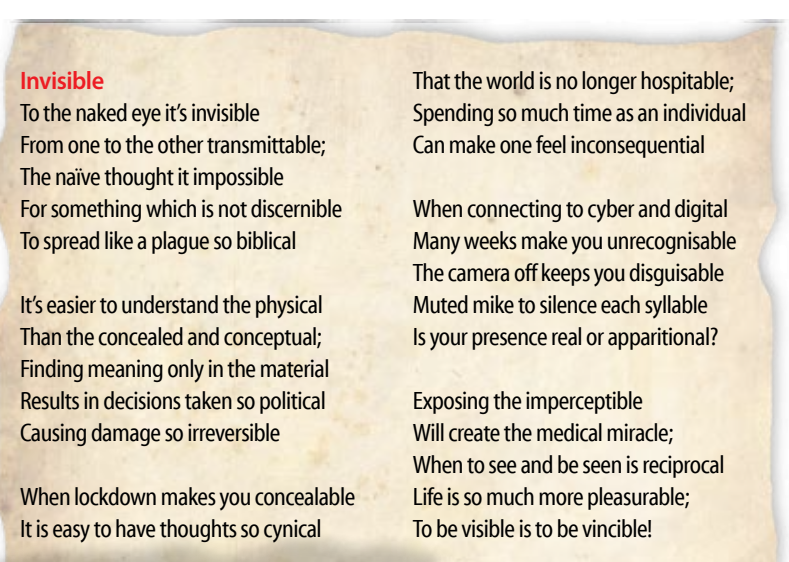
I have had excellent feedback. Since I posted every Sunday on Facebook, I would get likes and positive comments, which would give me a sense whether that week's poem resonated with my readers. Their enthusiastic response also motivated me to keep writing.

How has writing poetry helped you to deal with the pandemic?

It has been an excellent outlet to express my thoughts. When my world shrunk physically, it opened creatively. The poetry kept me in touch with other people (besides my immediate family) who I couldn't see in person. It also re-connected me to people living overseas whom I hadn't been in touch with for a while. I love listening to music while writing, so I have also extended my knowledge of music during the pandemic.

What impact did the pandemic and lockdown have on you and your family?

Besides one son having the Omicron virus, we were fortunate that my immediate and extended family remained healthy throughout the pandemic. I have exercised every week, and achieved certain goals by walking and running. This improved both my physical fitness and mental well-being. I also was very disciplined in that I would always get dressed properly for work – no shorts or slippers – which ensured that I always felt I was in "work mode" when working from home. My immediate family (wife and three children) kept each other company and had some special moments together (for example, the Pesach seders in 2020). In spite of the many challenges, like online teaching for my wife, a teacher, and learning (my kids were all studying), we adjusted to the changes and have emerged as a stronger family unit after the two years of the pandemic.



Invisible

To the naked eye it's invisible
From one to the other transmittable;
The naïve thought it impossible
For something which is not discernible
To spread like a plague so biblical

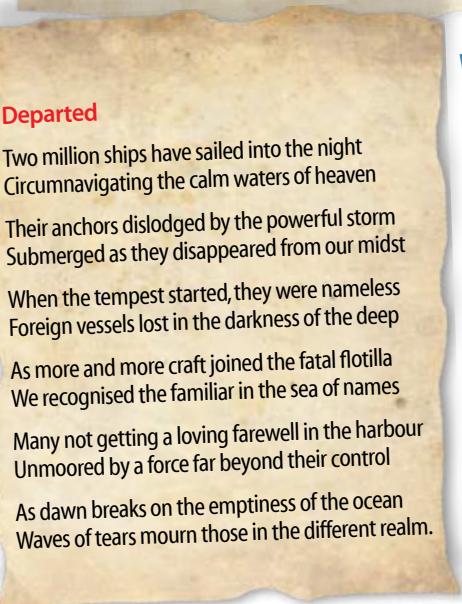
It's easier to understand the physical
Than the concealed and conceptual;
Finding meaning only in the material
Results in decisions taken so political
Causing damage so irreversible

When lockdown makes you concealable
It is easy to have thoughts so cynical

That the world is no longer hospitable;
Spending so much time as an individual
Can make one feel inconsequential

When connecting to cyber and digital
Many weeks make you unrecognisable
The camera off keeps you disguisable
Muted mike to silence each syllable
Is your presence real or apparitional?

Exposing the imperceptible
Will create the medical miracle;
When to see and be seen is reciprocal
Life is so much more pleasurable;
To be visible is to be vincible!



Departed

Two million ships have sailed into the night
Circumnavigating the calm waters of heaven

Their anchors dislodged by the powerful storm
Submerged as they disappeared from our midst

When the tempest started, they were nameless
Foreign vessels lost in the darkness of the deep

As more and more craft joined the fatal flotilla
We recognised the familiar in the sea of names

Many not getting a loving farewell in the harbour
Unmoored by a force far beyond their control

As dawn breaks on the emptiness of the ocean
Waves of tears mourn those in the different realm.

What's your take-home message for people reading your poetry?

Appreciate life and what it offers. You need to be positive – no matter how difficult the circumstances. The poetry is like a mirror in which you can reflect on what happened in the first year of the pandemic. It describes how individuals, society at large, and leadership responded to the enormous challenges we faced.

Who do you believe it appeals to?

It should appeal to anyone of high-school age across the world due to its universal themes and the common human experience of living through COVID-19. I have always written with the reader in mind, and have endeavoured to make the poems relatable and relevant.

What does it take to write poetry?

A desire to share thoughts and ideas while giving the reader food for thought. You need to enjoy playing with words and rhymes. It's important to be self-disciplined and not self-indulgent.

Are you still writing poetry, and can we expect another book one of these days?

Yes! *Poetry in the Pandemic* comprises the first 50 poems I wrote in the first year of the pandemic. I didn't stop writing in the second year, and have continued to post a poem every week on Facebook. So I look forward to publishing my second book soon.

Gavin Harris guides “Trapdoor Spider” to victory

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Johannesburg-born fighter coach Gavin Harris watched his protégé, the Mozambique-born Edson “Trapdoor Spider” Machavane, win the long-awaited 12th edition of the Alpha Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) Bantamweight Championship at the Heartfelt Arena in Pretoria on 29 January 2022.

Harris, a Yeshiva College alumnus, secured Machavane's participation in this title fight, originally scheduled for December last year but postponed due to COVID-19.

Moreover, Harris found out the strengths and weaknesses of Machavane's opponent, Tshimelogo Ramothibe. “I told Eddie how to beat him, and he beat him,” says Harris. “Our strategy was to counter his counter, and Eddie did. He won with a rear naked choke hold, which is like a knockout in terms of grappling. His opponent went unconscious from the choke. My heart lives in the world of grappling, and I literally thrust Eddie into it. So, that's another way I helped Eddie.”

Machavane is the best amateur bantamweight in the country, says Harris. “He has beaten the best. No one in the amateur ranks and, I bet you in the professional ranks, can beat my guy.”

The grandson of one of the Ochberg orphans who travelled to South Africa in 1921 from Ukraine, Harris lives in his birthplace, Orange Grove, with his family and Machavane.

While competing in Judo from the age of five until his mid-20s, Harris won seven South Africa Championships. “I travelled to different countries for my Judo,” he says. “I went to Bulgaria, England, Israel, and Mauritius, so I was a serious competitor. I used to sleep outside the competitions in a caravan because it was Shabbos, and win. I was in the national team, but I never made it into the Olympic team. That was my goal.”

Harris studied personal training and sports-performance training before learning about MMA while practising

Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu from 2010 onwards. Soon, he joined the Johannesburg-based Fight Sports Centre, where he became part of a team tasked with developing fighters.

Eventually deciding to take a stab at developing fighters on his own, Harris started SRK Fitness and Combat in Joburg. There, Machavane, a Taekwondo champion in Mozambique, has continued to improve and win under Harris's tutelage.

“It's almost like working in a forest. Your job is to work with a team growing trees,” Harris says of the difference between training fighters as part of a team and being the sole trainer. “One day, you go off to find your own field, and you start growing your own trees. Eddie is my tree. He's my own home-born champion.”

In the beginning, Harris trained Machavane every single day. “After a while, he needed people to fight. I needed to expose him to different fighting environments, both the people he needed to spar with and also different teachers. Now, six weeks before a fight, I start training him every day.

“I manage him. Just before a major event, we start analysing his opponents and we come up with a game plan. It's like there's a general doctor who takes care of his general health and then the specialist, me, who ensures that the engine is absolutely fine-tuned and ready for the Formula One race that's coming up.”

Harris and Machavane have now set their sights on winning a title in the professional division. “Our big aim is fighting professionally, winning a considerable number of fights, and making him a world champion,” says Harris.

Machavane is one of many talented fighters to emerge out of Africa. “A lot of poverty is present in Africa, and anyone in the fight game knows that poverty breeds champions,” says Harris. “Nothing makes you hungrier than being hungry. Eddie lives at my house. I look after him. I feed him. He's almost a son in a way. We have a relationship very similar to that of

Mike Tyson and his mentor, Cus D'Amato.”

Tyson, who lived in D'Amato's 14-room Victorian mansion for some time, described the New York-born boxing trainer as a “father figure”.

Similarly, Machavane says, “Gavin is like a father to me. I've learned a lot of things from him. He taught me Judo, Jiu-Jitsu, and some kickboxing. I became the champion with it.”

Machavane wasn't surprised by his recent title win. “We worked hard for that. You have a plan, and we make it happen. It's just beginning, we have more to win.”

Harris says Machavane's nickname should be “Trapdoor Spider” because he attacks like one. “One second, the little creature is there, the next second, it's gone. That's exactly how Edson is in the MMA cage,” says Harris.

Besides working with Machavane, Harris teaches Jewish kids Judo and Jiu-Jitsu. “I have a class full of Shmudies, Aries, and Moishies,” he says. “I've opened up the world of real Judo, Jiu-Jitsu, and MMA to them. All the different things I've learned on my journey are treasures which I'm sharing with them.”



Gavin Harris and Edson Machavane after the fight on 29 January 2022

Community makes a splash at Midmar Mile and beyond

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Had you been a Midmar Mile observer in Howick, KwaZulu-Natal, last weekend, you may have noticed one man swimming the one-mile (1.6km) distance three times, each time with a different child.

That would have been Johannesburg businessman and father of three, Craig Nerwich, who swam the mile with each of his children separately.

"I swam with my son Zach, my daughter Noa, and my 10-year-old son Jamie, who swam for his first time. It was special to be able to do that with all three of them separately," says Nerwich.

Having swum from Robben Island to Big Bay about eight times, Nerwich says he swims a lot and his children have grown up with swimming.

Another Joburg businessman, Terry Heller, was one of the first people to swim the 25.7km (16-mile) distance in one day, on 10 February.

Not only did Heller place third out of the 15 swimmers who swam that distance, he also raised R20 000 for Happy Bundles, a charity for children with cancer.

People usually swim the 16-mile Midmar over two days. "In terms of mileage, not many swims are that far," says Heller. "It took me seven hours to do the 25.7km. I've put in probably two hours during the week and three hours on the weekend in training, which I've been doing since October last year."

Heller is no stranger to winning water events. "Besides the Midmar, I did two pool events last year," he says. "I broke the 800m South African record and the 400m Gauteng record."

He also has his name on the Midmar trophy as the winner of the 2016, 2017, and 2018 events.

While swimming Midmar was a personal feat for Hermanus guest house-owner Lisa Kirsch, she did it to raise money for charity, while others like Rabbi Ilan

Raanan and King David High School Linksfield (KDHSL) Grade 11 pupil David Krost swam in the name of someone who has or had a battle with ill-health. Krost and Raanan were a part of the team from KDHSL. This school sent its biggest team ever, which included 30 pupils.



Craig Nerwich getting out of the water with his son Zach



Terry Heller after his 16-mile race

For the second consecutive year, cancer survivor Kirsch swam Midmar (the eight-mile distance) to raise about R12 000 for the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA), a charity close to her heart. "The conditions were great. It was a beautiful day with very little wind, which always helps. It's a privilege to swim the eight-mile because you don't have thousands of people alongside you."

In contrast to her experience of swimming in the freezing water between Robben Island and Big Bay, "the temperature is perfect in the Midmar swim. It's even a little too warm for long-distance swimming".

Samantha Michau, the head of swimming at KDHSL, swam the Midmar Mile and helped organise the participation of 30 of the school's students in the event. "It was a team effort along with the school's head of sport, Miss Kirsty Forssman and Rabbi Ilan Raanan, the head of the Jewish Studies department," says Michau, who previously participated in the Sun City swims and the Platinum Mile. "Kirsty's leadership and professionalism helped us run a smooth and effortless tour. She did everything from the accommodation to the buses." They stayed in a guesthouse adjacent to Chabad of the North Coast in Umhlanga.

"There's so much more to the weekend than just the swim," says Grade 12 student Zak Rachelson.

In the shul, the school's senior boys led the service with, Rabbi Raanan says, "the most incredible gees [spirit]". The shul's rabbi, Shlomo Wainer, "loved it", says Michau.

Rachelson led what his fellow matric, Judah Marx,

dubs "the most incredible Kabbalat Shabbat".

"We were all singing with the Umhlanga community, praying for a good swim, and for Isaac Moritz, a student who got injured in the sea in Cape Town," says Krost, who swam the mile with Moritz's name written all over his body. On Saturday, after shul, they sang Hebrew songs. "At night, we did Havdalah, which was inspirational," says Krost.

The senior girls did candle lighting together, says Michau. "We arrived on Friday. The kids went to the beach for about two hours. We went for a lovely walk in the afternoon down the Boulevard. Our Midmar team has a big family bond. They treat each other like brother and sister."

The theme of the school's tour this year was "Friends". "We wanted to reiterate to our swimmers that we're always going to be there for one another no matter what life throws at us," Michau says.

Grade 10 student Taine Lunt says, "We went down as a team and spent a lot of time with each other building up an amazing spirit. For me, the most fun was sharing the swim with all my schoolmates and encouraging them. The weather was perfect. The swim was longer than I thought as the dam was more than 100% full."

"It was my eighth Midmar and the best conditions I had ever swum in, with very calm water," says Rachelson. Usually, the swimmers with the fastest qualifying time go first. This year, it was a rolling start, meaning participants could start whenever they wanted to. Rachelson and Marx say this made the start much calmer as they weren't pushed around by other swimmers.

Their school encourages its students to attend training at least three times a week to ensure they have a basic fitness level to complete the swim. "We also have a WhatsApp group that allows the students to bond a little beforehand," says Michau. "However, the true bonding experience comes in the Midmar Shabbat."

"It's an incredible weekend," says Raanan. "Many of the students will start as strangers. In the end, they are literally the best of friends. An amazing vibe is created."

Raanan swam in the name of his late cousin, Kim. "I grew up in Durban. Every once in a while, we would go to Midmar with family and spend some time with our cousin Kim. She passed away last year so I decided to dedicate my swim in her honour."

His training for this year's event had a few untimely interruptions – such as his wife having COVID-19, and him pulling a muscle in his ribs while planting a tree on Tu B'Shvat.

Michau, on the other hand, barely did any training. She decided to swim this year's Midmar Mile at the last minute. One of the pupils she had convinced to tackle the swim used her own "pep talk" to persuade her to do it.

"Every person comes together for the same cause, to swim across a dam," says Marx. "Through our differences, we found a commonality which created a bond that will last a lifetime."

Hasidic music and stories provide soundtrack for life

The Jewish Learning Institute of South Africa (JLI) presented "Judaism: The Soundtrack" at Africa's tallest skyscraper, The Leonardo, on Purim Katan, on 15 February.

The elegant event of fine food, wine, and music was held in celebration of this festive date in the Jewish calendar, which occurs only in leap years.

Participants discovered the enthralling world of Hasidic melody and the deep spiritual meaning behind its tunes. An instrumental quintet of cello, flute, guitar, piano, and violin performed unique Hasidic melodies, conducted by Evelyn Green and sung by Raphael Perkel. Organiser Rabbi Ari Kievman shared narratives and motivational messages between songs.

"These Hasidic melodies are like no other," Kievman said. "They tell a soul-stirring story about life's purpose and what truly matters in this world. There's so much that can be learned from these moving tunes."



King David goes hair crazy for Adar

In celebration of the month of Adar, King David Ariel pupils dressed up as their teachers or therapists on 15 February, and King David Primary School Victory Park children had a crazy hair day. It was an out of the ordinary school day, and the children had lots of fun dressing up.



KDPVP's Nicola Yevilov goes hair crazy on an out-of-the-ordinary school day



Mila Goldberg, Nikki Horwitz, and Noa Defries of King David Ariel in teacher mode

THE WHITE HOUSE GALLERY

WE BUY AND SELL ARTWORKS BY SOUTH AFRICAN & INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS

SEEKING TO PURCHASE ARTWORKS BY:

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

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

Artworks: (l-r) Mr Brainwash, Chaplin / Sam Francis, SF 271 / Jim Dine , It is Summer, 12 am

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Cape interfaith initiatives foster social cohesion

The inherent danger of adhering to any cause, ideology, or faith system is that it can easily lead to those who don't subscribe to such beliefs becoming objects of contempt if not outright hostility.

When this happens, dialogue breaks down, and division and conflict almost invariably follows, turning neighbours and potential friends into bitter enemies. For any society, but particularly for those as diverse and historically polarised as our own, the results are profoundly harmful. Instead of coming together as fellow citizens to address common problems, people retire into warring camps, sniping at each other from behind the barriers they have erected while their environment continues to deteriorate.

As is true of all conflict situations – and South Africa's history is proof of that – the antidote lies in engaging in civil dialogue predicated on mutual respect, tolerance for diversity, and an openness to hearing what the other side has to say. Once people are talking to one another, it becomes possible to clear up misconceptions and find common ground. A key area in which such engagements are taking place is interfaith relations.

Building bridges with other faith communities has long been an important part of the work of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD), and has become a particular strength of the SAJBD Cape Council.

Last week was a busy one for our Cape Town colleagues. It began with the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative's annual United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week Prayers for the city event in Kalksteentfontein, Cape Flats, where Cape Executive Director Daniel Bloch was one of the speakers.

ABOVE BOARD

Karen Milner



This was followed by a webinar on climate change held by the Cape Board's interfaith intercommunity sub-committee and organised by Gwynne Robins, a long-serving professional staff member and executive committee member of the Cape Town Interfaith Initiative. Speakers included Rabbi David Rosen, perhaps the foremost Jewish leader in the global interfaith field today; Bishop Geoff Davies, the founder of the Southern African Faith Communities' Environment Institute; and representatives of the Hindu, Muslim, and Baha'i communities. The following day, Robins attended the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's annual United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week event on "The role of interfaith in seeking social justice", having provided information to Mickey Glass, the Jewish panellist, for his presentation.

Initiatives like these help to foster much-needed social cohesion and break down barriers of mistrust between those from different cultural, ethnic, or religious backgrounds. Through them, differences between communities can be turned from potential causes of friction into opportunities for learning and sharing. In the words of the late Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, himself a globally esteemed proponent of interfaith understanding, "For though my faith isn't yours and your faith isn't mine, if we are free to light our flame together, we can banish some of the darkness of the world". Whether at the organisational level or simply in our individual interactions, this is the kind of South Africa we should all be striving to build.

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

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

Solve relationship riddle in one easy Wordle

I'm not a runner. But every morning, I race against the 06:00 news. The beginning of the headlines is my cue to log onto Wordle and rush solve the daily puzzle before the weather. Sometimes I succeed and sometimes I don't, but the challenge always leaves me alert, sharp, and ready to go.

In case you have missed the past few months, Wordle is an online game in which the user is tasked with finding the correct five-letter word in no more than six tries. Much like Mastermind, correct letters in the correct place turn green, correct letters in the wrong order turn orange, and incorrect letters remain grey. It's magnificent in its simplicity, and it has taken the world by a storm. So much so, that the *New York Times* has recently purchased it for "low seven figures", whatever that means.

Earlier this week, I needed to address a young married couple and realised, in a bit of an epiphany, how much we can learn about relationships from the game of Wordle. Whereas I'm certain there are more, here are some ideas:

- Spend a bit of time on it every day. Maybe a little longer than it takes someone to read the news. But you know what I mean;
- Don't make the relationship so complicated that you dread going back the next day. Keep it simple enough to "solve";
- Sometimes you won't win. And that's ok. Because there's always tomorrow when you get to try it all again;
- You don't need to post your "score" to social

INNER VOICE

Howard Feldman



media. If you don't get that, please ask a teenager to explain it;

- There will be days when you get all the letters correct but still get the wrong answer. Because as much as you think you're right, there's still something that you're missing. It's not appropriate to say that men will relate to this, because that might be bordering on sexist, so I will rather acknowledge that in my own experience of 31 years of marriage, there are times that I have had conversations thinking I was chatting about something where my wife was talking about something completely different. Turns out, it wasn't a metaphor;
- Celebrate the daily wins. It might not be a big deal to have guessed the word "stone", but you did. And when the letters turned green it felt good. Really good. And you felt proud. And clever and that you could face the challenge of the day ahead. That's what celebrating a relationship does. It gives you the strength to face pretty much anything. Provided you celebrate it.

There are more. I'm certain of it. That's the reason Wordle is popular and that's why I might not be a runner. But I race against the headlines to make sure that my relationship remains intact.

Six-year programme pays tribute to Selma

Torah Academy Girls High School has launched a Nach programme in tribute to Selma Bacher, who taught at the school for 33 years. The programme is a six-year journey through the whole of Tanach. This year, the girls will learn the *seforim* of Yehoshua, *shoftim*, Shmuel I, and Shmuel II.



Naomi Goldman, Cheli Unterslak, Elle Ainsworth, and Leah Bronstein receive their study guides in preparation for a six-year programme

School partnership grows in 2022



Teachers from King David Primary School Linksfield, Houghton Primary, and Summerwood Primary had a planning meeting at the beginning of February 2022 to share ideas on how to improve the partnership between the three schools. King David has built up a close partnership with Summerwood Primary over the past few years in line with the school's ethos of community building. Houghton Primary joined the hub last year. Members of the partnership team shared ideas at the meeting, which would enable the children to interact and learn from one another, with the ultimate goal of sharing information for the greater good of education for all.

KDL pupils trained for mock trial of Nazi doctor



Grade 11 pupils from King David Linksfield will be participating in a year-long mock United Nations trial of Nazi doctor and psychopath Ernst Rüdin. The initiative is being run by the UN Forum for Social Excellence, and includes pupils from more than 50 countries around the globe. The pupils will be trained for the programme. They will receive information and coaching on aspects such as an investigation into the Nazi Racial Hygiene and Eugenics Movement, a discussion of the book *The Nuremberg Doctors' Trial and its Legacy*, a video based on bioethics considerations in today's world, and comprehensive training in preparing evidence and arguments for the prosecution and defence in a trial. The pupils have experienced one day-long session thus far, and were taught by international

educators such as the Israel-based Sefie Fischler, research co-ordinator of the International Mock Trial on Human Rights; Avi Omer, the founder of the UN Social Excellence Forum; Professor Irwin Cotler, former Canadian Minister of Justice; and Professor Paul Weindling, a research professor on the history of medicine at Oxford University in London. The King David students participated via Zoom with participants from countries such as Turkey, Sweden, Morocco, the Philippines, and Romania. The training was interactive and engaging. Yael Duchon, Noah Ruzow, Eden Novik, Noa Bakal, Jessica Hirschowitz, Aurah Kopelowitz, Ariel Krengel, Arianne Kinkel, Dina Levy, Kiki Mpande, Sasha Hetz, Ruby Jossel, Jordan Meyers, Raphael Rehbock, Kerri Hackner, Jemima Karan, Chad Bravo, and Ben Ginsberg have volunteered for this programme.

IT's distinctions and top 1% for KDVP's Kamener

Daniel Kamener of King David High School Victory Park not only achieved a phenomenal five distinctions in his matric year, but also the most prestigious prize in IT (Information Technology) in 2021. He also came in the top 1% of the Independent Examinations Board commendable/outstanding list for computers (IT), which is awarded to a highly prestigious 1% of pupils in the country.



Letters

BE KINDER ABOUT KADDISH

In response to Mr Feldman's article in the *SA Jewish Report*, 10 February 2022, I started saying kaddish 42 years ago as a teen, and I was initially helped by my fellow congregants. Today I can rattle it off, but I don't. Mr Feldman's response to a fellow mourner who was "too slow" was egotistical and self-centred. This response is the downfall of the *yarmi* wearing "Yid" to his fellow non-religious or unpractised Jew, and why we Jews suffer so much because of *sinat chinum* (baseless hatred). His actions show both a lack of compassion for a fellow mourner and ignorance about what kaddish is. What if this was the first time a person was saying kaddish or they weren't familiar with the service? To embarrass that person in public is equivalent to murder in Jewish law, and for him to return weeks later deprived that person of the chance to say kaddish. Kaddish, when understood, is praise to Hashem, and you want to rush it? Kaddish should be said in unison and according to the slowest person in shul, and a kaddish that gets no communal response is like a wasted blessing. That's why it's said in public. It's possible that the rabbis will give a shorter *drosha* (discourse), the choirs will vanish, and the services will remain, but at what cost? – Michael Lubowitz, spiritual leader Northcliff Shul



UNIVERSITY OF THE
WITWATERSRAND,
JOHANNESBURG

100
1922
2022

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL SUCCESSFUL MATRICULANTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2021!

We look forward to welcoming top
achievers - our future leaders and
innovators - to our campus.
#WitsCentenaryClassOf2022

This year, 2022, we
celebrate **100 years** of a
great institution.

In its **centenary** year, Wits celebrates the
significant achievements of our Jewish
alumni spread across the world and the
strong bonds Wits has with our local and
global Jewish communities.

Your support is key to Wits
remaining a national treasure.

For more information visit
wits100.wits.ac.za

WITS. FOR GOOD.

Richard Levi’s career comeback turns on New Zealand – again

LUKE ALFRED

There once was a time when little boys across the land wanted to be Richard Levi. That time didn’t last for as long as it possibly should have, but all that’s beginning to change again as Levi (34) turns out for Western Province (WP) in this month’s T20 Challenge being played in a biosecure environment in Gqeberha.

So, how did Levi’s return come about? A couple of months ago, Salieg Nackerdien, the WP coach, heard that Levi was back in Cape Town from his base in England, and asked him to come down for a net at Newlands.

“We were impressed with his form, but there wasn’t really a place in our squad for him at the time,” Nackerdien said. “Then Keegan Petersen went and tested COVID-19 positive, which meant he couldn’t travel with the Proteas to New Zealand.

“Zubayr Hamza was called up from our squad to replace Keegan, which left us with a vacancy – Richard filled it.”

It’s ironic that New Zealand should have indirectly provided Levi with his latest break because the country plays a huge part in his cricket journey. Those with good memories will remember that it was in New Zealand 10 years ago to the day that Levi scored what was then the world’s fastest T20 century when he bludgeoned 117 not out for the Proteas against the Kiwis in the second match of the series in Hamilton, a sleepy provincial town on the banks of the Waikato River.

The details of the match are worth recounting, if only because they remain incredible, even if Levi’s 117 has long since been overtaken as T20 cricket’s highest individual score.

The Kiwis batted first, scoring a perfectly respectable 173 for four in their 20 overs. The South Africans then began their chase, with very few predicting the carnage to follow.

Levi opened the batting with Hashim Amla, who was out at the beginning of the third over for two. Wayne Parnell, next in, didn’t last very long either, out for four in the fifth over, but this seemed to be of little consequence to Levi, who was popping the ball over the boundary ropes with almost reckless abandon.

Levi found a willing partner in AB de Villiers, who came in at four, as he proceeded on his merry way. All in all, he faced 51 balls in his 117 not out, batting for 67 minutes. He didn’t even bother with fours on Hamilton’s small Seddon Park ground, preferring instead to deal in sixes, of which he scored 13 (to his five fours).



Richard Levi

It was all over in 16 brutal overs, the South African innings taking 16 minutes less than the Kiwis’ had, as the Proteas squared the series after losing the first game to level matters at 1-1.

Although the innings was admired and well-

Biggest bedding sale on

★ NOW ON ★

Big discounts on Simmons, Sealy, Rest Assured and other brands

10 Star Base Set

91cm Contour **R2 499**

Double Base Set **R3 899**

Limited Stock, Great Value

Furniture: Lazy Boy, Linea Classica Alpine & Grafton

Beds: Sealy, Simmons, Rest Assured & Contour

Appliances: Bosch, Defy, Samsung & LG

☎ 011 887 5456 | 011 440 9571

Nathan: 082 854 5706

Midways Mall,
280 Corlett Drive, Bramley Gardens

Monday to Friday 8:30 – 17:00

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

i-deal

FURNISHERS

received, it was also so beyond the bounds of possibility that it was greeted with a note of exasperation. “Such was Levi’s destructive mood that no New Zealand total might have been big enough,” wrote a local cricket correspondent afterwards.

It’s tempting to see Levi’s storybook innings as the beginning of his slow decline, but the truth is messier. Levi, for all his power, clean hitting, and butcher-like forearms, was never the most athletic of cricketers. Some said he carried too much weight and he could be bogged down by accurate spin bowling. He scored only one more 50 in his 12 more T20s for South Africa, and slowly he faded from the reckoning.

Today, he describes himself fetchingly as a “part-time fisherman, full-time human being, and someone who plays the odd game of cricket”.

All this might be beginning to change. When the *SA Jewish Report* spoke to Nackerdien, he told us that he was keen to recruit Levi for WP’s 50-over campaign too, which would mean a longer summer for Levi (and less deep-sea fishing) than he had possibly predicted.

WP’s four-day form hasn’t been good this season, neither has it been very good under Ashwell Prince in the seasons before that, and Nackerdien is well aware this needs to change.

He’s in the first year of a three-year contract but he also knows that the WP board and cricket-loving public are tired of the persistent cloud of under-achievement that hangs over the province. Levi could play a big role in changing that.

At the time of writing, WP have won all three of their T20 Challenge matches in the “Windy City”, with Levi making useful contributions in the first two of them. T20 cricket is a bit of a lottery at the best of times, but early indications are that WP, on top of the log as we write, are one of the more difficult sides to beat.

Levi didn’t play in Sunday’s game against the Lions, but Gavin Kaplan (featured in these pages two weeks ago) very much did. His 39 against the Lions was full of crisp boundary hitting, with one pugnacious on-drive really catching the eye. It’s stretching the imagination to suggest that Kaplan is another Levi, he isn’t, but it would be interesting to see them at the crease together as WP hit the business end of the competition.

Roll on the good times.

MANY MORE SPECIALS IN-STORE

89⁹⁹

TIERRA SALVAJE ASSTD FLAVOURS 750ML EACH

62⁹⁹

CLOVER CHEESE CHEDDAR 400G

12⁹⁹

CIAO CHICK PEAS 400G

14⁹⁹

CIAO TOMATO ITALIAN CHOPPED 400G

78⁹⁹

MONTAGU MIXED DRIED FRUIT 500G

21⁹⁹

SQUASH BABY VARIETY PUNNET

21⁹⁹

PATTY PAN MIXED PUNNET

Feigels

Yummy!

R219 per kg

Beef Lasagne

Hometown Pharmacy

Boost Your Immunity

52⁹⁹

VITAMIN D-TABS 30'S

94⁹⁹

VITAL ZINC COMPLEX TABLETS 90'S

☎ 087-803-4000 📞 082-711-4342

✉ HOMETOWNPHARMACY@PROPHARM.CO.ZA

123⁹⁹

MAXIS BURGERS P/KG

127⁹⁹

MAXIS BOREWORS P/KG

52⁹⁹

CAPE POINT FISH FINGERS 600G

39⁹⁹

TOP CLASS COATINGS CHICKEN 200G

10⁹⁹

OFF THE STICK ICE LOLLIES ASSTD FLAVOURS 8'S EACH

61⁹⁹

16J DEEP WATER HAKE FILLETS 400G

24⁹⁹

OSEM COUSCOUS TOASTED 250G

28⁹⁹

DETTOL HAND WASH PUMP FRESH & ORIGINAL 200ML EACH

45⁹⁹

TELMA ONION SOUP MIX 112G

KOSHER AT EVERYDAY PRICES

Offers valid till 23 FEBRUARY 2022 or while stocks last

CONCIERGE SHOPPING SERVICE

orders@kosherworld.co.za

1 Long Avenue, Glenhazel

011 440 9517 | www.kosherworld.co.za

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