



Rolex Oyster Perpetual
Lady-Datejust
R30,000 - R40,000



Unattributed, Vintage
Mangbetu, Style Double
Gourds Palm Wine Vessel
R8,000 - R12,000



18th Century Dutch
Burr-walnut Armoire
R90,000 - R120,000

Walter Whall Battiss,
Three Figures,
oil on canvas
R180,000 - R220,000



south african Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

■ Volume 26 – Number 19 ■ 26 May 2022 ■ 25 Iyar 5782

www.sajr.co.za

'Conman' Levick leaves elderly couple penniless

NICOLA MILTZ

The Beth Din rarely encourages people to go to secular courts to resolve financial disputes, but it did so as a last resort for the elderly Michels couple, who lost their life savings to disgraced businessman Martin Levick.

Levick, whose family were close friends of Peter Michels, 80, and his wife, Cheryl, 74, allegedly left them penniless after convincing them to hand over their money to him to invest.

The Beth Din said it had done everything in its power to help the couple to recover some of their money.

The Michels now rely on food parcels from Yad Aharon & Michael, and money from the Chevrah Kadisha after allegedly investing their hard-earned life savings with Levick.

Levick the former director and chief executive of investment house Genesis Capital and Genesis Capital Partners (renamed Calculus Capital) was sequestered in June 2019. He was previously accused of fleecing investors and former colleagues and friends of hundreds of millions of rands.

The Michels owned and founded the once thriving and popular pharmaceutical business, Riki Wholesalers. They closed the business in January 2019 after 46 years of successful trading. Things had taken a downward turn following some bad business decisions and Peter's ailing health. With money saved and funds left over after the closure, the Michels planned to start a new business as they still needed to generate an income for themselves and their extended family. Their monthly expenses and Peter's medical bills were burdensome. They had about R3.5 million with which to get involved in a business venture.

In October 2020, the couple contacted Levick, whom they had known since he was a child, for commercial and legal advice regarding an interesting business proposition.

Cheryl said she believed Levick "had a legal background and was a successful businessman. I also trusted Martin in light of the close relationship which my family shared with his over the past 30 years or so."

The Michels allegedly invested their entire nest egg with Levick over the space of a year, during which he allegedly baffled them with business opportunities which allegedly turned out to be seemingly non-existent – resulting in a never-ending saga of broken promises, shattered trust, and financial decimation.

Although there are some assets which are being sold off, they have been left with no money for food.

Levick allegedly advised the Michels not to start a new business but instead invest the funds with him in his mother, Lois Cherie Levick's, loan business because this could get them a better return, according to the Michels.

At the time the Michels approached him, it was incumbent on Levick to notify them that he was sequestered and that he couldn't help them. They said he did mention that he had a court case pending, and couldn't assist them for six weeks.

However, he contacted them on 13 December 2020 and allegedly offered them an investment, which he represented to them as an opportunity "they couldn't miss out on".

This "lucrative" investment opportunity was in his mother's loan business, and he told them that if they invested immediately, they would make significant returns, according to the Michels.

"He told us money needed to be deposited by the end of that day so as to take advantage of the investment opportunity," said Cheryl.

Levick allegedly instructed the Michels (Cheryl) to pay R250 000 into the account of Navac Maritime Corporation and R50 000 into his mother's account.

It has since transpired that the money that was paid to Navac Maritime Corporation was then allegedly allocated to be used to settle a debt for Levick's mother's

home renovations.

Over the course of a year, in a series of multiple transactions, the Michels invested more than R3 million with the "smooth-talking" and "charming" Levick.

"Prior to every investment, Martin would contact me and tell me how well our investment was doing," Cheryl said. "He would mention a figure of how much our investment had grown and would request more money as he had other investment opportunities. He never provided me with a statement or anything reflecting the value of the investment," she said.

"In hindsight, he was intent on getting us to invest every last penny we had with him. Eventually we ran out of money completely. I called him incessantly, but he avoided my calls. I resorted to selling my jewellery out of sheer desperation and one of our cars. I literally begged him for money," she said.

Levick allegedly conducted transactions on his mother's bank account, which he's not entitled to do as an insolvent. The *SA Jewish Report* has a list of payments made.

The *SA Jewish Report* has read reams of transcribed WhatsApp voice notes from Levick to Cheryl and her

daughter, Loreen Asher, in which he talks about their "growing investments," never once providing a statement or proof thereof.

He gave numerous excuses as to why he hadn't made payments, promising to do so, but continuing to obfuscate, delay, and dishonour all his payment obligations.

In November 2021, Levick suggested they seek mediation to resolve the tension that had arisen. He suggested a number of mediators, one of which was the Beth Din.

A meeting was held at the Beth Din on 22 November 2021 followed by the signing of a settlement agreement on 2 December 2021 in which Levick and his mother agreed to pay the Michels their original capital investment of R3 095 000 by 12 December.

The settlement agreement, which the *SA Jewish Report* has in its possession, states, "There will be no excuses tolerated as to why the payment is delayed."

Levick was aware that he was forbidden from entering an agreement as an insolvent without the permission of the trustees of his insolvent estate.

Continued on page 3>>



Photo: Ian Ossendryver

Cheryl and Peter Michels



WIN YOUR *Share* OF OVER R340 000 IN CASH PRIZES

OUR BOBBAS AND ZEIDAS ARE COUNTING ON YOU



R19.7 Million
On food



386 400
Meals served



267 600kg
Of laundry



R43.4 Million
On medical care



127 Million
Litres of water



R3.8 Million
Enriching
residents' lives

*Stats per annum

www.sharetheload.co.za



APPLIANCE REPAIRS ON SITE

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

Call Jason
082 401 8239 / 076 210 6532

FREE QUOTATIONS

ANDREA’S ATTIC

BUYS

Old Jewellery, Old Coins and
Antique Hallmarked Silver Items

Fair and Friendly Buyer
I Come To You!

083 760 0482 • andrea.attic@gmail.com

SEEKING A
LEGAL SECRETARY

MORNINGS / 3 TO 4 DAYS A WEEK

A law firm in Killarney / Riviera
will have a position available
from approximately July 2022.

For further information, please email
kim@rjalaw.co.za or call on 011 486 3660

FRANK SOLOMON HEARING CENTRE

Have a love at first sound experience.
Phonak Audéo™ Marvel

A new all-in-one solution that improves
your hearing in everyday life and even
in the noisiest environments.

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



AFFORDABLE RANGE
FOR PENSIONERS

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

Treatment approved by the American ENT Association

We are COVID-19
compliant

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

Fairmount
6 George Ave,
Sandringham

Additional branches in
Benoni and Germiston

VEHICLES
WANTED

Any make, any model, any condition
Best prices guaranteed!

Arnold Orkin 082-823-7826
AUTO AFRICA

Zelenskyy on Time’s 100 most
influential list

Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy
is on Time magazine’s annual list of the
world’s 100 most influential people in
the “leaders” category.

Several Jewish entertainers also made the
list, released on Monday, 23 May, including actress Mila Kunis,
who immigrated from Chernivtsi, Ukraine, to the United States at
the age of seven, and who launched a campaign that has raised
more than \$36 million (R565.8 million) for refugee aid efforts.
Other actors like Andrew Garfield, Sarah Jessica Parker, and Zoë
Kravitz were included, as well as Saturday Night Live comedian
Pete Davidson.

Taika Waititi, the Māori-Jewish director from New Zealand
of JoJo Rabbit fame, had his entry written up by Jewish actor
and comedian Sacha Baron Cohen. Andy Jassy, who became
chief executive of Amazon last year, was named in the “titans”
category.

Other Jews on the list include photographer and opioid-crisis
activist Nan Goldin, who led protests against museums’ ties to
the Sackler family of Purdue Pharma, and David Zaslav, the chief
executive and president of Warner Bros.



LeBron James pally with controversial rabbi at wedding

The six-foot-nine tall LeBron James probably draws attention
at most weddings he attends, but he made an especially eye-
catching entrance at a Jewish wedding on Sunday, 22 May,
holding hands with a well-known and controversial kabbalist
rabbi.

The scene took place at the New York City wedding of Jeffrey
Schottenstein, the son of Jay Schottenstein, a billionaire who
is chairman of American Eagle Outfitters, and Ariella Boker. The
Schottenstein family is based in Columbus, Ohio, and has long
been close to James.

The Schottensteins and James also have connections to
Yoshiyahu Yosef Pinto, a Moroccan-Israeli rabbi with a large

international following.

In 2014, Pinto was sentenced for bribing an Israeli police officer and served a year in prison. The police officer’s superior, who came under public scrutiny from Pinto’s followers, committed suicide.

Thousands gather for NYC’s Celebrate Israel Parade



The Celebrate Israel Parade in New York

Thousands gathered on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan on Sunday, 22 May, to show their support for Israel at the New York City’s annual Celebrate Israel Parade.

The parade, which touts itself as the world’s largest expression of solidarity with the Jewish state outside of Israel, has been held every year on the first Sunday in June since 1965, save 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year, events were pushed up a few weeks in order not to conflict with Shavuot.

“We saw an incredible outpouring of love and support for Israel,” said Chief Executive Gideon Taylor of the 40 000 marchers.

• All briefs supplied by JTA

Torah Thought

Walking in the way of Torah

Bechukotai starts with a famous invitation from Hashem, “If you will walk in my laws...” after which He lists the many blessings that we will receive for doing so. But what does it mean to “walk” in Hashem’s laws? Is it the same as “keeping” His laws? Surely not, from the fact that a different word is used. Rashi says it means “to labour in Torah”, in other words the ongoing journey of Torah study.

As my teacher, Rabbi Azriel Goldfein of blessed memory, taught me, mitzvot are done in the finite realm, and they have a beginning and an end, but Torah is timeless and infinite. Its study is a never-ending journey of greater depth and appreciation of Hashem’s mitzvot. We “keep” the mitzvot when we do them, but we “walk in them” every time that we think about them, consider them, learn them, and love them.

The Sfat Emet – Rabbi Yehuda Leib Altar of Ger – gives a different explanation. In every situation in life, we must ask ourselves, “What is it Hashem wants me to do?” In other words, our attitude towards mitzvot shouldn’t be to get on with our lives and do what we want to do, except when there is a specific mitzva that guides our actions, but to integrate the values, lessons, and texture of the mitzvot into everything we do, to allow them to change who we are and how we approach life.

Rabbi Berel Wein tells a wonderful story of one of his teachers, Rabbi Alexander Rosenberg, who was approached by a man who wanted to make a deal in the kashrut industry that wasn’t entirely kosher (if you take my meaning). For a long time, Rosenberg sat in the room in silence as the man waxed lyrical about the advantages for Rosenberg of the back-room agreement, until finally, Rosenberg looked him in the eye and asked, “And what does G-d say?” The man left in consternation, but Wein took the idea with him all his life (and I try to as well).

There’s a phenomenon I have observed that I would call “socially frum” – that a person keeps Torah and mitzvot not out of conviction

or a wonderful relationship with Hashem, but because it’s what they feel is expected of them. They’ll do all that’s required, but somehow, it hasn’t permeated their being. I’m not – G-d forbid – critical of such a person. Any mitzva is a good mitzva in my book. But we hope and pray that such people (and all of us) will learn not just to keep the mitzvot,

but to walk in them – to study, to do, to integrate. May Hashem bless us with a way of life in which we see His Torah as an invaluable life-enriching resource, and may we consequently be blessed with all of the blessings of the parsha.

Rabbi Sam Thurgood
– Beit Midrash
Morasha
@ Arthur’s Road



Shabbat Times brought to you by

Spencer Schwartz from You Realty
Residential Property Sales and Rentals

	Starts	Ends
Johannesburg	17:07	17:58
Cape Town	17:29	18:23
Durban	16:48	17:40
Bloemfontein	17:08	18:00
Port Elizabeth	17:00	17:54
Plettenberg Bay	17:09	18:03
East London	16:53	17:47
Jerusalem*	19:01	20:19
Tel Aviv*	19:17	20:22

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

You.
Realty

The basic havdalah formula was composed in the fourth century BCE. Not everyone could afford a cup of wine for havdalah, therefore the havdalah prayer was included in the evening prayers. When the Jews became more financially stable, they formulated the havdalah prayer over wine. It was however decided to keep both forms of havdalah.



*one hour ahead of SA time

Rosh Chodesh Sivan courtesy of



Novis Inc.
Attorneys & Conveyancers

The Sunday Lawyers

Shabbat Mevarachim: Parsha Bechukotai.
Rosh Chodesh falls on Tuesday 31st May
Shavuot is on Sunday and
Monday 5th and 6th June.

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

School reaches out to community after Nazi salute

TALI FEINBERG

Four matric prefect pupils raise outstretched right arms in “Heil Hitler” salutes on stage during a karaoke rendition of *Erika*, possibly the best-known tune that was sung by the Wehrmacht. The pupils seem to speak German fluently, and are copied by students offstage. This was the scene at Hoërskool Rustenburg in North West on 18 May 2022, posted on TikTok, which then went viral.

According to local media, the pupils accused of giving the salute were the school’s top academic achievers. They apologised to the school’s management on Monday, 23 May, and are expected to make an apology to the whole school community.

Speaking to the *SA Jewish Report*, Bernhard Visser, the chairperson of Hoërskool Rustenburg’s school governing body (SGB), said, “As SGB chairperson, I want to give my commitment to the South African Jewish community that the SGB has already and will continue to handle this matter with due respect. As South Africans, we’re all well-acquainted with the devastating consequences of discrimination. We cannot plead ignorance – we have to do better as education role-players, whether parents, teachers, SGB members, or the larger school community.

“We would like to take hands with the Jewish community and use this incident as an opportunity for education, growth, tolerance, and positive dialogue,” he said. “We ask that you please receive our unreserved apology for the hurt caused by the incident.”

He confirmed that “the pupils were taking part in a karaoke competition at the school. There was a request for a German song, and *Erika* was played. Some students reacted with a Nazi salute. The incident was captured on video, and shared on social media.

“I was shocked when the incident came to my attention. The SGB acted immediately, and initiated an enquiry into the incident. The pupils were identified, and their parents have been informed. The disciplinary hearings of these pupils will be held early next week.”

Visser doesn’t want to speculate why the students took the salute. “I don’t think there was any malicious intent, but ignorance is in no way an excuse,” he said. Asked what kind of Holocaust education was offered at the school, he said, “As SGB chairperson, I cannot comment on the formal curriculum as that’s determined by the national department of basic education. However, in addition to what’s taught in the formal curriculum, there’s always room for awareness programmes.

“A school isn’t just responsible for teaching the formal curriculum. As education role-players, we’re all responsible for the holistic teaching and development of pupils,” he says. “The South African Jewish Board of Deputies has offered assistance in terms of education and awareness, and the SGB has gratefully accepted the offer of guidance in this matter.”

Regarding the consequences the students will face, “Once the disciplinary process has been concluded, a decision will be made about sanctions against the pupils,” he said. “I cannot pre-empt the outcome of the disciplinary hearings, save to say that such sanctions, on a finding of guilt, are always corrective in nature and that, in this matter, will be substantive given the serious nature of the incident.”



Hoërskool Rustenburg

In an official statement on the matter, Visser said, “The SGB views the incident in an extremely serious light. These gestures are associated with the worst crimes against humanity.”

North West education department officials visited Hoërskool Rustenburg on 24 May to investigate the incident. The province’s education spokesperson, Elias Malindi, said a detailed response would be given after their investigation was concluded.

Says South African Jewish Board of Deputies Associate Director David Saks, “These references are deeply hurtful to the Jewish community and are particularly distressing to survivors, for whom this isn’t history but their heartbreaking lived experience.

“The persistence of ‘Nazi chic’ among elements of the white youth, in spite of them having grown up in a non-racial democracy where such beliefs are considered abhorrent, is disquieting and raises disturbing questions. Sometimes it comes down simply to a misguided desire to appear unconventional and rebellious by pushing accepted boundaries, but it would

be naive to deny that a sneaking admiration for the Nazi cult is also part of the mix.

“That people aren’t embarrassed to identify publicly in this way, albeit as a ‘joke’, further points to their peer group being also to some extent desensitised, and at least at some level one has to attribute this to the failure of the educational system in which they were raised.”

Tali Nates, the director of the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC), says, “The South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation, the association of the three independent centres in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg, invites the school as a whole to visit one of the centres and engage deeply with the history of the Holocaust, genocides in the 20th century, and South Africa’s painful history of racism and ‘othering’. An annual school visit and workshop will deepen knowledge and understanding about the Holocaust and genocide, and allow students to make connections to the world today and especially to themselves in it.

“In the JHGC, the words of Auschwitz survivor and writer, Primo Levi, greets the visitors, ‘It happened,

therefore it can happen again.’ This is the core of what we have to say. It’s critical to reflect on these words. The students, through their hurtful actions demonstrated a lack of understanding of history and its consequences for the lives of millions of women, men, and children. They were blind to the connections between the past and the present, and the hurt that hateful symbols and words can cause others.

“We believe that education is key, and that the students should engage with the history of the Holocaust as well as other genocides, and reflect on the lessons learned from history for all humanity.”

“Heil Hitler” salutes at South African schools and universities aren’t a new phenomenon. In 2019, pupils at Somerset West Private School were depicted doing Nazi salutes in a school website photograph. The school initially said it was a “Roman salute”, but then backtracked, apologised, and met Jewish organisations.

In 2017, Nazi slogans and gestures were directed against Jewish pupils from King David Victory Park by pupils from Edenvale High at an interschool one-act play competition. The school met the SAJBD and condemned the incident, committing to further Holocaust education.

In 2014, students at North West University performed the “Heil Hitler” salute during a supposed orientation ceremony. The university’s vice-chancellor, Dr Theuns Eloff, eventually stepped down because of the incident.

In 2012, a student at St John’s College in Johannesburg mimicked Adolf Hitler on “Moustache Day”. He went on stage sporting a moustache and hairstyle similar to Hitler, and performed the Nazi salute. Most of the students laughed, and more than half stood up and returned the salute, according to reports. The boy later apologised, and the school also “apologised unreservedly for the offense caused by this incident”.

‘Conman’ Levick leaves elderly couple penniless

>>>Continued from page 1

To date, the Michels have received only R140 000 since the signing of the settlement agreement.

They have been left with no choice but to institute legal proceedings against Levick and Lois Cherie Levick in the desperate hope of recovering some of their money.

Levick’s attorney, Anthea Denton, told the *SA Jewish Report* that Levick was “ambushed” by the Michels and the Beth Din, and had signed the agreement under “duress”.

She said the settlement agreement was between Mrs Levick and the Michels. “As an insolvent, Martin Levick cannot enter into an agreement,” she said. The agreement was therefore *void ab initio* (has no legal effect from inception) as her client was an unrehabilitated insolvent and the Beth Din may have “induced” him to sign it.

“A formal meeting was held after which Martin Levick and his mother signed a settlement agreement before the Beth Din acknowledging his debt to the Michels and confirming his obligations in writing,” said legal advisor Steven Weinberg, who assists the Beth Din with difficult disputes. “When he breached his agreement, the Beth Din approached him multiple

times by phone and in writing.”

When asked about Levick signing the agreement “under duress”, Weinberg said, “I wasn’t present at the meeting, but I find that impossible to believe.”

Rabbi Shmuel Slasky, the Beth Din’s rabbinical director, said, “There was no duress whatsoever. This is a heart-breaking, terrible situation which the Beth Din has taken very seriously and is at pains to see resolved. The Michels have lost their life savings.”

He said the Beth Din had encouraged the Michels to bring an application to the High Court.

Attorney for the Michels, Jeff Afriat, of Edelstein, Farber, Grobler Incorporated, told the *SA Jewish Report*, “EFG Incorporated represents various clients who collectively have claims against Genesis Capital [in business rescue]. In the Michels’ case, I confirm that both criminal and civil proceedings will be instituted shortly against Levick, his mother, Mrs Lois Cherie Levick, and all other persons involved.”

Mrs Levick’s attorney, Fatima Samnakay, had not commented at the time of going to print.

JAWITZ

PROPERTIES

Leading

REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

Real Life.

Real Estate.

Invest in Property in Israel From R5 Million

Contact Herschel Jawitz in strict confidence

082 571 1829 | herschel@jawitz.co.za

FOR SALE

GLENHAZEL | R 1 899 000

3

2

Web Ref: RL88096

Cluster style family home. On Silvamonte Border. 3 Sunny bedrooms, main with aircon and sliders onto garden. 2 bathrooms, main en suite. Lovely mirrored cupboards in all the bedrooms. A beautiful, light study/playroom/ 4th bedroom with sliders out to garden. Well fitted kitchen. Staff accommodation. Close to all amenities.

Joel Harris: 082 926 0287

Laureen Shalpid: 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

GLENHAZEL | R 3 499 000

5

4

Web Ref: RL86599

Asking More. A rare gem indeed in a great location. Huge bonus “No Levies”. This secure cluster comprises 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 3 lovely receptions opening out to covered patio and sparkling pool. Private garden, eat-in kitchen and awesome breakfast nook, Staff accommodation and double lock up garage.

Joel Harris: 082 926 0287

Laureen Shalpid: 083 789 0229

PRICE REDUCED

ORCHARDS | R 5 995 000

4

3.5

Web Ref: RL85047

Stylish, modern, light-and-bright, superbly-architected family home in the sought-after suburb of Orchards. This unique designer-home featured in the millennium edition of Habitat magazine. In addition to the lovely open-plan flow of the house, all the entertainment rooms look out onto magnificent, lush, well-kept gardens & the large pool.

John Hayden: 082 454 7152

PRICE REDUCED

MORNINGSIDE | R 3 450 000

3

3

Web Ref: RL87511

Apartment living on another level! Brilliant Position! Sophisticated, spacious & sublime. Stunning Main Bed with en suite Bath. Super Modern kitchen. Light & Bright Open Plan living/dining area with incredible space, flow & energy. A spectacular staircase leads to the upstairs which comprises of 2 en suite bedrooms + pyjama lounge/kitchen.

Sandra Luntz: 083 679 1247

Jarred Silverman: fighting fit after falling hard



Jarred Silverman at Colin Nathan's Hot Box Gym

Photo: Ian Ossendryver

TALI FEINBERG

He took up boxing from a young age, became number one in the country, almost died in a shooting, was sent to prison and, as a father and husband, he’s now trying to get himself back on track.

Though Jarred Silverman hasn’t followed a conventional path, this Jewish boxer and businessman has a fascinating story to tell about bobbing and weaving through the challenges of life.

“I have a small, loving family and I grew up in the south of Johannesburg. My mother is Jewish, and most Friday nights, I’m at a Shabbat,” says Silverman. “My grandfather introduced me to boxing at the age of

seven, and I fell in love with the sport. I was rated number one in the country before I was shot, and signed a contract to fight for the South African title.”

All that came crashing down when Silverman was shot five times in an incident that also landed him in prison. “I had a 1% chance of living and was in and out of hospital for two years. Without Hashem, I would never have made it,” he says. He was then sentenced to five years for attempted murder.

According to local media reports, a friend of Silverman’s sneaked a firearm into a music festival in 2014. An altercation arose between Silverman and a member of a family with whom Silverman had a feud. The

All Silverman will say about the incident was that it was in “self-defence”. He was found guilty in 2018. “In that moment, my entire world collapsed as I had recently got married and had a three-month-old son.”

He served two and a half years of his sentence at Krugersdorp and Leeuwkop prisons, and is now serving the second half of his sentence on parole. He seeks forgiveness from those he wronged, and says “revenge isn’t the answer”.

Being away from his wife and son was the most difficult part of being in prison. “It was pure hell on earth – the worst pain I’ve ever felt.” Conditions in prison were “horrific and disgusting. There were rats and cockroaches – 80 inmates in one cell

Hatzolah takes community's well-being to heart

NICOLA MILTZ

Hatzolah Medical Rescue has embarked on a potentially one of a kind, life-saving school initiative to prevent sudden cardiac death in adolescents (SCDA).

Sudden cardiac death is defined as death that is abrupt, unexpected, and due to a cardiovascular cause. It’s generally recognised as death that occurs within one hour from the onset of cardiovascular symptoms. However, in young people, it typically occurs within a few minutes of symptom onset.

The condition is extremely rare, but can be fatal and is completely preventable, say experts.

“Over the next three weeks, Hatzolah will be conducting electrocardiograms [ECGs] on all willing adolescents at Johannesburg Jewish schools. It’s hoping to conduct just more than 1 500 ECGs,” said project manager, Avigdor Hack.

Hack said the project was first rolled out about five years ago, and was very successful.

“We conducted more than 1 000 ECGs during our last screening project. There were about 12 adolescents who were flagged for further investigation and four cases were referred to a cardiologist. One adolescent required chronic medication for an arrhythmia, and one patient needed to have an ablation,” he said.

Darren Kahn, the executive general manager at Hatzolah, said SCDA was very rare. “We’re undertaking this project as a preventive measure and there’s no reason to be concerned,” he said.

The project, on the cards for some time, was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It’s not related to the recent incident in which Grade 11 pupil Gavi Waksman of King David High School Linksfield collapsed at a recent cross country meeting, Kahn said. It’s unknown whether an ECG would have helped in Waksman’s case, and doctors are still investigating his condition, which is improving.

The idea for the project was sparked several years ago by one of the Hatzolah paramedics, who is also a doctor, at a Johannesburg hospital whose patient, from outside the community, suffered SCDA, which could have been picked up by an ECG.

“I feel strongly about this project because it’s an entirely preventable

condition,” Hack said. “It’s wonderful to be able to offer this service.”

“It’s such a tragedy when a young, fit person collapses suddenly from a heart condition that can easily be detected. It’s not like a person’s life has to change if something is picked up, it can require a simple procedure or medication going forward.”

Hack said the project was free of charge for the school and students and was entirely voluntary. If however, an abnormality is picked up, responsibility of future treatment will be up to the legal guardians.

“We have employed two male nurses for male students and two female nurses for female students who will be using our four 12 lead ECG machines. All screenings will be private and confidential,” he said.

The most common causes of SCA in children are structural cardiac abnormalities – congenital heart disease and post-operative repairs and coronary artery anomalies – all of which Hack said could be picked up with an ECG.

“The project relies on a whole team of Hatzolah volunteers and trained nurses. The community is blessed to have so many on board. Huge thanks to all involved,” he said.



Avigdor Hack

An ECG is one of the simplest and fastest tests used to evaluate the heart. Electrodes (small, plastic patches that stick to the skin) are placed at certain spots on the chest, arms, and legs. The electrodes are connected to an ECG machine by lead wires. The electrical activity of the heart is then measured and at a later stage, will be interpreted. No electricity is sent into the body.

Natural electrical impulses co-ordinate contractions of different parts of the heart to keep blood flowing the way it should. An ECG records these impulses to show how fast the heart is beating, the rhythm of the heart beats (steady or irregular), and the strength and timing of the electrical impulses as they move through the different parts of the heart. Changes in an ECG can be a sign of many heart-related conditions.

There will be an opportunity for students at other schools to take part in this project and for those who missed the session to attend catch-up sessions, possibly on weekends.

For further information, contact Avigdor Hack at avigdor@hatzolah.co.za

with one toilet, one basin, one shower and all the showers didn’t work. I washed out of a bucket for two and a half years.”

However, he tried to make his time count, and to have a positive impact on those around him. “I started a boxing academy, training inmates. I educated them on the art of boxing, instilling discipline and a healthy lifestyle.”

What got him through the toughest moments was “focusing on my release, getting home to my wife and son, and becoming a champion”. He also looked to his Jewish faith as a form of strength. Reuniting with his son “was the best day of my life”.

Now, his goals are simple: “To become the best father, husband, champion, businessman, and person I can possibly be.” He also hopes to be “an inspiration to those who are going through a hard time in life. I want to change as many lives as I can.” He would even be open to doing talks at schools.

Before his life changed, his boxing nickname was “Mr Hollywood”. Asked where this came from, he says, “The late South African boxing trainer, Nick Durandt, gave me the

nickname. He said all the stars come from Hollywood, and one day I’ll be a star.” Now, he hopes to fulfil that dream.

He has his boxing licence back, and has chosen to train at Colin Nathan’s Hot Box Gym. He describes Nathan as “an absolute mensch.”

On 15 May, Nathan shared a photo on Instagram of him, Silverman, and Silverman’s son all wearing boxing gloves, as he officially welcomed Silverman to the gym. “Often in life we fall. Our choices are like the fight game: we can stay down, or we can choose to rise,” he wrote.

“I believe everyone deserves a second chance in life,” Nathan says. “I’ve known Jarred since he was 14, and he loves boxing. He’s an all-action fighter and crowd pleaser. I’ve always had a soft spot for him. I’m thrilled that he chose me to train and manage him. I’m looking forward to what the future holds.”

“I thank the Jewish community for supporting me through the hardest time of my life,” says Silverman. “All I can say is that it makes me proud to be Jewish.”

AP and CNN claim Israel shot journalist

ANDREW LAPIN – JTA

The Palestinian American journalist killed while reporting on an Israeli military raid on a West Bank refugee camp was probably shot by the Israeli military, according to the findings of two different investigations released on Tuesday, 24 May, by Associated Press and CNN.

The unresolved 11 May death of Shireen Abu Akleh, a venerated *Al Jazeera* journalist, has turned into a major international firestorm, as Israeli authorities insist it was possible she was killed by a Palestinian militant, while the Palestinian government has refused to co-operate on a joint investigation. Last week, 57 House Democrats called for a United States (US) probe into Abu Akleh’s killing, angering Israel’s ambassador to the US. Israeli police also rushed mourners at her funeral after they claimed funeral goers were throwing stones.

Through extensive audio and video analysis – although neither outlet had access to video showing the moment of her death – along with eyewitness interviews, AP and CNN determined that an Israeli convoy was the most probable source of the bullet that killed the journalist.

CNN further suggested that Abu Akleh died in a “targeted attack”, citing other journalists who served as eyewitnesses, and said that there had been no active exchange of gunfire with Palestinians and that the Israeli convoy had fired on journalists who had moved through the area as a group.

Returning to the location of her death and using GPS technology to map out the surrounding area, the outlets individually found that the Israeli convoy was closer and in a more direct line of sight to Abu Akleh’s location, while the nearest Palestinian militants who could have fired in her direction were behind them. Strike marks in the surrounding area and a reconstructed timeline of the convoy’s arrival also appeared to support the

conclusion that she was hit by Israeli artillery, the reports said.

Parsing of available video of Abu Akleh’s killing, including video taken and released by Israeli forces, also ruled out other Palestinian suspects based on their relative locations.

Israel’s own official investigation into the incident is ongoing, with the government saying it needs the Palestinian Authority (PA) to hand over the bullet that killed Abu Akleh in order to perform a full ballistics assessment. Separately, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) recently said it wouldn’t pursue a criminal investigation into her killing, though it’s continuing to investigate the source of the bullet.

The PA, meanwhile, has called on the International Criminal Court to investigate the matter, and insists it won’t co-operate with Israeli investigators, citing past investigations of Israeli misconduct toward Palestinians that were dragged out or quietly dismissed. Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz said that any referral of the case to the Hague would harm Israeli-Palestinian relations.

In addition to CNN’s findings, *Al Jazeera* and the PA both allege that Abu Akleh was deliberately targeted by Israeli soldiers, a charge beyond the scope of the AP’s findings, and one that Israel has emphatically denied. The journalist was wearing an outfit clearly labelling her as “press” at the time of her death.

A letter published by Artists for Palestine UK and signed by 126 artists and celebrities, including Tilda Swinton, Mark Ruffalo, and Peter Gabriel, is calling for “accountability” for Abu Akleh’s death.

Last weekend in Jenin, during a raid on the same West Bank refugee camp where Abu Akleh was killed, Israeli forces also shot dead a 17-year-old Palestinian who had been wearing Hamas and Islamic Jihad clothing. The IDF said in a statement that it was returning gunfire after violence had broken out.

EFF and Zapiro take extremism to new heights

TALI FEINBERG

“Sadistic, cruel, genocidal, evil, sick, fascist, and inhumane,” was how the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) described Israel in a press release on Friday, 13 May. The political party was commenting on the recent death of *Al Jazeera* journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, whom it said Israel had “assassinated”. It was also commenting on the actions of Israeli police at her funeral.

It labelled Israel as “Zionist maniacs”, and called for South Africa to expel the Israeli ambassador and permanently close the Israeli embassy. “Israel is an evil state which must be destroyed as a matter of urgency,” the EFF concluded.

says local antisemitism expert and emeritus professor of history at the University of Cape Town, Milton Shain. “The scenes at the funeral of Shireen Abu Akleh were awful, and her death in the line of duty (whoever was responsible) unacceptable, but to move from that tragedy to describing Israel as an ‘evil state’ betrays a mindset and madness long associated with the commander in chief. When [Julius] Malema starts to issue statements about other violations in other parts of the world, his voice will be taken more seriously.

“Zapiro is understandably angered. But to leap from Hector Pieterston to Jenin is a stretch too far,” he says. “Perhaps there’s poetic license in the world of cartoons, but

credible news outlets and rights groups were saying (with no absolute certainty but with plenty of evidence) that she was shot by an Israeli sniper. This fits a narrative of ongoing persecution of Palestinians by Israeli authorities, and makes the Soweto metaphor appropriate. The attack by Israeli police on Abu Akleh’s mourners had already happened when this cartoon was published, and was also reminiscent of the behaviour of South Africa’s apartheid police.”

The Israeli embassy rarely responds to anti-Israel rhetoric, but it put out a very clear response to the EFF’s extremism. “This deplorable statement aims to score points with extreme radical fringes of society that, under the pretext of supporting Palestinians,



Pro-Palestinian protest outside the Israeli Embassy in 2021

In addition, local cartoonist Zapiro (Jonathan Shapiro) drew a cartoon published in *Daily Maverick* on 13 May depicting Abu Akleh as Hector Pieterston alongside the words, “From Soweto to Jenin”. An Israeli soldier with a smoking gun is drawn in the background, even though the cause of Akleh’s death is still in dispute.

“Zapiro’s cartoon and the recent EFF statement are expressions of an antisemitic demonisation of Israel,” says Dr Günther Jikeli, the Erna B Rosenfeld associate professor at the Institute for the Study of Contemporary Antisemitism at Indiana University. “Both operate with false and one-sided accusations against Israel in a complex conflict. Such sweeping accusations aren’t helpful in any efforts for peaceful conflict resolution. Quite the contrary, they embolden those who call for violence against Israel and against anyone who has more nuanced views and doesn’t join in the demonisation of Israel.”

“This is predictable vitriol from the EFF,”

Zapiro could have done better. Other than building on emotions, the links are crude and the events dissimilar.”

David Saks, the associate director of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, says, “The cartoon comes across as little more than a cynical misappropriation of history in order to push a predetermined ideological position, and is a cheap and opportunistic point-scoring stunt. It’s surely thoroughly dishonest to compare the fatal shooting of an unarmed teenage protestor with the death, however tragic, of a journalist caught in an exchange of fire in a conflict zone, particular when it remains unclear who was responsible and when in all likelihood, the shooting was accidental.”

The *SA Jewish Report* approached Jonathan Shapiro for comment. “I produced this cartoon a few days after Shireen Abu Akleh was shot,” he says. “By then even the Israeli authorities had pulled back from their earlier allegation that she was shot by Palestinians. With no official inquiry taking place, most

and the rest of the world.

“As a fellow democratic nation, Israel considers South Africa an important partner. As such, Israel values the opinion of those South African people that strive for peace and are open to dialogue. Israel looks forward to continuing co-operation with South Africa across all fields, and is confident that any demagoguing attempts to influence public opinion toward hatred and violence are going to fail,” it said.

“The hypocrisy that the EFF shows publicly is breathtaking,” says Benji Shulman, the director of public policy at the South African Zionist Federation. “A party that supports authoritarian and tyrannical regimes, such as Iran and Venezuela, and at the same time calls for the world’s only Jewish and democratic state to be destroyed, is perverse and exposes its targeted hate by singling out Israel. It’s a blatant call for the annihilation of Israel, and an obvious example of antisemitism according to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition.”

DRIVING MISS DAISY

Trustworthy and presentable 72-year-old Jewish gentleman, with a reliable luxury car looking to supplement his retirement

Offers the following services for hourly (negotiable) rates:

- Airport Lifts (taking and fetching)
- Lifts for elderly people wanting to visit friends and family.
- Will take people to do shopping or will do it for them.
- Drop off and fetch children from school or extramurals.
- Dr’s appointments (there and back) also to hospital and fetch after procedures.

If there is anything I haven’t mentioned, I will do my best to accommodate you.

CONTACT ME ON 083 258 8203

Winston Akum - I will look after your loved ones as if they were my own



25% OFF

all Ray-Bans



T: 011 440 9001 • 063 915 0722
eyecare@theopticalstudio.co.za
Midways Mall • 280 Corlett Drive

till end May
T's& C's apply

MOVING?

ONLY ONE CHOICE

- ★ SAFE ★
- ★ RELIABLE ★
- ★ OWNER SUPERVISED ★
- ★ AFFORDABLE ★

Spike Bourgeist 082 456 0105

RESPOND NOW



speedyspikesa@gmail.com
www.speedyspike.co.za
speedyspikesouthafrica


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 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.




Lifestyle Complex NETANYA

Enjoy a luxurious lifestyle just 500 meters from the Netanya promenade and beach. Park Hayam is an investors dream - a new area in South Netanya nestled in a green reserve between Ir Yamim and the city centre.




Savyoney HARISH

Affordable apartments in a brand new city creates the ideal investment to get into the property market. Harish is located in the north-eastern Sharon region, just a 40 min drive from Haifa.



Yamim Hatzira SOUTH NETANYA

This residential project will include 872 new units located near the “Ir Yamim” neighborhood and Poleg beach in South Netanya. Enjoy a luxury lifestyle near the sea at pre-sale prices.



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

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

www.hold.co.il

Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

Beware the wolf in sheep’s clothing

When we write a story that “names and shames” someone, we don’t do it lightly. The *SA Jewish Report* isn’t in the naming and shaming game, as such.

We’re a community newspaper, and if there’s an event that we need to tell people about that might humiliate people, we put a great deal of time and energy into the decision whether to use the names concerned. It’s always about sharing knowledge that’s in the community’s interest, and what it has the right to know. We don’t shy away from the truth, but our purpose isn’t to harm.

I’m sure you remember the story about the wedding during the COVID-19 pandemic, in which the *simcha* went ahead without concern for spreading the virus. It was during one of the most severe waves of coronavirus. There were people involved that laughed at the virus and later were angry that we wrote about it. We own that decision, but we didn’t name those concerned because we didn’t want to cause them harm.

We were well aware that there wasn’t one person involved who purposely wanted to make anyone sick. These were good people who wanted their *simcha* to be as they dreamed it would be.

This week, on our front page, we bring you the story of Martin Levick, who appears not to care about taking people’s life savings under false pretences and leaving them with next to nothing.

Apparently, he doesn’t seem to care whether they are close friends, part of his community, or people who will suffer greatly by losing their money. In fact, in some of the voice notes he sent to the “close friends” he allegedly fleeced, he went on about sharing Shabboses and how wonderful they were to his mother, all the while taking their hard-earned money.

Levick, the former chief executive of Genesis Capital investment house, was sequestered in 2019, and at the time faced criminal and civil legal action for fraud.

He had homes in Houghton in Johannesburg and Clifton Beach in Cape Town, and drove cars that others only dream of.

Around that time, many creditors came forward claiming that Levick owed them tens of millions of rands, according to News24 through his “desperate and dishonest conduct”, “trickery”, and “fraudulent behaviour”. At the time, he denied defrauding anyone.

His trick was to convince people with money to invest with him. At the time, many of those who lost money had a lot of money.

You would imagine that with his name all over the mainstream media and as a result of losing a great deal of what he made, Levick would have learned his lesson. One imagines he would have acknowledged what he had done, and made amends. The man was part of this community, and many within it wanted to believe the best in him. Many saw him as having taken from the rich, so they could find it in themselves to forgive him.

Only apparently, there was no amendment or apology.

Levick didn’t appear to see the error of his ways because unfortunately, it didn’t end there.

Instead, he decided it was okay to take from close friends, people who would trust him over what anyone said, people who believed they knew him well.

He took the very money they would be retiring on.

So, when we considered writing about Levick now, it was a no brainer. This man appears to be unrepentant and willing to con his own family friends out of their last cents.

As a newspaper, we feel strongly that we need to warn our community about such people. It’s incumbent on us to do what we can to ensure you don’t get conned.

If after you read this you still choose to go into business with Levick, that’s entirely up to you, but we believe it’s vital that we tell you what we know. And don’t for a moment think this is all of it. There are others who are still waiting to tell their story.

So, when people ask how we can cause such pain for the man’s family because they didn’t do anything wrong, our answer is, if Levick didn’t want his family to feel pain, he shouldn’t have done what he did.

He should never have blatantly lied to people about what he could do for them to enable them to retire comfortably, while leaving them with almost nothing.

I met the Michels family, and they are good people. Their only real failing is that they trusted Levick implicitly.

I do understand that sometimes there are people like the notorious Tinder Swindler, who make life look gilded. It looks so easy and spectacular that it is easy to get caught up in what they appear to offer. Few don’t want to live the high life. Few would turn down making money easily, with no hard work involved.

However, so often, we have to wake up and realise that nothing comes from nothing, no matter how much someone tries to make you believe that it does.

Con artists are a dime a dozen. Not all of them have the same ability to win people over and get them to hand over their money, however.

But we all need to take care that as money becomes tighter and harder to come by, we look after what we have. It’s easy to say, “Don’t look a gift horse in the mouth”, but I’m pleading with you not to do that.

We have many reputable and trustworthy financial advisors within our community, ask for help before handing over money.

Levick isn’t alone out there. Too many are trying to make a quick buck, some smarter or not so smart.

I’m no expert, but I caution us all not to get taken in, and if someone warns us to be careful of someone or a deal that looks too good to be true, trust them. Rather get your 5% interest and keep your money until your old age than lose it all in the hope of millions.

Shabbat Shalom!

Peta Krost

Editor



Abu Akleh’s killing another sad chapter in war against terror



OPINION

AMBASSADOR ELI BELOTSERCOVSKY

Shireen Abu Akleh was well known to the Arab-speaking viewers of *Al Jazeera*. She had lived most of her life in Jerusalem, and for decades had reported on issues related to Israel and the Palestinians.

Abu Akleh was at the peak of her career, and her tragic death was absolutely unnecessary. Our sympathies are with her family, and we deeply regret their loss.

The circumstances surrounding her death are still unclear. Following a wave of terror against Israeli citizens, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) was conducting an operation in the vicinity of Jenin to arrest those suspected of terrorist activities. During this operation, the terrorists used heavy fire and explosives against IDF soldiers, who were left with no other alternative but to return fire.

Abu Akleh was injured and died of her wounds during this exchange. It’s difficult to establish what happened, but in reviewing a video clip, the terrorists claimed that they had wounded a soldier and that they saw him lying on the ground. However, no Israeli soldiers were wounded in this encounter and there’s a very real possibility that the person that they mentioned was, in fact, Abu Akleh.

Israel continues to call on the Palestinian Authority (PA) to conduct a joint thorough investigation of this event. Regrettably, the answer has been no. Israel also asked to receive the bullet that killed Abu Akleh. This was also refused.

The Israeli suggestion to involve an independent expert in the investigation was ignored. Unfortunately, it seems that the PA isn’t really interested in the truth but rather in exploiting this tragedy for political gain in attempting to influence popular opinion.

It’s even more tragic that Abu Akleh’s funeral was also exploited for political purposes and was turned into a riot and an opportunity to seed hatred for Israel.



Terrorism is the greatest scourge of our times and as its name implies, aimed at terrorising. This aim is achieved by the indiscriminate killing of civilians – men, women, and children. It’s something we in Israel are unfortunately all too familiar with.

Abu Akleh has become one more victim in the war against terror. Her face is the latest of those impacted by this scourge. Being a well-known personality, her death has generated expressions of grief and condemnation from many public figures and organisations. And yet, the indiscriminate and cold-blooded terror it represents is still consuming the lives of innocent people whose only crime is to be Israelis. Unfortunately, their stories are unknown, and nobody outside of Israel knows their names.

On the eve of 5 May, an Israeli driver, Oren Ben Yiftah, 35 years old, gave a lift to two Palestinians near the city of Elad in Israel. The Palestinians, armed with knives and an axe, stabbed the driver to death. They entered a municipal park and started a killing spree in which they killed two more and wounded four. Sixteen children have become orphans as a result of only this attack.

Barak Lofen, aged 35, was murdered, together with two other young people, while sitting in a coffee shop in the middle of Tel Aviv on 7 April by a terrorist armed with a pistol. On 22 March, Laura Yitzhak, aged 43, was on her work shift at a petrol station in the southern city of Beer Sheba. Within moments she was stabbed to death by a terrorist. On 29 March, Avishay Yehezkiel, aged 29, was walking with his two-year-old son on the streets of Bnei Brak next to Tel Aviv. He was shot by a terrorist while protecting his child.

These are only a few names in the terrible roster of terror victims. And the names keep piling up. Israel continues to pay a terrible price for its existence, a price more often than not counted in human lives.

These people and thousands of others were *intentionally killed* because, someone incited the killers and someone sent them. Unfortunately, many organisations and even countries have turned terror into a business. This is true regarding Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Isis, Hezbollah, and Iran. For them, terror is a legitimate tool to achieve their aims.

And yet, interestingly enough, the sponsors of these horrendous terror acts seem to enjoy immunity from reprisals, the calls of incitement to terror continue to be sounded without any condemnation, and the watchful eye of the so-called “human-rights organisations” seem to ignore, conveniently, the human right to life of the citizens of the state of Israel.

Terrorism won’t stop without decisive measures by the entire international community against those who incite, who call people to conduct terrorist acts, who glorify the perpetrators.

There can be no tolerance of terror. There’s no doubt that though today it’s the Israelis that are mainly affected, tomorrow, without decisive action, everybody will be at risk.

• *Eli Belotsercovsky is the Israeli ambassador to South Africa.*

Rodney Mazinter: the power of the written word

BENJI SHULMAN

Rodney Mazinter was a passionate Zionist throughout his life who believed in the power of the written word to affect change.

On reflection on his long service to the South African Zionist Federation Cape Council (SAZFCC), Mazinter said, “An ardent Israel supporter, admirer, and believer in Israel’s people and their achievements, I have found in the SAZF Cape Council a vehicle through which I’m able to play a role in support of fellow Jews living in their historical homeland.

“What really motivates me is that in just 74 years, Israel has moved away from being another agrarian society and a haven for the Jews of Europe and the world after the Holocaust. It has gone on to more than pay its dues in being leaders of international development in the fields of technology, business, conservation, medicine, justice, and democracy. I very much want to play a role, albeit small, in this journey.”

He played a valued and varied role in Cape communal organisations, including serving as vice-chairperson of the SAZFCC.

Mazinter had a talent for writing, a wealth of factual and historical knowledge, and an ability to understand the political nuance of the South African and Israeli landscape.

He took his passion and talent in these endeavours, and utilised them in the interest of his great loves, South Africa, Israel, and the Jewish people.

Mazinter was often the first point of call when a third party response was needed in defence of Israel in the



Rodney Mazinter

media. As a veteran columnist, he could pick apart much of the hateful diatribe spewed across the papers, and he did so with cunning tenacity and meticulous research. His knowledge base was incomparable, and he used this to support Zionism and the indigenous sovereign state of Israel.

Furthermore, Mazinter was a seasoned novelist, journalist, and poet. His penmanship was formidable, emotive, and often gut-wrenching.

His first novel, *By A Mighty Hand*, documented Jewish life in the early 20th century, ultimately culminating in the Holocaust. Once again, Rodney applied the talent he was given to shine a light on a pivotal part of history, not only chronicling Jewish life in this era but offering his unique perspective.

Mazinter was a true friend to Christian Zionists. Chris Eden from Bridges for Peace said he would “truly be missed” and that “he always showed a heartfelt welcome towards the Christian community”. “We pay tribute to his contribution in the area of his advocacy, his warmth, and friendship,” Eden said.

Those who had the honour and pleasure of working with him are experiencing a profound sense of loss. We share our condolences with his wife, Mavis, children, Luisa and Jonathan, and their families. He will be remembered for his sense of humour, his integrity, and his willingness to always give support even when it wasn’t asked of him.

Alan Magid: impeccable jurist and cornerstone of Durban Jews

ALANA BARANOV

“He had integrity, moral courage, independence, and experience in the law, all the attributes of the ideal judge.”

Close friend, Judge Phillip Levinsohn’s, words capture the true essence of the late judge, Alan Magid, whose death last Friday on the threshold of his 93rd birthday has been mourned far beyond the Durban Jewish community.

Philip Alan Mendell Magid was born in Durban on 24 May 1929. The son of a prominent attorney and concert singer, he matriculated at 16 from Durban High School, and pursued his BA LLB at the University of Cape Town.

Magid had a long and illustrious legal career. He was admitted as an attorney in 1953, and practiced as a notary and conveyancer for more than two decades. After becoming a non-executive director of a listed public company in 1973, Magid returned to the legal world and “took the silk” after just six years in July 1981, a remarkably short time in which to attain this feat.

After 16 years as an advocate, he was appointed to the Bench on 1 March 1991, where he worked tirelessly until retiring on his 75th birthday. Magid was willing to join the Bench only after President FW de Klerk announced a moratorium on the death penalty, saying that he would be uncomfortable handing down the death sentence when there was even a slight chance that an innocent person could die.

A highlight for Magid was interviewing Nelson Mandela at Pollsmoor Prison in 1987 as a witness in the defence of 13 African National Congress activists. As senior counsel at the time, the court granted Magid unprecedented access to Mandela, who was prevented from being a witness in the high court and had to have his testimony relayed by Magid. Working alongside him as junior counsel was Pius Langa, who later became South Africa’s chief justice and head of the Constitutional Court.

“HE LEAD AN EXEMPLARY LIFE, AND ALWAYS STOOD UP FOR JUSTICE.”

Besides his immense contribution to South African law, Magid was a pillar of the Durban Jewish community. Inspired by the legacy of his grandfather, Eli, and his father, Lionel, Magid became involved in Jewish communal affairs at an early age, first joining the children’s services of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation (DUHC). Some of the leadership positions he held over the decades included trustee of the DUHC; chairperson of the Durban Jewish Club; honorary life member of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) KwaZulu-Natal Council; and honorary life governor of the Natal Hebrew Schools Association.

After his retirement, Magid, who was known for his love of history and sense of humour, worked as a volunteer guide at the Durban Holocaust & Genocide Centre (DHGC). “A wonderful man of knowledge and a proud son of Durban, Alan was always interested in everything that was going on around him,” said Mary Kluk, the national chairperson of the SAJBD and director of the DHGC.

“Alan had a marvellous comradery with the pupils. In spite of not being frum, he insisted on wearing a yarmulke when guiding any groups, explaining a little of what it means to be a Jew. He will be missed.” Maureen Caminsky, DHGC project manager, recalls that, “Not only did he share his knowledge of history pertaining to the timespan of our exhibition, but when discussing President Roosevelt and his involvement in the Evian Conference, Alan proceeded to give pupils a summation of all the United States presidents. He felt that pupils today weren’t learning enough world history.” “He lead an exemplary life, and always stood up for justice,” said former SAJBD KZN chairperson, Sidney Lazarus. “He always gave sage advice,” remembered DHGC trustee Linda Nathan. “He was

caring, his warm presence was always felt in a room.”

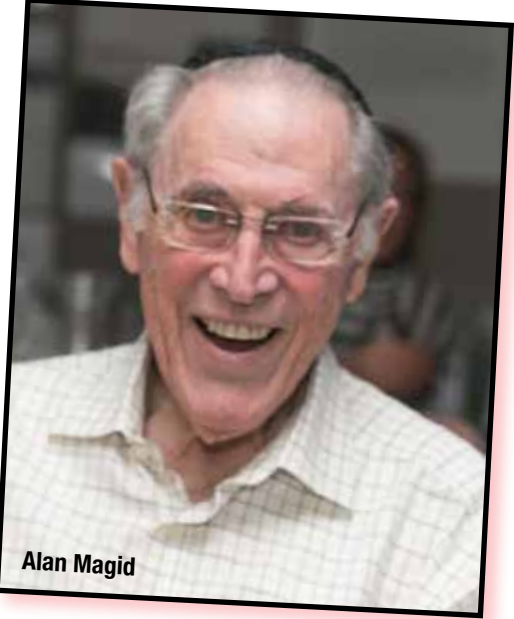
Magid also gave generously of his time to the broader community. He was a member of the Council of Natal Law Society from 1965 and vice-president from 1971 until retirement, as well as honorary life vice-president of the KwaZulu-Natal Tennis Association, and a trustee of the KZN Performing Arts Trust. Magid volunteered for Tape Aids for the Blind, and worked as an honorary consultant for the Legal Resources Centre.

“I knew Judge Magid from his position on the board of governors of Carmel College and from his unfailing attendance at the Great Synagogue every Shabbat, always impeccably attired in suit and tie,” said Warren Bank, a Durban-born lawyer practicing in Bermuda. “It wasn’t until

I was sent to the Pietermaritzburg High Court for a trial that I first encountered him as a judge. When he heard that one of his ‘Durban boys’ had come all the way to run a trial, he made sure to reserve it for himself.”

In spite of his demanding professional and communal life, Magid was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Brenda, and a loving father to his children, Bess, Susan, and Paul.

“He was truly a shining star in the Jewish firmament,” said Levinsohn. “A bright light has been extinguished. Alan’s contribution to – and his activities over his lifetime on behalf of – the Durban Jewish community and wider community are immeasurable.”



Alan Magid

SHAVUOT AND BIKKURIM GO HAND IN HAND



YOU GIVE - THEY RECEIVE

Yad Aharon & Michael appeal to you to give them a hand this Shavuot. Donate towards “Bikkurim Baskets”.

The Jewish Food Fund

All donations/foods will be used towards supplementing our traditional Shavuot hampers, which our 700 families are reliant on.

Together we can provide for Jewish families in need.

DONATE NOW!

YADAHARON.co.za

Call: 011 485-2076 or 011 640-2106

Banking Details: Yad Aharon & Michael, Nedbank, Branch Code: 151105, Account Number: 1911087363, Ref: Your full name/SHAVUOT



FOR MORE INFO:
info@yadaharon.co.za

COMING HOME TO WITS

Wits University, the alma mater of thousands of highly successful graduates, is celebrating **100 years of excellence in 2022**. We invite members of the Jewish community to return to Wits, and to bring along your friends, families, and fond memories to our **Wits Homecoming Celebration**, which runs from **2-4 September 2022** on campus.

#Wits100 Homecoming Celebration

"Wits University would love to reconnect with our alumni in our centenary year, and especially with our Jewish graduates, who played an integral role in the development of the University, the City of Johannesburg, and our country," says Peter Maher, Wits Director of Alumni Relations. "Many have gone on to make a global impact, and we look forward to welcoming them home. Our centenary year provides us with a wonderful opportunity to open our campuses, to display the national treasures that we curate, to help organise class reunions, and to connect and reconnect past and current generations of Witsies."

The **Wits Homecoming Celebration** will include a parade, a sports festival, a Free People's Concert, Founders' Tea, and a magical light show. "All our museums, galleries, and science centres will be open to the public over this weekend," adds Maher. "However, there are several other events happening throughout the year, including a **William Kentridge** concert series on **27-28 July**." Visit wits100.wits.ac.za/ for details.



Above: Doug Smollan, Reeva Forman, Simone Segal, Professor Zebulon Vilakazi, Carolyn Smollan and Mark Lamberti
Top right: Professor Zebulon Vilakazi and Colin Coleman
Bottom right: Frances and Natie Kirsh and Wits Rugby First XV

Wits Centenary Campaign: Wits For Good – the next 100 years

Wits has launched the Centenary Campaign, which aims to raise R3 billion to support teaching, research and innovation; students; and infrastructure development in eight priority areas: *ensuring better health for all; digital transformation; catalysing innovation and entrepreneurship; solving global challenges; advancing society, governance and justice; future proofing our national treasures; energising alumni; and developing the next generation of leaders.*



"We have raised R2,2 billion to date," explains Peter Bezuidenhout, Wits Director: Development and Fundraising. "This is thanks to the generous support of our alumni and friends, corporates and trusts and foundations. We officially launched our Centenary Celebrations with the opening of the world-class Wits Chris Seabrooke Music Hall in early March with many influential leaders and their partners in attendance. These included the Mayor of the City of Johannesburg **Mpho Phalatse**, **Chris Seabrooke**, **Doug Smollan**, **Reeva Forman**, **Barry Swartzberg**, **Mpumi Zikalala**, **Dr Johnny Broomberg**, **Arnie Basseraie**, **Isaac Shongwe**, **Mark Lamberti**, **Stavros Nicolaou**, **Saul Mervis**, and **Wendy Luhabe** amongst others. It was fantastic to have all these prominent alumni coming home to Wits."



Over 200 000 proud Witsies around the world

Wits is a national treasure, and our alumni continue to support us as we transition into a new era. "Wits occupies a special place in the hearts and minds of people, and we invite all our alumni to walk our **#Wits100** journey with us," says Professor Zebulon Vilakazi, Wits Vice-Chancellor and Principal. "There are so many ways in which you can get involved, and every little bit is appreciated."

Some of the other leading alumni who have been hosted at Wits this year include **Duncan Wanblad**, the new global CEO of Anglo American, **Dr Patrick Soon-Shiong** a prominent US based alumnus, **Robbie Brozin** who is partnering with Wits to digitise systems at the Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, **Bart Dorrestein**, the legendary developer of Sun City and many of the tallest buildings in Africa and **Colin Coleman**, the former CEO of Goldman Sachs. **Nicky Oppenheimer** and the **Barrow family** (who have been integrally involved with the development of the most iconic Wits buildings over the past 100 years with two children studying medicine at Wits) are amongst the many other leaders and close friends who have also visited Wits recently.

Alumni, friends and generous donors across the world are investing in the Wits of tomorrow

Far, but not away

High level Wits delegations led by the Vice-Chancellor will be visiting the **US, UK, Canada** and **Australia** during 2022 to meet with prominent alumni and friends and to host alumni reunions in various cities. Visit www.wits.ac.za/alumni/ for details on how you can join these celebrations.

"Wits University extends its deep appreciation to all its donors who have contributed towards the Centenary Campaign," says Vilakazi. "Your contribution enables us to impact on society, and to use our intellectual prowess to tackle the complex problems of the 21st Century, be it the climate emergency, inequality, pandemics, the future economy, or ensuring better healthcare for all.

All contributions to Wits – both large and small – are deeply appreciated and are honoured on the Wits Centenary Honours Boards.

Some of the major donations to the #Wits100 Campaign to date include:

- R150 million from **Natie Kirsh** to support students in need
- The R70 million state-of-the art Wits **Roy McAlpine** Burns Unit
- The R50 million **David and Angela Fine** Chair in Innovation
- A R50 million student support endowment to rename the erstwhile AMIC deck the **Sibanye-Stillwater** Infinity Bridge
- A new R22 million Advanced Surgical Skills Lab to train specialists and sub-specialists in the health sciences
- R20 million from **Oppenheimer Generations** to support Future Ecosystems in Africa
- The R16 million **Lamberti Educational Trust** Scholarship endowment
- A R10 million anonymous bequest for palaeosciences
- A R1,5 million gift to support students in need from former SRC President, **Rex Heinke**
- Generous Sponsorships for the:
 - **Jack Ginsberg** Centre for the Book Arts
 - Wits **Chris Seabrooke** Music Hall
- Significant support from local and international foundations and corporates

Your donation is in good hands

Wits is an independent institution that prides itself on running a streamlined operation and ensuring that every cent is accounted for. Wits is fortunate to have independent fundraising structures in four jurisdictions that manage all donations to Wits: Wits Foundation South Africa: Chair: **Arnold Basseraie**; Prominent Governor: **Adrian Gore**, Wits US Fund Inc: Chair: **Stanley Bergman**, President: **Jane Levy**; Wits Foundation UK: Chair: **William Frankel** (OBE), Patron: **Sir Sydney Kentridge** (KCMG, QC) and Wits Australia: Chair: **Philip Mayers** (AM), Manager: **Lawrence Jackson**

Subject to relevant tax legislation, all bona fide gifts to these Wits fundraising structures qualify for tax relief in their geographies.



Left: Abner, John and Kelly Barrow - 100 years later
Middle: Mpumi Zikalala, Mary Vilakazi, Professor Zebulon Vilakazi, Mpho Phalatse and Isaac Shongwe at the launch of the Seabrooke Music Hall
Top right: Duncan Wanblad and Professor Zebulon Vilakazi
Bottom right: Stacey and Barry Swartzberg; Far right: Robbie Brozin

How you can support Wits

We encourage you to walk the #Wits100 journey with us. Find out how you can make a real difference, how you can change society for the better, and how you can leave a legacy for future generations, by visiting www.wits.ac.za/givingtowits/.

For more information, email the Director: Development and Fundraising at Peter.Bezuidenhoutd@wits.ac.za or call (011) 717-9701 or 083 305 5588.

Wits. For Good.





Jerusalem isn’t just another city. To commemorate Yom Yerushalayim, the *SA Jewish Report* asked a few South African *olim* who have made their way to this great city about what it’s like to live there.



Solly Kaplinski
We live in French Hill, a neighbourhood of Jerusalem barely 15 minutes from the centre of downtown Jerusalem by light rail. Within easy walking distance from our apartment are Hadassah Hospital and the Hebrew University, including student residences. The neighbourhood is a mix of religious and secular, Jew and Arab. In fact, it's one of the most integrated and peaceful neighbourhoods in Israel and is in many ways a model of co-existence. In our apartment blocks, a number of Israeli Arabs residents are our neighbours, and at the local supermarket and sidewalk cafés, one hears a rowdy mix of Hebrew and Arabic. The university and hospital both serve as metaphorical role models for diversity and inclusion – defying stereotypes that people may have of our country.

I can't pretend, of course, that all is hunky dory. During the intifada years in the early 2000s, a number of people were killed in buses that were blown up around French Hill, and a politician was assassinated at the nearby then Hyatt Hotel. Also, in one of the neighbourhoods “across the way” – Isawiya – sometimes some of the youngsters there get agitated and try to cause harm. Fortunately, our intelligence and police units are on the ball, and we have a strong sense of security and safety as we proceed with our daily routines.

On this Jerusalem Day, a day where we joyously celebrate the reunification of Jerusalem, I reflect on our lives in Jerusalem and in French Hill in particular, and especially the unrest over the past few weeks. On the one hand, there are extremists on the left and right who endanger the fragile stability of our lives, on the other, I'm encouraged by the vast majority of our citizens and neighbourhoods – Jew and Arab – who just want to get on peacefully with their lives, go to work, put food on the table, enjoy shopping at Mamilla Mall, and love their wives and children.

French Hill, where we have lived happily for more than 20 years, could serve as a model for the rest of our country of how people of all persuasions can get along and for the most part, live harmoniously. If emulated nationwide, this could also inspire a reunification of the different chambers of our collective hearts. Wishful thinking? Sure. But in saner moments, Jerusalem, which is our home and the place where we belong, this city of gorgeous beauty, of gold, and of dreams, also serves to inspire us to aim for the unattainable, where the impossible becomes possible!

• Solly Kaplinski, a former headmaster of Herzlia High School, lives and works in Jerusalem.

Georgia Daniel
I never made a conscious decision to live in Jerusalem, just as I never made a conscious decision to make aliya, but I've been living here for more than 30 years.



Life happened, and a six-month vacation from the University of the Witwatersrand turned into a life-changing experience starting with a new university – Hebrew U. This was followed by meeting my Jerusalem-born husband, Itzik, and then spending all my adult life living in Jerusalem (or rather on the outskirts in a sleeper village called Givat Zeev) working in the pharmaceutical industry and raising three children.

What do I love about the city? I love the postcard version of the city – the one that millions of tourists flock to every year. I love walking in the Old City, making a conscious effort to get lost and always discovering something new. I love the breathtaking view I see every time I drive over Mount Shmuel and see the city spread over the Jerusalem hills. I love the

central areas of Jerusalem – Mamilla, Mahane Yehuda market, Yemin Moshe, the German Colony, and the surrounding areas.

You feel like you're on vacation spending time there along with tourists from four corners of the world. I love the silence that descends on the city just before Shabbat starts, and then hearing the siren go off to let you know that Shabbat is about to start. Of course, the best part of living in Jerusalem is the snow that blankets the city most winters.

On the other hand, Jerusalem is a living, breathing city like any other in the world, where you visit your doctor, get your car fixed, or your passport issued.

The dark side of Jerusalem is the underlying tension caused by the Israel-Palestinian conflict, which is constantly bubbling in the background, with sporadic outbreaks of violence to jar the usual harmony of the residents of Jerusalem – Jewish and Arab.

Besides the political tension, I can safely say the

worst part of Jerusalem is the traffic, which gets more problematic with each passing year, even though every effort is being made to upgrade the public-transport system.

Jerusalem is many things. It's a melting pot of religion, people, culture, clashing politics, ancient history, as well as a city preparing for the future with hi-tech parks and constant building (I recommend visiting the new Jerusalem underground railway station!)

Gidi Shimoni
I was born in South Africa to Litvak immigrant parents who were *halutzim* (pioneers) in 1920s Palestine, came to South Africa in 1929, and became naturalised citizens there. At the age of 23, I chose aliya out of ardent Zionist convictions, and Jerusalem primarily in order to study at the Hebrew University.

For 61 years, my wife, Toni, and I have made our home in Jerusalem. Our son and daughter were born and educated in Jerusalem, my parents joined us and are buried here, we love our home and life in Jerusalem, and cannot even think of living anywhere else in the world.

In a prosaic sense, Jerusalem remains the preferred and treasured locus of our everyday life in retirement as it was in our working years. I suppose this is much the same as it would be any place for anyone enjoying a satisfactory life for so many years.

However, from time to time, when significant events or circumstances arouse contemplations that transcend the prosaic pace of life, I find myself caught in a vice of ambivalent feelings about life in Jerusalem. On the one hand, it's wonderfully fascinating to live in Jerusalem. Particularly as a scholar and teacher in the field of Jewish history, I feel enormously privileged to be enveloped so tangibly, and not just symbolically, within Jerusalem's prodigious physical, spiritual, cultural ambience harking back millennia to antiquity, yet still vital



today. On the other hand, to live in Jerusalem is to be inescapably immersed in the volatile vortex of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; a constant, if sporadic, cause of personal anxiety. It's also to experience daily the discomfiting truth that Jerusalem, the much vaunted “eternal capital”, is far from a united city.

The internal Jewish aspect of this reality is the vast cultural divisiveness between Jerusalem's secular and moderately religious Jewish people, and its exponentially growing haredi population. One must live within the great paradox: nothing divides Jews more than the factor of religion! Although one fully acknowledges internal haredi diversity and its democratic entitlement even to aspire to hegemony, one cannot but resent outbreaks of excessive assertiveness, oft-times extending to physical aggression by some haredi groups. I feel fortunate to reside in Beit-Hakerem, one of the few suburbs of mixed secular and traditionalist or moderately Orthodox religious Jews. Over the years, I have witnessed an unpleasant reality: not a few non-haredi Jews seeking, rather desperately, to move to Bet Hakerem, virtually escaping from suburbs with a growing majority of haredim.

But this discomfort of life in Jerusalem is nought compared to the political and social reality of Jerusalem as a city a third of whose population has patently subordinate status – mostly Arabic-

speakers who self-identify nationally as Palestinians. Of course, this deplorable micro situation is inseparable from the tragic problematics of the unresolved macro Arab-Jewish conflict. And, both as a former South African and as a social-scientific historian, I emphatically reject description of this situation as “apartheid”. Yet I cannot deny that it imposes a sense of alienation from the societal reality; a sense regrettably reminiscent of what I once felt as a white South African, which brings me to Jerusalem Day.

Nothing heightens my sense of alienation more than the triumphal ultra-nationalist, flag waving, hateful march through Jerusalem's Old City that has come to mark Jerusalem Day. The participants in this demonstration emanate almost wholly from the redemptionist-religious-Zionist settler population and a variety of right-wing organisations and some politicians, the most prominent of whom is the proto-Kahanist MK, Itamar Ben-Gvir.

For the love of Jerusalem, I can no longer celebrate formal Jerusalem Day.

- South African born Gidi Shimoni is professor (emeritus) at the Hebrew University's Department of Jewish History and first incumbent of the chair in Israel-diaspora relations. He is chief academic advisor for the newly opened ANU: Museum of the Jewish People in Tel Aviv. His writings include “Community and Conscience: The Jews in Apartheid South Africa” (2003).



Where would I live if not in Jerusalem – somewhere with a beach and good weather!

- Johannesburg-born Georgia Daniel (nee Klein) went to Israel in 1988, and has since made it her home. She works in the pharmaceutical industry.

Danny Hasson
All cities experience urban inequality. Whether you're riding an orange rental bike on the Sea Point promenade or gazing at the Temple Mount from Armon Hanetziv, there's no avoiding two basic urban observations. First: the poor and wealthy; ancient and modern; sacred and profane all seem to live alongside one another in a city that each side calls "home". Second: essential municipal services and resources tend to reach some residents quicker than they do most in need.

The problem is that for many of us, we have simply grown tired of seeing the disparities, even when we look inward to our own community. As the eloquent Rabbi Feldman of Cape Town Hebrew Congregation put it on Shabbat B'Har (perhaps quoting TS Eliot), "We need to keep the familiar exciting and the exciting familiar, for the daily responsibility for *tikkun* [repair] is upon each and every one of us."

Jerusalem is a large and complex city, easy to fall in love with and yet hard to love. It's the largest Israeli city, the largest ultra-Orthodox city, and the largest Arab city all in one. For many Jerusalemites, the question of whether or not the city is – or should be – divided is a non-issue. The real question is how the diverse populations calling Jerusalem "home" can share all that this wonderful city has to offer.

In May 2018, the Israeli government passed a landmark decision (#3790) to invest NIS2.1 billion (R9.9 billion) over five years to bridge the urban infrastructure disparities that separate East and West



Jerusalem in virtually all areas of life. A second five-year plan is in the works for an additional NIS4 billion (R18.8 billion) to be invested by 2028, and Mayor Moshe Leon is all systems go!

Regardless of whether you see East Jerusalem as illegally annexed under international law (in which case the Geneva Convention presides) or that Israeli sovereignty extends fully throughout the municipal boundaries of the city, as determined by the Israeli High Court of Justice, this is a tremendous undertaking. It's an even bigger assumption of responsibility for five and a half decades of urban neglect of the East Jerusalemite Arabs and their neighbourhoods by Israeli governments. Perhaps the ultra-Orthodox communities in Jerusalem deserve a similar plan?

How can I not love my city when my local and national government are taking responsibility for *tikkun* in such a profound way?

The Jerusalem Intercultural Center is an independent non-government organisation dedicated



Photo: Ian Ossendryver

The Light Rail

to alleviating conditions of urban inequality in Jerusalem. JICC uses public participation to amplify the authentic voices of all residents (ultra-Orthodox, East Jerusalemite Arabs, secular, and modern Orthodox) to build effective leadership and cultivate trust between the municipality and the city's strong and vibrant civil society.

• *Daniel Hasson was born in Zimbabwe, and went to the University of Cape Town for his undergraduate degree before making aliya with Habonim Dror in 2000. He went to Hebrew University in Jerusalem to do his MA in public policy, and is the executive director of the Jerusalem Intercultural Center.*

Dinah Poyurs
Jerusalem is famous for many reasons, from being the capital city of Israel to the home of the holy sites of the three primary religions. Jerusalem is filled to the brim with joy and tragedy, war and peace, ancient and modern. It's truly an honour to live in such a unique and diverse city.

Over the past four years, I've been lucky enough to live all over Jerusalem and especially in the Old City. I love the diversity of Jerusalem, not only the people but also in areas and architecture.

There are wonderful islands of greenery in the otherwise traffic-congested city. Jerusalem is filled with rich history, walking down a new street can unfold into an entire history lesson.

There are certainly aspects that make it a challenging place to live, especially in times of political tension. Over the past few years, I have lived through a Jerusalem that has gone through much turbulence. It's a complicated place that's often the heart of conflict, tension, and sacrifice.

However, I feel exceptionally privileged to go to Hebrew University, where I learn with a wide range of people and who have deepened my appreciation of how special Jerusalem is.

The first time I came to Israel was on MTA in a Bnei Akiva gap-year programme. Throughout that year, no matter where we travelled, Jerusalem felt like home. The longer I live in Jerusalem, the more connected I become to the vibrant culture and holiness of the city. But moving to a new city, let alone a



Photo: Ian Ossendryver

Makhane Yehuda Street

new country, is always a challenge, and Jerusalem is no exception.

From learning bus routes to building a community of friends, there have been many challenges on the journey to feeling like a true Jerusalemite. Living in Jerusalem feels like a continuous adventure, you never know when a familiar face will turn up or if your bus will show up on time (they are relatively reliable).

It's constantly changing, and if you're not up for the odd uphill marathon, Jerusalem might not be the place for you.

People often ask where I would want to live if I wasn't living in Jerusalem, and I always struggle to come up with a satisfactory answer. Jerusalem encapsulates so many of my favourite aspects of life in Israel. So, for now, I'm hoping to stay put and enjoy every moment that I have the privilege to live here.

• *Dinah Poyurs graduated from Yeshiva College in Johannesburg before going to Midreshet Harova (MTA 2018). She made aliya in 2019 and did two years of Sherut Leumi (National Service) and is now living in Jerusalem as a Hebrew University Mechinah Programme student.*

YOU CAN DEPEND ON ME

I'm looking for a position as a part-time carer in Sandton and the northern suburbs. I'm available to assist with appointments, shopping, and companionship for the housebound and elderly. My excellent references will indicate that I am responsible, capable, and obliging.

Please contact Claudia on 083 651 0664

Dis-Chem PHARMACIES

Dis-Chem has acquired the Medicare chain of pharmacies, which will now trade under the Dis-Chem name.

As with all Dis-Chem Pharmacies, you will now have access to all your medical script requirements, through any of our pharmacies.

Perclia Pharmacy		Savoy Pharmacy	
Mon - Thurs	08:30 - 18:00	Mon - Fri	08:30 - 18:00
Fri	08:00 - 16:30	Sat	09:00 - 13:00
Sat	CLOSED	Sun	CLOSED
Sun & P/H	09:00 - 13:00		

Tel: 011 640 4321/31
perclia@medicarehealth.co.za

Tel: 011 885 1200/1
savoy@medicarehealth.co.za

WhatsApp 0860 347 243

FREE DELIVERY within a 15km radius on ALL prescriptions

Book your functions with us, at the best venue price in town!

Bris

Brocha

Shabbat

Wedding

Barmitzvah

Batmitzvah

10 SANDLER RD, FAIRMOUNT, JOHANNESBURG • Contact Angelique for more info 011 274 5300 / 079 961 6760 or email Angelique@gof.co.za

George and Amal Clooney honour Albie Sachs for activism

GILLIAN KLAWANSKY

Retired Justice Albie Sachs recently received a “flattering surprise” when the Clooney Foundation for Justice (CFJ) headed by the celebrity power couple requested permission to name an awards ceremony highlighting justice activism in his honour.

On a visit to New York some years ago, Albie Sachs and his wife, Vanessa September, were invited for coffee with a former law clerk of associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Sonia Sotomayor, and her husband. They had no idea that the former law clerk was Amal Clooney, now a famous barrister specialising in international law and human rights. And so, they found themselves spending an unexpected evening with Amal and her husband, movie star George Clooney.

“I don’t remember the coffee,” laughs Sachs, “but I remember the meeting, it was convivial. Amal is bright and forthright and has a striking appearance, and George, who we all know from the screen, was amiable and relaxed. We all had a picture taken and showed it off to a couple of friends, and that was that.”

A year later, Amal contacted Sachs asking him to assist with her and George’s new justice project, which officially began operating as the CFJ in 2016. Though he didn’t have sufficient time to dedicate to the project itself, Sachs offered his

support. He later briefly met Amal in London when she invited him to a conference on press freedom.

“About a year later, she mailed saying that through the foundation, she and George were planning to award prizes to people who had contributed to justice, and asked how I would feel about being the first recipient of that award,” Sachs recalls. “I indicated I would feel honoured.”

Amal later messaged again, explaining that they’d decided to give several awards to honourees contributing to justice in different ways, and that they’d like to name them the Albie Sachs Awards. George later proposed that the awards simply be called the Albie Awards.

“In the email conveying this news, I see a drawing done by George which shows a little statuette with one long arm and one short arm.” Sachs famously lost an arm and sight in one eye in 1988 after a bomb that was planted in his car by South African security services exploded.

“The objective of the statuette is to show that the prizes are given to people who’ve struggled for justice, who have perhaps paid a price and known some pain, people who have been engaged in the struggle with



Vanessa September, Amal Clooney, Albie Sachs, and George Clooney

others,” says Sachs. “This greatly moved me.”

At the inaugural Albie Awards to be held on 29 September at the New York Public Library, Sachs will also receive the Lifetime Achievement Award in Pursuit of Justice. Asked about what he considers to be the achievement of his lifetime, Sachs

says his work was done as part of a collective.

“I was one of a legion of lawyers who got deeply involved in the struggle to bring down apartheid and create a non-racial, democratic society. I think of people like Griffiths Mxenge and Bram Fischer, two of the many members of the legal fraternity

who fought and died for justice. I happen to be a visible survivor of that generation.”

“I see the awards as an acknowledgement of a contribution that I made, but in a very meaningful struggle against racism in which the world participated, a struggle which is still prevalent in many parts of the globe.”

Not only instrumental in drafting South Africa’s post-apartheid Constitution, Sachs was also appointed to the country’s first Constitutional Court by Nelson Mandela. “The award also goes to the Constitutional Court, where some judgments about same-sex marriages and prisoners’ rights to vote were picked up around the world and gave me a certain prominence,” he says. “Yet, the court itself is admired internationally, so it’s also a recognition for South Africa. I’m glad that I’ve been the vehicle to honour something exceptionally fine in our country.”

Now 87, Sachs has no desire to stop working. “Far from slowing down with advancing years, through my work and engagement with people, there’s a kind of energy that brings vitality into my life,” he says. “The older I get, the more valuable I am for intergenerational exchanges!”

Much of his enduring energy comes from having survived the bomb blast. “In surviving their attempt to kill me, I felt joyous and amazed – it blew away a lot of the deep sadness I had after my periods of solitary confinement with some sleep deprivation thrown in,” he says.

Surprisingly, it’s his particularly Jewish sense of humour that came to the fore when Sachs was waking up from the seven-hour operation that followed the explosion. “I can’t see anything, there’s a bandage over my eyes and I tell myself a Jewish joke about Hymie Cohen who falls off a bus,” Sachs recalls. “Hymie gets up, and he makes what appears to be the sign of the cross and his friend says, ‘Hymie I didn’t know you were Catholic.’ He says, ‘What do you mean, Catholic? Spectacles, testicles, wallet, and watch.’”

In the same way, as Sachs regained consciousness, he began to examine himself. “I started with the testicles, and they seemed to be in place,” he says. “I got a huge reputation in the ANC [African National Congress] camps – ‘The first thing comrade Albie did was reach for his balls,’ they said.”

Continuing his checks, Sachs eventually found that “the watch” wasn’t there – he’d lost most of his right arm. Yet his reaction was unexpected. “I felt elation at that moment for which every freedom fighter is waiting – will they come for me, will I be brave, will I get through? In my case, they tried to kill me, and I had lost only an arm.

“I had total conviction that as I got better, my country would get better,” he says. “Almost two years later, I was back home, and we began to work on the Constitution.”

East London rabbi keeping the community in limbo

TALI FEINBERG

It’s been more than two years since the East London Hebrew Congregation (ELHC) fired Rabbi Chanoch Galperin after he was found guilty of 13 counts of misconduct in a disciplinary hearing.

The relationship between the community and the rabbi has completely broken down. In addition, the rabbi is accused of forging the will of the late Israel Bayer, and diverting funds meant for the community to himself.

The rabbi and his wife continue to live in the community’s rabbinical home in defiance of his employment contract, which instructs him to vacate the home on its termination.

Says a member of the community, speaking on condition of anonymity, “This community has died because of this rabbi staying in that house. The house goes together with employment. He has been fired. Therefore, he’s got to get out of that house. The impact of his actions

is that the community no longer functions. It’s the Beth Din and the chief rabbi’s duty to do something – to come and tell him to get out of there. They are standing by and watching a community die because of this rabbi, and they are doing nothing.

“Nobody in this tiny community can conduct services, which means we have to bring somebody down. There are no people who keep kosher who live near the shul. We need the house, which is next door to the shul. We could function, even on a part-time basis, by occasionally bringing someone down. For a Shabbos, for a weekend, just to restart. He has killed off this community. It’s tragic.”

The ELHC took the rabbi to court because he refused to vacate the house. In her judgment handed down last week, Judge Belinda Hartle (sitting in the East London Circuit Local Division of the High Court), found that the rabbi’s “services were, as a fact, terminated on 3

February 2020 upending their [the rabbi and his wife’s] contractual entitlement to remain in occupation of the property”.

The judge found that the rabbi and his wife were “unlawful occupiers” and the ELHC was, “in principle, entitled to an eviction order”. In so finding, the judge stated that “it was hard to discern the real nature of the defence to the eviction claim”.

The judge, however, found that she wouldn’t at this



The East London Shul

time order their eviction, but would on just and equitable grounds stay the eviction application. This is based on the possibility that the Beth Din may one day adjudicate the rabbi’s labour claims and possibly reinstate the rabbi in his employment contract with the ELHC.

The Beth Din, however, has already ruled that it can’t determine the labour dispute as the ELHC wasn’t prepared to submit itself to the Beth Din’s jurisdiction, and gave the rabbi its blessing and consent to proceed with his labour claims in secular courts.

The rabbi, in an act of defiance of the Beth Din’s ruling, took the Beth Din to court to force it to hear his labour claims. In the judgment handed down on 18 January 2022 in the Eastern Cape High Court, the rabbi’s application was dismissed with costs by acting Judge Mabenge, who found that the rabbi was obliged to accept the decision of the Beth Din and there was no reason for the court to interfere with its decision. In addition, with the relationship between

community and rabbi in tatters, it was unlikely he would ever be reinstated.

“The rabbi has applied for leave to appeal against the decision of Mabenge AJ, which application will be heard next month,” says Advocate Stanley Pincus SC. “If the rabbi is granted leave to appeal, the eviction application will have to await the outcome of the appeal. If leave to appeal is refused, the ELHC will go back to court in order to request the court to grant the eviction order and to determine the date when the rabbi and his wife will have to vacate the home which they have unlawfully occupied since 3 February 2020.”

“The Beth Din has done everything in its power to intervene in the dispute between the East London community and Rabbi Galperin,” says Steven Weinberg of Moss Cohen and Partners, representing the Beth Din. “Unfortunately they have both refused to co-operate with the Beth Din, and have chosen to resolve their

various disputes in the High Court. This is something the Beth Din cannot prevent. The Beth Din has no authority or power to force Rabbi Galperin to vacate the premises unless Rabbi Galperin submits to the Beth Din adjudicating this dispute, which he has refused to do. The Beth Din again urges both Rabbi Galperin and the East London community to refer all of their disputes to the Beth Din for mediation and/or arbitration.”

The ELHC and East London Chevrah Kadisha have said they will submit themselves to Beth Din adjudication on all matters regarding the rabbi as long as there are trained legal professionals present. However, according to Pincus, the rabbi has refused this request.

The *SA Jewish Report* reached out to Galperin and his legal team for comment but didn’t receive a response by the time of going to print.



Experience Different

International BA in Management
& Liberal Arts

STUDY ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT THE HEART OF THE STARTUP-NATION

PitchBook
TOP 10
IN THE WORLD

#5 World
Ranking for
Entrepreneurship



#8 in Producing
VC-backed
entrepreneurs



#1 Choice
Among Israeli
Students

Experience a different academic journey.
Merging management, entrepreneurship
and the humanities with hands on
experience - all in the non-stop city of Tel Aviv.

Visit us: <https://studyba.tauintl.tau.ac.il>

Book a personal consultation



Cape athlete poised for World Games debut

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Twenty-five-year-old Cape Town-born athlete, Jonathan Benjamin, is “beyond thrilled” to be selected to compete for South Africa in the 2022 World Games in the duathlon discipline.

“It has always been a dream of mine to represent our country,” says this master’s in environmental science student at Rhodes University, who is looking forward to competing in Alabama in the United States in July. “Being only one of two men selected for duathlon and considering the prestige of the games, this selection is that much more special.”

Meant for sports or disciplines within a sport that weren’t contested at the Olympic Games, the eleventh World Games was originally scheduled for July 2021 but was postponed to this year after the rescheduling of the 2020 Olympic Games.

The games will feature 30 official sports in 54 disciplines, which will be contested at 30 venues.

Appearing at the games for the second time, duathlon consists of a running leg, a cycling leg, and a final second running leg.

South Africa has bagged 35 medals at the games, placing the country 34th out of the 99 countries that have medalled at the event, but Benjamin doesn’t believe he will become the first South African to medal in the duathlon.

“I definitely won’t be competing up near the front of the race,” he says. “I’m still very new to the sport and have a long way to go to be near the front of this type of calibre of race, but obviously I’m hoping to do my best, beat my own personal time, and hopefully finish relatively competitively in the field.”

Athletics has always been a passion of Benjamin’s,



Jonathan Benjamin

who went to Herzlia Constantia Primary School and matriculated at Westerford High School.

He comes from a sporting family. His dad was a provincial triathlete who was part of the first group to compete in the Ironman World Championships, his mom was a provincial water skier, and his sister was a provincial water polo player.

Placing third at the 2021 African Continental Duathlon Championships in Namibia allowed Benjamin to qualify for the World Games.

“I had to compete in South Africa at a local level as well – provincial championships, South African championships, and then at the African Duathlon Championships,” he says.

Benjamin says he’s fortunate to be coached by Carl Mangan, one of the founders of Matrix Multisport, a coaching and mentorship service which offers training programmes for duathlon, triathlon, biathlon, swimming, cycling, and running.

“Apart from the excellent personalised training plans set out each week, Carl and the rest of the team provide continuous support and monitoring of our progress and adapt our training to where it needs to be,” says Benjamin. “On top of this, the team that the matrix group has brought together provides an enormous amount of support and camaraderie.”

Benjamin’s training regimen differs from week to week, based on his academic work and how soon an event is. “Having to balance my master’s and training, my hours aren’t very big at all, typically 15 to 20 hours of training a week,” he says.

He also competes in triathlon. “That’s how I got into duathlon,” he says. “Swimming being my weakest sporting discipline makes duathlon perfect for me,

although I’ve won triathlon national championships two years in a row for my age group.”

Looking forward to his future in athletics, Benjamin says, “I want to be the best athlete I can be and just see where that takes me. Currently, it’s taking me to America. Let’s see what happens after that.”

Should the going ever get tough for Benjamin, he could take heed of the advice shared by Nik Cook,

who won gold in the 35 to 39 male age group at the 2012 International Triathlon Union World Long Course Duathlon Championships in Zofingen, Switzerland.

“Accept and embrace the pain in your legs at the start of the second run,” said Cook, according to *220triathlon.com*. “Have faith that it’ll ease. Relax, focus on form, and find your rhythm. Everyone will be hurting. It won’t be pretty, but tough it out and keep running.”



Padel takes community by storm

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Elian Weiner and Mark Robbins have always been avid tennis and squash players, but now they’re both hooked on a new sport, padel.

Likewise, Ricky Lewis played padel for the first time at the beginning of last year. “Although I’d seen the sport in Spain, within 30 seconds of being on the court hitting the ball with the padel racket, I said to myself, ‘This is just beyond fantastic,’” he recalls.

Lewis and Weiner love this game so much, they invested in it, creating their company, Epic Padel, and opened four padel courts at Huddle Park in Linksfield last week. One of the courts is the first singles padel court in South Africa.

There are also two standard double courts and a covered doubles court. The latter is the first covered outdoor court in South Africa, making play possible during bad weather. This follows the one court Epic Padel built at the Glen Country Club in Clifton, Cape Town.

Padel is more than a combination of tennis and squash. It’s a singles or doubles sport played on an astroturf court that is 20m by 6m for a singles court and 20m by 10m for a doubles court. The court is divided by a net and enclosed on all sides by walls, enabling players to play shots off the glass provided that the ball has bounced only once.

The scoring system is the same as tennis, the ball is similar to the one used in tennis, and instead of playing with tennis rackets, padel bats are used. During play, the ball must hit the ground before touching the walls or net.

In 1969, Mexican businessperson Enrique Corcuera set up the first-ever padel court at his holiday home in Acapulco when he adapted his squash court with elements of platform tennis, creating what he called Paddle Corcuera. The court was smaller than a tennis court because, apparently, the measurements in his home were a bit cramped and they had to fit a tennis court inside 3m to 4m high walls.

Corcuera’s Spanish friend, Alfonso, of Hohenlohe-Langenburg played the game at Corcuera’s home and decided to create the first two padel courts at a tennis club in Marbella, Spain, in 1974.

The following year, Julio Menditeguy, an Argentinian member of that tennis club, imported the sport to Argentina, where the game took off almost overnight.

In 1993, the sports council of Spain recognised padel as a sport. Today, it’s the fastest-growing action sport in the world. It’s huge in Europe, and is the second biggest sport in Spain behind soccer, with more than 200 000 players. It has piqued the interest of soccer players like Lionel Messi, Liverpool coach Jürgen Klopp, and tennis player Jamie Murray.

Padel was first introduced to South Africa at the Val De Vie Estate in Paarl in 2019.

During February the following year, padel courts were opened at the iJUMP Arena in Clearwater Crossing, Strubens Valley.

In October 2020, padel courts were opened at Century

City, Cape Town, because Brit King from Action Padel South Africa and her husband used to live in Girona, Spain, where they played the sport.

During the same month, the South African Padel Association (SAPA) was formed to regulate and grow the sport.

Three months later, SAPA was recognised as an associate member of Tennis South Africa, enabling it to build a successful league and allow players to compete in their province, gain colours and represent South Africa internationally.

Whereas Weiner played his first padel match at Century City 18 months ago, the Johannesburg-based Robbins was introduced to the sport at the start of this year.

“The game grabbed me instantly,” says Robbins. “I have played most of my games at the German Country Club in Sandton and recently had the pleasure of playing at Huddle Park. I aim to play three to four times a week, and am looking forward to playing at all the new up-and-coming venues.”

Weiner says Epic Padel is doing “fantastically” in Clifton. “In four months, we had more than 1 500 individual people play on our courts.”

He says padel is growing fast. “You can’t move anywhere without people talking about the sport. The beautiful thing about it is that it’s accessible to a wide range of players. It’s a very easy sport to learn. As an adult, tennis or squash is hard to learn, whereas with padel, I’ve seen people who never hit a ball before in their lives going to a padel court, and within 10 to 15 minutes, they can have a rally.”

Says King, “Padel doesn’t have an overhand serve like in tennis. It’s not about strength because it’s played in a small area. It’s hard to hit the ball out, and the ball isn’t as pressurised. You get your workout and a very good laugh. You can play as a family or with mixed teams as the weaker player doesn’t stand out as much.”

Robbins enjoys padel because he loves the camaraderie and meeting new people. “The game possesses a high level of competitiveness, which makes every game exciting, fun, and addictive,” he says.

Says Lewis, “You might have a family and a busy lifestyle. I absolutely love golf, but it takes up so much of your time, whereas you can play padel for an hour and a half. You can play it at 06:30 in the morning, and you can play at 20:00 at night.”

Weiner is a Certified Level 1 padel coach and a member of the South African Invitational Team that travelled to Egypt for the Africa Padel Club Championships about a month ago. “Most of the other countries were North African countries, and they’ve been playing the sport a lot longer than us, but we were competitive,” he says.

In July, he will represent South Africa at padel in the Maccabi Games. “The Jewish community has taken to padel in a big way. In Cape Town, we had a Maccabi Games trials with 30 people,” he says.

AUDIT • ADVISORY • TAX

CLARITY.
ORDER.
DIRECTION.

Our team of over 1 400 professionals, operating from 7 offices in South Africa, offers a unique combination of local market knowledge coupled with an international network, personal service and a professional approach. We shine a unique lens on clients' businesses to see the people beyond the numbers and establish where they are going.

www.bdo.co.za

© 2019 BDO South Africa Services (Pty) Ltd.

TLB02Z

Oz kosher drought should give us chops

News that the last kosher butchery in Sydney, Australia, has closed, came as a shock. Not because I will miss its lamb ribs, but because I found it hard to believe that until now, there was only one such establishment in the city.

Now, there will be none, and kosher observant Jews will be forced to buy their meat in Melbourne. This means either that Australian Jews complain way too little, or that South African Jews complain way too much.

Without having any real knowledge about Australia, Sydney, or the community itself, I'm still reasonably confident that the lamb-rib crisis will be solved in no time at all. I have little doubt that a quick acting entrepreneurial soul, armed with a Bantam bakkie and a second-hand fridge, will become the king of kosher and the meat supplier for the barefoot of Bondi.

What is a worry is why South African Jews, myself included, fail to recognise quite how blessed we are. It's a concern that we don't applaud the amount that's available to us and the choices that we have. We might have fewer kosher restaurants than we once had, fewer options when it comes to kosher catering, but the standard of kashrut, the quality of the establishments, and the number of kosher products available at supermarkets across the country, is something to celebrate, not bemoan.

Kosher establishments, like others in the

INNER VOICE

Howard Feldman



entertainment industry, have suffered greatly over the past few years. Unquestionably it was one of the industries hardest impacted. Many weren't able to reopen after the lockdown series, and those that could still pay the price inflicted on them by moderated behaviour of their patrons continue to be challenged by global inflation, supply chain issues, and looming shortages as a result of the Ukrainian war.

Not that that sensitivity should stop us complaining. The ability to do so is something we cherish, and we should protect. When someone asks us how we're doing, and we answer, "Can't complain", it's invariably tinged with disappointment that at that very moment, we have been deprived of the guilty pleasure of having something to complain about. There's no doubt that complaining makes us feel alive, Jewish, and heard. Even if we aren't. Heard. Because let's face it, no one likes a complainer.

As a policy, we shouldn't celebrate what we have because others have less than we do. Rather, the fact that there's no kosher butchery (right now) in Sydney should serve to remind us how blessed we are. And that at any time, we have the ability to run out and buy ourselves lamb ribs. Even if we don't have the electricity to cook them with.

Heartbreaking, heartwarming tale of Ukrainian orphans

BEV SCHNEIDER

While visiting Israel earlier this year, I met Ukrainian orphans and their caretakers who had recently been rescued from the war and brought to the KKL-JNF Nes Harim Field and Forest Center.

It was a freezing Jerusalem day, but you could feel the warmth evident in the centre. The Keren Kayemet Lelsrael-Jewish National Fund took in about 100 orphan children from the Chabad "Alumim" orphanage in Zhytomyr, Ukraine.



After escaping the chaos in the country of their birth, children from as young as a one-year-old to teenagers and orphanage staff were welcomed at the field school. I was told that most of the children are orphans, with only a few having one living parent.

Initially, they were traumatised, but thanks to the care and love provided by KKL-JNF Nes Harim Field and Forest Center Director Gili Maimon and her team, they slowly began to settle down and feel at home. A team of professional social workers, occupational therapists, medical clowns, and volunteers helped to reduce their

anxiety.

I found the visit heartbreaking and heartwarming at the same time. It's heartbreaking to think of the trauma these children have endured. They left a war zone, and travelled through highly dangerous countryside for more than a week until it was safe for them to cross the Romanian border and make their way to Israel. However, it was also heartwarming to see how they are being treated with warmth and kindness.

They were originally going to attend the field school for only about a month, but with the ongoing war in Ukraine, their stay has been extended indefinitely.

The Nes Harim centre, recently renovated and upgraded, has wooden cabins for guests, a high-tech educational enrichment centre, and well-equipped classrooms. South African students who have participated in MTA, Limmud, and other programmes, have stayed at the facility. The JNF-KKL is welcoming more families from Ukraine, mostly mothers with young children.

Maimon said the facility went into top gear once they received notice that the refugees would arrive. "We had only a couple of days to prepare," she said, "but thanks to efficient staff and our years of experience

in accommodating groups, everything went quite smoothly."

Maimon said that once the news broke that Ukrainian children would be arriving, the centre was swamped with donations of new clothing, shoes, toys, and offers of help. "It's at times like this that the people of Israel – citizens, and owners of commercial companies – always step up," she said.

JNF South Africa is involved in supporting this project, especially as the length of the refugees' stay in Israel is still unclear. Every small donation goes a long way.

importance". Time: 10:00

to 11:00. Entry: R40.

Contact info@ujw.co.za or

011 648 1053

Tuesday 31 May

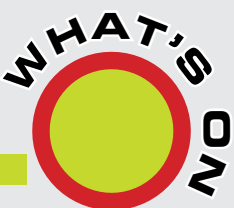
• ORT Jet presents "LinkedIn social selling roadmap with Tilly Davies (part two)". Time 09:00 to 10:00. Entry: free. Contact: 011 728 7154 or admin@ortjet.org.za

• Union of Jewish Women presents "Brain Boost – a brain stimulation group". Time: 10:00 to 11:00. Entry: R100. Contact info@ujw.co.za or 011 648 1053

Wednesday 1 June

• Jewish Women Benevolent Society hosts a virtual cheesecake bake presented by Lauren Boolkin. Time: 19:30. Contact: 011 485 5232 or gloria@jwbs.co.za

• ORT Jet presents "Don't retire, refire" with Lynda Smith. Time 10:00 to 11:00. Entry: free. Contact: 011 728 7154 or admin@ortjet.org.za



A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Fighting racism with education

Racist incidents in our country are still common. Seldom, however, do they take so repellent and demeaning a form as that which occurred at Stellenbosch University last week, when a white student was filmed urinating on the belongings of a black student while telling him it was "a white-boy thing". It's sobering to reflect that such acts are being carried out not by those who grew up under apartheid but by young people who have lived all their lives in a democratic society committed to the values of equality and rejection of racism in all its forms.

Further evidence of how traditional racist attitudes persist among some of our youth is the regular occurrence of Nazi-themed demonstrations, along with the casual display of Nazi symbols and slogans, in schools and even tertiary institutions around the country. Our Cape Council, for example, recently addressed a case of antisemitic and Nazi-themed memes posted on a student WhatsApp group at a local training college. This week, it was reported that four senior pupils, all of whom were prefects at Rustenburg High School, performed a Nazi salute during a karaoke competition at the school. In our response in the media, we pointed out that there was nothing clever or cool about publicly identifying as Nazis, particularly in a country still struggling to come to terms with its own racist past. Nazism is an exceptionally evil ideology whose proponents were guilty of some of the most monstrous crimes in human history including the systematic annihilation of six million Jews and many others deemed unfit to live.

We're in the process of setting up a meeting with the school, whose governing board has been commendably decisive about the way

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

ABOVE BOARD

Karen Milner



in which the incident and those responsible are dealt with. Our approach has always been that changing attitudes through education and sensitivity training is preferable to simply punishing those responsible. Through partnering with the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation, we have been able to facilitate a range of these initiatives, including guided visits to the Holocaust centres in Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban, and conducting educational programmes at relevant institutions for the entire student body.

Since its establishment, the Holocaust & Genocide Foundation and its regional centres have sought to instil in visitors an awareness of the evils of racism, bigotry, and intolerance, and of what the unspeakable consequences of such scourges can be. Each year, the three centres are visited by tens of thousands of school pupils from widely differing backgrounds. Through the foundation's work, ever growing numbers of people are being taught not just what happened during the Holocaust but as importantly, how and why it happened. This, in turn, helps to foster the kind of culture of respect and acceptance that's so critical to South Africa's future as a united, democratic, and non-racial society. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies greatly values the partnerships it has forged with this exceptional institution.

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

WANTED!!!

TOP PRICES PAID

Free Evaluation & Buying on:

- South African & International coins and banknotes
- Medals and Militaria
- Silver and Gold Jewellery in any condition
- Silverware
- Collectable Items
- Pocket and wrist watches

Remember your I.D. and banking details if you wish to sell your items

Collectors Investments

Dealers in Coins, Medals & Banknotes

Enquiries:

Tel: 011 880 9116 / 076 741 8801 • WhatsApp: 079 784 0101
32 Fricker Road, Illovo, Johannesburg

www.collectorsinvestments.com

