



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

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

South african Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

■ Volume 26 – Number 23 ■ 23 June 2022 ■ 24 Sivan 5782

www.sajr.co.za

Terrorist group praises Pandor for anti-Israel speech to UN

NICOLA MILTZ

Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Dr Naledi Pandor has been heavily criticised for "hijacking" one of the country's most tragic events, Youth Day, to express solidarity with the Palestinians. Political commentators this week criticised her for expressing a "simplistic" and "biased" view of the Middle East conflict, while at the same time outrageously earning high praise for doing so by terror organisation Hamas.

The department of international relations and cooperation (Dirco) minister drew on South Africa's devastating past including the Soweto Youth Riots of 1976 to drive home the government's message of solidarity with the Palestinians. She did this in a pre-recorded speech during a virtual meeting hosted by the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

Hamas, which unreservedly seeks Israel's destruction, applauded her for doing so.

Former Israeli ambassador to South Africa, Arthur Lenk, tweeted, "What's the highest accolade a diplomat can get? A Nobel Prize? @ForeignPolicy's diplomat of the Year? How about a shout-out by a terror organisation! Congratulations [I guess] to South Africa's Minister of @DIRCO, Naledi Pandor, for recognition by ... Hamas".

Hamas is designated a terrorist organisation by the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and other powers.

Following her anti-Israel speech to the UN committee, Hamas praised Pandor's "call for the international community to hold the Israeli occupation to account for its ongoing crimes and violations against the Palestinian

people for more than 73 years".

It said her stance represented "a victory for the just Palestinian cause".

Meanwhile political commentators have criticised the minister for her unbalanced and lopsided approach.

Professor Hussein Solomon of the department of political studies and governance at the University of the Free State said he didn't believe Pandor's statements were "helpful or useful".

"Things aren't as black and white, oppressor versus oppressed, as is made out by Naledi Pandor. There's complexity, which she simplifies. Grey is the dominant colour, not black and white."

Sara Gon from the Institute of Race Relations pointed out that Hamas, whose

goal is to "ensure that the existence of Israel is terminated, no more and no less", had issued a press release which "expressed pleasure at Pandor's statements".

"Hamas plans to create Palestine, consisting of the West Bank, Gaza, and all of Israel, to become an Islamic state", she said, pointing out that Hamas didn't "disguise its stated goal in rhetoric to appease the sensitivities of Western audiences. It's in its founding document and the one that replaced it".

Pandor drew on what she insisted were comparisons and parallels between the conflict in the Middle East and apartheid. This has elicited the ire of many who have criticised her for manipulating South Africa's painful history to "score political points".

Benji Shulman, the director of public policy at the South African Zionist Federation, accused the minister of hijacking Youth Day, which celebrates the bravery of the 1976 generation.

"Has she no shame? To hijack Youth Day as she has done is unforgivable and deeply insulting to their memory," Shulman said. "Her official comments on Youth Day are an affront to these young people – the lost generation."

Pandor lambasted Israel, blaming it for all Palestinian suffering, showing scant regard for the complexities of the conflict, analysts said.

"The events and images the world has witnessed in the past month emerging from the occupied Palestinian territories evoke

unpleasant memories of life under apartheid rule in South Africa," Pandor said.

She claimed the images of Sheik Jarrah as well as violent clashes between armed security forces and "defenceless protestors" were reminiscent of events that took place in Sophiatown, District Six, the Sharpeville massacre, and the Soweto protests of 1976.

She compared the scenes of the 1976 riots and subsequent funerals that took place with the funeral of slain *Al Jazeera* journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. She drew parallels with "our young, fallen heroes" and young Palestinian activists and prisoners whose youth, like that of South African freedom fighters, was "stolen from them".

"We find semblance in our past with the Palestinian cause," she said.

In what some political analysts have described as a "bizarre" move, Pandor accused the UN Security Council of "double standards" when it came to the Palestinian matter, and said South Africa remained "deeply concerned" in this regard.

"The council's inability to act against Israel in spite of its willingness to act against other states is for us an illustration of the double standards and inconsistency in the work of the Security Council," she said.

She implored UN member states and the international community to speak up and take action, as was done by the UN with apartheid.

At the tail end of her speech, she conceded that "the only way to peace" was to have an unconditional negotiated settlement leading to a two-state solution premised on a just settlement.

Continued on page 12>>



Remembering the lost youth
Student leaders from King David Linksfield and Yeshiva College laying a wreath at the Hector Pieterse memorial in Soweto on Youth Day

HOPE

A TOOL TO NAVIGATE LIFE'S JOURNEY

The Chev invites you to a fascinating talk by Prof Ben Corn, international guest speaker from Israel, focusing on coping with illness, ageing and the end of life.



Yeshiva College (Big Shul), Long Ave, Glenhazel | 19:00 for 19:30 | Monday, 27th of June 2022

INTRODUCED BY CHIEF RABBI GOLDSTEIN

RSVP FOR CATERING PURPOSES SOCIALSERVICES@JHBCHEV.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

GUIDED KOSHER TOURS to Namibia (11 days/10 nights)



For full details please call
Amos Ordo on 083 255 6550
amos@tamrichtours.com

FRANK SOLOMON HEARING CENTRE

Have a love at first sound experience.

Phonak Audéo™ Marvel

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

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



AFFORDABLE RANGE
FOR PENSIONERS

- Affordable for Pensioners
 - 2-Year Warranty
 - No Follow-Up Charges
 - Latest Technology
 - Small and Discreet
 - Extensive Wireless Communication Portfolio Available
 - Supplements for Tinnitus
- Treatment approved by the American ENT Association

We are COVID-19
compliant

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

Fairmount
6 George Ave,
Sandringham

Additional branches in
Benoni and Germiston

VEHICLES WANTED



Any make, any model, any condition
Accident damaged vehicles and non-runners also wanted

Arnold Orkin 082 823 7826
AUTO AFRICA

Biden tour focuses on re-establishing Palestinian ties

RON KAMPEAS – JTA

United States (US) President Joe Biden will visit Israel, the West Bank, and Saudi

Arabia next month in a trip that will emphasise re-establishing ties between the US and the Palestinians.

The Biden administration on Tuesday, 14 June, posted the dates for the president's Middle East tour from 13 to 16 July. The visit to Saudi Arabia would include attending a summit of the "GCC=3", a body that brings together the Gulf Co-operation Council, the umbrella for Gulf Arab states, plus Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan.

The statement said Biden's visit would "reinforce the US' iron-clad commitment to Israel's security and

prosperity", and in a phone call to reporters on Monday, 20 June, a senior administration official said Biden would discuss joint missile defence efforts with Israeli leaders.



US President Joe Biden steps off Air Force One upon arrival at Des Moines International Airport in Des Moines, 12 April 2022

A key agenda item will be to re-establish US relations with the Palestinian Authority, all but ruptured during the Trump administration. A senior administration official said

resuscitating the prospect of a two-state outcome to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict was a priority.

Another item will be to repair ties between Palestinians and Arab nations that have been made tense by the Abraham Accords, and encouraging dialogue between the Palestinians and Israelis.

Also on the agenda will be to reassure countries in the region that the US wants to help them contain Iranian mischief, as well as regional

economic co-operation, climate initiatives, food security, and "global energy". Biden is eager to increase the petroleum flow from the region as Russia's war against Ukraine has sent gasoline prices sky-high.

Legislators scrap bill to ban kosher, halaal slaughter in Brussels

CNAAN LIPSHIZ – JTA

A bill by Belgian promoters of a ban on the kosher and halaal slaughter of animals was defeated in Brussels, the seat of the European Union, and the only region of Belgium where the practice is still legal.

The vote on Friday, 17 June, in the parliament of the Brussels-Capital Region, one of three states that comprise the federal kingdom of Belgium, was on whether to scrap a bill proposing a ban. The bill, submitted by liberal and environmentally-centred parties, had been voted down in a committee that kicked it back to parliament.

Out of the 89 legislators in the region's parliament, 42 voted in favour of scrapping, 38 voted against scrapping, eight abstained, and one wasn't present, preserving for now the legality of kosher and halaal slaughter in Brussels, news site 7sur7 reported.

Had a majority of legislators voted against scrapping the bill, it would have come up to a vote in parliament, where legislators from diverse ideological backgrounds agree that any slaughter of an animal without prior stunning should be outlawed.

A majority of legislators in the parliaments of Belgium's other states – the French-speaking Walloon Region and Dutch-speaking Flemish Region – voted in favour of banning the practice in 2017 and 2019 respectively. A ban in Brussels would have had Belgium join a handful EU states where halaal and kosher slaughter of animals are totally illegal.

Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, the president of the Conference of European Rabbis, welcomed the vote.

"These unsolicited bans have a dark historical precedent. Rather than ushering in a future of increased animal welfare, these alarmingly legislative prohibitions are instead a harsh, destructive step backwards," he wrote.

Torah Thought

Rabbi Yossy Goldman – life rabbi
emeritus at Sydenham Shul



The danger of drawing your own conclusion

A high school teacher decided to demonstrate to his class the dangers of alcohol abuse. So, he conducted an experiment. He took one glass of water and one glass of whisky. He then took a little worm and dropped it in the glass of water. The worm had a nice swim and then the teacher removed the worm unharmed. He then dropped the worm into the glass of whisky. In no time at all, the worm was dead. He then turned to the class and asked them what the experiment proved. Whereupon one wise guy at the back piped up and said, "Sir, it proves conclusively that if you drink enough whisky, you will never suffer from worms!"

Drawing our own conclusions can be a risky business.

Take the case in this week's parsha. The spies sent by Moses return from their reconnaissance mission of the Promised Land with a frightening report about the fierce, warrior nations of Canaan. The Jewish people are dejected, frightened, and even weep at the thought of their impending invasion, convinced it can only be a suicidal mission impossible. The Almighty is angered, the people are punished for their lack of faith in His promise, and the spies go down in history as the villains in the story.

But why? What, in fact, was their sin? Moses asked for a report of the land. They came back and reported exactly what they had seen. They told no lies. The land was formidable. The inhabitants were huge and powerful. The fruits were extraordinarily large. They even brought back samples to prove it. So, if it was all true, why were they punished?

The answer lies not in the report but in their conclusion. The facts as the spies presented them were entirely accurate. The sin was their conclusion, "We cannot ascend to that people for it is too strong for us." Moses had sent them on a fact-finding mission. Their job was to bring back information. Nobody asked them

for their personal opinions. The whole point of their mission was to gather the data necessary for the Israelites to find the most strategic plan to conquer the land. That it was going to happen was a given. G-d had promised them the land, and assured them of their success.

The same G-d who just miraculously delivered you from Egypt, the mightiest superpower on earth, split the sea for you, and revealed Himself in all His glory to you at Sinai has now said that the Promised Land is there waiting for you. And after all He has done for you, you turn around and publicly doubt His power to help you succeed? This isn't

just a mistake in judgement. This is shameful, sinful, and faithless. The spies' report was correct, but their conclusion was disastrous. The facts are there for all of us to see. The question is how to interpret them. If we have a preconceived position and then manipulate the data to draw conclusions that suit us, we may come off clever at first but in the end, we may well go the way of the spies. Without faith, even the most accurate information can lead to the wrong conclusion.

Shabbat Times brought to you by

Spencer Schwartz from You Realty
Residential Property Sales and Rentals

	Starts	Ends
Johannesburg	17:07	17:59
Cape Town	17:28	18:23
Durban	16:47	17:41
Bloemfontein	17:08	18:01
Port Elizabeth	16:59	17:54
Plettenberg Bay	17:07	18:03
East London	16:52	17:47
Jerusalem*	19:13	20:31
Tel Aviv*	19:28	20:34

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



Before reciting kiddush, the challah is covered to "remove" it from the table, as the blessing over bread should take precedence to that of wine. We cover the challah, in order to protect even an inanimate object (the bread) from being "insulted" (by the blessing over wine taking precedence), how much more so should we go out of our way to display sensitivity towards the feelings of other people.

*one hour ahead of SA time

South African Jewish Report

The source of quality content, news and insights

Editor Peta Krost – editor@sajewishreport.co.za • Sub-editor Julie Leibowitz
Journalists Nicola Miltz • Tali Feinberg • Junior Reporter Saul Kamionsky • Photographer Ilan Ossendryver • Editorial co-ordinator Dylan Berger – editorial@sajewishreport.co.za

Proofreader Kim Hatchuel Advertising Britt Landsman: 082 292 9520 – britt@sajewishreport.co.za • New business development manager

Laura Kaufman laura@sajewishreport.co.za • Design and layout Bryan Maron/Design Bandits – bryan@designbandits.co.za • Distribution Sandy Furman

Subscriptions Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860 525 200 • Board of Directors Howard Sackstein (Chairperson), Dina Diamond, Herschel Jawitz, Shaun Matisonn, Benji Porter. • Advertisements and editorial copy do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff and board of directors. Tel: 011 430 1980.



SA Jews urged to heed Turkey travel warning

TALI FEINBERG

Senior Israeli officials have told Israeli travellers to get out of Istanbul, and if they can't, to lock themselves in their hotel rooms and not open the door to anyone – not even cleaning staff, room service, or food delivery.

They issued the warning on Friday, 17 June, after a week in which Israel urged its citizens in Turkey to return home immediately. Israel issued its highest possible security warning for Istanbul over concerns that Iranian agents are planning to kill or kidnap Israelis.

According to some media outlets, a group of Israelis in Istanbul received a phone call from security services ordering them not to return to their hotel as Iranian terrorists were lying in wait. They were picked up and put on a plane.

has had a number of Jewish travellers asking her if they should cancel holidays in Turkey. “Travel is stressful enough these days, and people need to ask themselves if it's worth their and their family's additional worry.”

At least one group of South African Jewish travellers is expected to transit through Turkey, but community members were reassured in a letter emphasising that “this warning concerned holidaying and staying in Turkey. We're only travelling through the airport, which is incredibly safe. We're in constant contact with Tlalim which works closely with Israel's tourism ministry to ensure safety for all participants. It has assured us that at the moment, we have nothing to worry about. As always, safety is our priority.”

Some South African Jews say they will still travel there. One man who is in Istanbul says, “I



“There are Israelis who were minutes from death and didn't know it,” an unnamed defence official told Israel's Channel 13 news.

Though the warning is for Israelis, it could apply to all Jews. “There's no reason for South African Jewry to travel to or holiday in Turkey right now. At this stage, we advise against it,” says the Community Security Organisation's Jevon Greenblatt. “There is, however, no issue with people flying through Turkey in transit to somewhere else.

“The threat being faced in Turkey is from Iran and its proxies,” he says. “Historically, if these terror groups haven't been able to get to their primary target, being Israelis or Israeli interests, there's nothing stopping them from turning their attention to diaspora Jewish communities or individuals, as was seen in Argentina in 1994, amongst other incidents and attempts since. There's no reason to take this chance.”

Travel expert Kim Kur concurs. She says she

feel safe. I'm not sure how I would be identified as a target. Also, 14 000 Jews are living in Turkey, so I have higher odds of dying from COVID-19. I haven't been to shul, but I'm sure it will have tons of security. I walked past a small synagogue along the coast and it had hectic fences, a four-metre high metal gate, cameras, a boom, and two security posts.”

Another South African businessman travelling to Turkey for work says, “I'm not worried at all. I'm heading there on business as a South African. If I were staying in a tourist hotel or resort where I knew there would be other Jews or Israelis, I might feel different, but not on this trip.”

Concern about the threat reached the highest level of government in both countries. Israel President Isaac Herzog spoke on 19 June with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Herzog thanked Erdoğan for efforts to thwart terrorist activities on Turkish soil. The two leaders

Great Specials on Simmons Mattresses

R5999

137cm Sealy Pole base and mattress set

Furniture: La-Z-Boy, Linea Classica Alpine & Grafton

Beds: Sealy, Simmons, Rest Assured & Contour

Appliances: Bosch, Defy, Samsung, Hisense & LG

011 887 5456 | 011 440 9571

Midways Mall,

280 Corlett Drive, Bramley Gardens

Monday to Friday 8:30 – 17:00

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

up to 25% discount

i-deal

FURNISHERS

highlighted the trust being built between their governments and nations. Herzog emphasised that the threat hadn't yet passed and that counter-terrorism efforts must continue. The two leaders agreed to continue working for peace and stability in the region.

Defense Minister Benny Gantz said on 20 June that Israel would act “forcefully” in response to any potential attack on Israelis in Turkey. “I call on all Israelis in Turkey to obey the instructions of the security forces,” Gantz said. “Israel is working to thwart Iranian attempts to carry out an attack, and is preparing to respond forcefully to any attack on Israeli citizens — anywhere.”

By 21 June, top Israeli officials said they were concerned about travel to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Jordan, and Egypt. All of these countries have peace agreements with Israel – the UAE and Bahrain being part of the Abraham Accords. Channel 13 news, citing unnamed Israeli security officials, said that though the threat in the other destinations wasn't concrete, dangers could emerge if Tehran got “desperate” to commit an attack.

“I would recommend that Israelis not go there, and if they go, they should take extra care,” an unnamed diplomatic source was quoted as saying.

Israel's Channel 13 said senior Israel defence officials had visited Turkey and that the co-ordination between Israeli and Turkish intelligence was “phenomenal”.

The travel alert also warned people not to post about their travel plans on social media, not to ride in taxis, not to wear anything that could signal they are Israeli, and not to go to “tourist traps”, particularly those popular among Israelis. An anonymous defence official said the Iranian cells operating in the area knew exactly which hotels had Israelis guests and how to recognise them. Sources say Iran hasn't just dispatched terrorists, but also recruited Turkish citizens to assist them.

Being on Israel's highest travel warning has now put Turkey on par with Iraq, Yemen, Afghanistan, and Iran as places that Israelis must leave immediately and mustn't visit. However, media reports suggest that there are about 2 000 Israelis still in Turkey. They say that many Israelis are enjoying their first holiday post-pandemic, are used to terror threats, and are reluctant to leave.

“There are still immediate attempts by squads to murder Israelis,” a defence source told the Kan public broadcaster. Channel 12, citing Iranian reports, said Turkey had prevented an Iranian passenger plane from refuelling in Istanbul and delayed another's flight approval by nine hours in an apparent warning about Iran's actions in its territory.

ISRAEL IS WORKING TO THWART IRANIAN ATTEMPTS TO CARRY OUT AN ATTACK, AND IS PREPARING TO RESPOND FORCEFULLY TO ANY ATTACK ON ISRAELI CITIZENS – ANYWHERE.

Tension between Israel and Iran have intensified in recent weeks. This comes after the assassination of a top Iranian officer in Tehran in May, a number of other deaths of security personnel inside Iran, airstrikes against Iran-linked targets in Syria, threatening rhetoric from Iranian leaders, and Iran's increasing violation of nuclear agreements.

Hebrew media identified the Iranian official behind the planned attacks as Hossein Taeb, a senior Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps official who is the head of the IRGC's Intelligence Organisation. They said Taeb was under intense pressure to carry out an attack amid growing frustration in Iran over repeated Israeli successes in penetrating Iran's most secret organisations.

Israel's Foreign Minister Yair Lapid is expected to visit Turkey on 23 June for talks. Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu visited Israel in May, as the once close military allies worked to overcome years of tension.

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 6 299 000

4

3

Web Ref: RL88724

Asking More. 4 Bed, 3 bath, expansive Hollywood-style dressing room, generously proportioned open plan lounge, dining room & separate family room. Large covered patio and garden. Separate staff/guest/work from home accommodation. "Fort Knox" security. Double automated garages and off street parking.

Joel Harris: 082 926 0287

Laureen Shalpid: 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

SAVOY ESTATE | R 2 999 000

3

2

Web Ref: RL88030

This beautifully maintained simplex, a stones throw away from Melrose Arch offers 3 beds, 2 "Thoroughly modern" baths (mes), perfect open plan lounge & dining room; opening out to double patio (half open and half covered) and private garden and sparkling pool. An extraordinary eat-in kitchen, double automated garage. Great security.

Joel Harris: 082 926 0287

Laureen Shalpid: 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

WAVERLEY | R 2 450 000

3

2

Web Ref: RL88116

Warm and inviting 3 bedroomed garden simplex town house with sep Staff quarters and double garage. Modern kitchen with laundry. Features include decent sized bedrooms and a solar heated pool. Live in a highly secured, well maintained complex in Waverley. A must to view at an asking price of R2,450,000.

Chrissie Hammer: 082 568 0440

FOR SALE

MORNINGSIDE | R 1 999 000

3

2

Web Ref: RL88312

Superb Position! Invest or Move Straight In! Renovated, Roomy And Rare 3 Bedroom.2 Bathroom Garden Apartment with great space and flow. Situated in a well maintained / highly sought after complex in the heart of Morningside. A must to view! Genuine Seller! Taking Offers!

Sandra Luntz: 083 679 1247

Chief rabbi challenges new World Council of Churches leader

TALI FEINBERG

Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein has called on South African Reverend Professor Dr Jerry Pillay to “retract statements accusing Israel of apartheid and calling for a boycott of the Jewish state” after Pillay was elected general secretary of the World Council of Churches (WCC) on 17 June 2022.

“The WCC has a long history of systemic bias against the Jewish state. I call on Rev Pillay to use his new position to break with its disturbing history, and usher in a new era,” said the chief rabbi.

“I further call on Rev Pillay to engage honestly with the issues affecting this conflict in the same spirit of open dialogue and tolerance with which we engaged with each other and our fellow members of the National Religious Leaders Council in South Africa,” said Goldstein.

“As South Africa’s Orthodox chief rabbi, I have been at the global forefront of repudiating the false and libellous charge that Israel is an apartheid state. In numerous articles, speeches, and public statements, I have brought all the evidence to dismantle the apartheid libel against Israel,” he said.

“I have shown that it’s without foundation in fact or law and that to make this comparison is a gross defamation of the Jewish state and an insult to the victims of the real apartheid. I will gladly avail Rev Pillay of the academic literature regarding the legal and historical context to the conflict to substantiate this view. It’s vital to repudiate the apartheid libel against Israel so that the cause of peace can be advanced.”

In addition, South African Friends of Israel (SAFI) General Manager Pamela Ngubane says her organisation is “alarmed at the controversial appointment of Reverend Professor Dr Jerry Pillay as general secretary of the WCC. Pillay holds a hostile and divisive anti-Israel ideology that attempts to disconnect the Jewish people from the land of Israel. It’s a travesty, and we call upon this appointment to be reviewed and challenged.” SAFI is a grassroots organisation for South Africans who support Israel.

Their comments come after leading human-

rights organisation B’nai Brith International (BBI) sounded the alarm on what it said was the election of “an anti-Jewish new leader”. The organisation monitors and combats antisemitism and other human-rights abuses around the world.

In a press statement released in Washington DC on 17 June, BBI President Seth Riklin and Chief Executive Daniel Mariaschin said that Pillay had “a record of hostile views toward Israel and Jews” and his election was “astounding and alarming.”

They quoted BBI’s director of United Nations and intercommunal affairs, David Michaels’, article titled “World Council of Churches leader seeks justice, but not for Jews.”

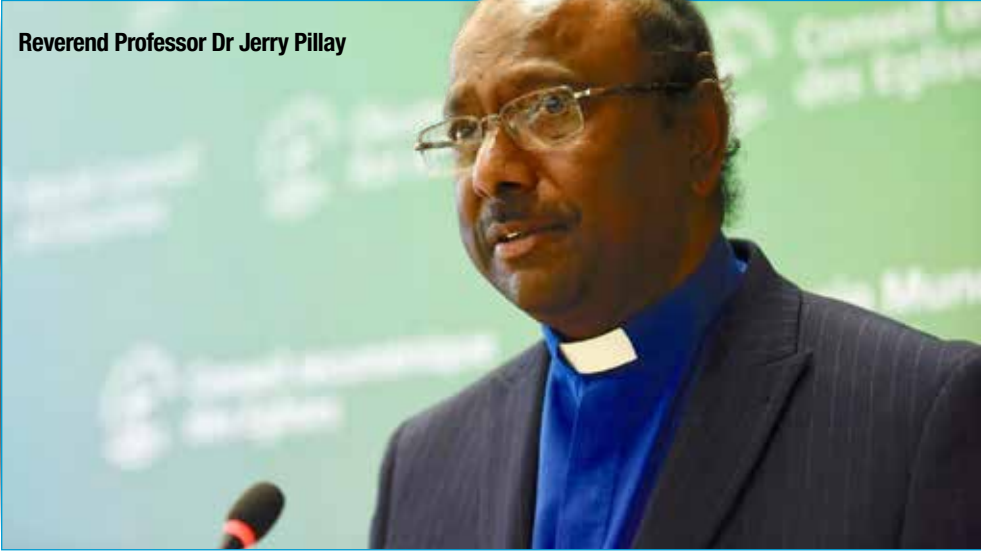
“Rev Pillay, a Presbyterian and a dean at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, has a problem with Jews – at least those supportive of Zionism,” wrote Michaels. “Rev Pillay’s rise risks devastating harm to the cause of social justice. In particular, it demonstrates a deepening threat to decades of progress in Christian-Jewish relations.”

The WCC brings together churches, denominations, and church fellowships in more than 120 countries and territories throughout the world, representing more than 580 million Christians.

Michaels quoted a lengthy 2016 piece by Rev Pillay, in which he was extremely critical of Israel, made no mention of Israel’s security concerns, and compared Israeli policy to apartheid. Pillay concluded with an appeal for Christians to “resist the empirical ambition of Israeli Jews”.

However, responding to the *SA Jewish Report*, Pillay said, “The article you refer to is an unfortunate and mischievous attempt to distort what I have said to make the claim that I’m anti-Jews. There’s absolutely no merit or value to this preposterous and absurd claim.

“I sincerely value and cherish my Jewish friends and the Jewish community and faith,” he said. “I have worked with Chief Rabbi Goldstein for many years, particularly on the issues of moral and justice concerns in South Africa, and I’m sure he will confirm that I have



never, ever spoken against the Jewish faith or community in any way.

“I have no problem whatsoever in the Jewish community preserving its identity, religious beliefs, values, and community,” he said. “What I referred to in my article was issues of justice in the Israel/Palestine situation where, admittedly, we may have some differences of opinions. My article was a reflection of personal experiences undertaken with a group of church leaders from South Africa to the holy land to try and understand this conflict situation.

“I believe all religions must be respected,” he said. “This, evidently, is the stance of the WCC, and it would never elect a leader who opposed Jews. You can rest absolutely assured that my leadership in the WCC will continue to uphold cordial relationships with Jewish communities. Kindly express my love, support and respect for the Jewish people in South Africa and across the world.”

But Michaels pointed out that “now, the WCC has elevated Rev Pillay, who is on record as having especially strident, simplistic ideological extremism about Jews and the Jewish state. It’s incumbent upon all people of principle to assert that genuine and meaningful peacemaking cannot be founded upon antipathy to the identity, rights, and

complex lived circumstances of Israelis and Jews.”

Reverend Rowan Rennie, who in 2020 quit the Methodist Church of Southern Africa (MCSA) over its Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) policy towards Israel, says, “Christians who take G-d and His word seriously can never buy into the political agenda and secular thoughts of a religious leader like Rev Pillay, who speaks from a political bias.”

He emphasises that the WCC doesn’t represent all Christians. “In fact, most Christians have fled these Orthodox denominations for more independent church families that hold to a more Biblical-centred message. The ordinary Christian believer simple cannot and will not accept any motive to stand against Israel.

“For a religious leader to call for BDS against Israel, while closing their eyes to the human-rights violations of those standing against Israel, seeking her obliteration, is so removed from common sense that it can only be called falsehood,” he says. “Israel doesn’t hold a policy of obliteration against her neighbours, while those who constantly attack her seek her total annihilation. Any Christian leader who stands with those who seek the annihilation of Israel is as far removed from Biblical truth as possible.”

Apartheid has become an antisemitic tool, activist tells Swiss body

TALI FEINBERG

When activist Olga Meshoe Washington spoke in Geneva, Switzerland, in mid-June, she didn’t mince her words about how South Africa’s apartheid history was being manipulated by those who would like to see the destruction of the Jewish State.

“The suffering of blacks in South Africa under its apartheid regime has become an antisemitic tool by which to delegitimise Israel,” she said at an event hosted by UN Watch.

The gathering was held in advance of a United Nations Human Rights Council debate on the first presentation of what will be an annual report by the UN’s three-member Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem and in Israel, otherwise known as the COI on Israel.

Now, speaking to the *SA Jewish Report* from the United States (US), where she lives, she says, “I want to assure the Jewish people that they’re not alone. There have been periods of history where others forsook the Jewish people – turned them in, sold them out.

“Christians,

unfortunately, were part of that. And being a Christian, I want the Jewish people to know that this history won’t be repeated at least not in my lifetime and G-d willing, not in my sons’ lifetimes. I want to ensure that the world knows that the Jewish people do have a right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland.”

Washington may be the daughter of South African politician Reverend Kenneth Meshoe, but she’s very much her own woman. On her social-media platforms,

she describes herself as: “Wife. Mom. Daughter. Sister. Speaker. Attorney. Entrepreneur. Transformation Agent. Zionist. Generation Changer.”

Along with all that, she’s executive director of the pro-Israel South African non-

governmental organisation DEISI (Defend, Embrace, Invest in, Support Israel) International, and Club Z’s national director of programming and engagement. Club Z “cultivates the next generation of proud and articulate Jewish leaders. It connects teens to their Jewish identity, Israel, Zionism, and a community of like-minded activists at a key point in their lives.”

Washington has faced bullying, gaslighting, harassment, and abuse for being a Zionist, at home and abroad. “I’ve been called lots of names and questioned about my Christianity, intelligence, and blackness. By that I mean I’ve been called a ‘sell-out’, that I’m not really black because I hold this particular view. I’ve been told that I’m not intelligent – that I don’t think for myself, and that I’ve been paid to do, think, and say what I believe, and also that I’m doing a disservice to my faith. All of which are absolute lies.

“There have also been a few events in the US and South Africa where the threat of violence was very real. But my parents told my brother, sister, and me that popularity isn’t what we strive for. We strive to do and say the right thing.”

She says the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement in South Africa is a group of “bullies who are taking South Africa back to apartheid-era days. There’s no dialogue with them. They restrict freedom of movement, association, belief, and opinion. They use young people – especially young black people – as pawns for their own gain. They

aren’t bettering Palestinian lives.”

Asked how she became a Zionist, she says, “I grew up in a Christian household. So in that, I knew that standing with Israel was the right thing to do. I also knew that the Jewish people had a right to self-determination in their ancestral homeland. That made me a Zionist.

“Then, in 2014, my father came back from a speaking tour in the US and Canada where he had been made aware of BDS on campus. He then started DEISI [pronounced ‘day-zi’] both as a reactive and proactive response. That year, I was also invited to speak on the topic of Israel for the first time.”

That was when she started doing her own in-depth research, and “I felt I needed to speak up.” Also that year, she spoke at a solidarity rally at Huddle Park during Operation Protective Edge. “When I spoke at that rally, that’s when I felt like I had a responsibility to be part of the conversation.” The rest is history, and she’s now a force to be reckoned with when speaking about Israel.

She aims to be active in the promotion of education and understanding. “We spend far too much time being reactive,” she says. “Rather, we need to work on nurturing relationships, explaining what Zionism is, the principles involved, what Israel is, and who the Jewish people are. This needs to be done in an authentic, meaningful way.

“We also need to engage in discussions on human rights. This used to be about land, but now people feel that if they believe in human rights and justice, they have to be anti-Israel. So we need to have

real-life conversations to help people see the bigger picture. For example, one cannot talk about justice by pointing a finger at Israel and turning a blind eye to slavery that continues to happen on the African continent.”

Her own memories of her family’s suffering under apartheid, as well as numerous trips to Israel and a deep understanding of the Middle East has made her shout from the rooftops that Israel isn’t an apartheid state. “Not enough people know what apartheid was, and they are therefore being manipulated. We need to remember and safeguard our history, and appreciate its nuance and details. Because when it’s juxtaposed with what Israel is or isn’t doing, we’ll be able to say, ‘That’s not the truth.’”

To the South African Jewish community she says, “Please don’t give up hope. I understand that with the attitude of the South African government towards Israel, things can feel quite dark. But it’s the attitude of the few who are very loud.

“Also, please don’t make excuses about why people are antisemitic. If someone shows themselves as your enemy, take them at their word, and if they show themselves as your friend, take them at their word. Allow people from outside the community to be supportive and lead the way in building relationships with other communities. There are people like me and my family who won’t keep quiet in our stand for Jerusalem, Israel, and the Jewish community.”



Olga Meshoe Washington

Another day, another election in Israeli politics

OPINION

PAULA SLIER



Naftali Bennett made Israeli history this week when he announced the collapse of his government on Monday, 20 June. Serving barely a year in office, no elected Israeli prime minister has ever served a shorter tenure.

As a result, the Knesset (parliament) is voting for its own disbandment, which it's likely to wrap up next week.

Bennett's foreign minister, Yair Lapid, will then become caretaker premier for the period leading up to elections planned for late October or early November. Practically speaking, he will be prime minister for at least four to six months until a new government is sworn in.

Bennett formed the short-lived "change" coalition in June last year, cobbling together the most ideological, ethnic, and religiously diverse government in Israel's history. It brought together secular and religious factions, right-wing and leftist politicians, and an independent Arab party, Ra'am, for the first time ever. Throughout its time, the coalition only ever had a slim majority but was successful in ousting former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, from office. This was the glue that bound the disparate parties together – a shared commitment to "anyone but Bibi".

Bennett's government had some early successes, including passing Israel's first budget in several years, but it lost its majority in April and continued its downward slide from there.

Its unravelling presents an opportunity for Netanyahu to make a dramatic return to power and he, in turn, has expressed confidence that his coalition will win a majority in the next elections.

But the latest polls predict a political deadlock with no party having a clear path to a majority coalition unless the current blocs of coalition and opposition parties shift.

Polls have consistently shown parties loyal to Netanyahu faring better in a vote, but still falling short of a majority. The Arab Joint List, which supports neither side, holds the balance of power. This means Israelis will now be dragged into their fifth election campaign in

just three-and-a-half years.

Bennett has dubbed Netanyahu's "poison [propaganda] machine" that has served him well in the past. But Netanyahu will face weaker rather than frightened rivals that will make it more difficult for his Likud to regain power.

However, should he mobilise the 61-seat Knesset majority that evaded him through the past four election cycles, experts predict he will probably try to carry out a constitutional, legal, and regime coup. His overarching goal is to stop the corruption trial taking place against him, which includes a charge of bribery.

Bennett and Lapid's announcement to voluntarily dissolve their coalition surprised many Israelis. Bennett made a last-ditch effort



Foreign Affairs Minister Yair Lapid and Prime Minister Naftali Bennett during a cabinet meeting 14 November 2021

Photo: Marc Israel Sellem Pool

to appeal to his renegade Yamina party Knesset member, Nir Orbach, last week not to vote with the Likud-led opposition in favour of bringing down the government. Orbach refused.

Had the vote gone ahead, Orbach's support could have tipped the scales in the opposition's favour. Thus, instead of new elections in the fall, Bennett's coalition government could perhaps have been replaced at once by a Netanyahu-led coalition.

Bennett no doubt doesn't want to go down in history as a leader blackmailed by a little-known politician who rode into the Knesset on his coattails last year.

The collapse of the government comes as the Biden administration announces the United States president's visit to Israel, the Palestinian territories, and Saudi Arabia next month.

Lapid is expected to be serving as Israeli prime minister then. For Biden, Jerusalem is just a stop on a Middle East trip designed to reconcile relations further between the US and

The index is primarily a tool "to demand concrete action from European leaders", said Rabbi Menachem Margolin, the head of the European Jewish Association. "We welcome statements against antisemitism by European leaders. But more than statements is needed."

The European Jewish Association will make individual recommendations to each country surveyed, he said. The index was part of a two-day event sponsored by multiple Jewish organisations, including the Consistoire in France, the Jewish Agency for Israel, and the Israeli government, about how European Jewish communities can aid Jews in Ukraine.

Titled "Europe and Jews, a country index of respect and tolerance towards Jews", the study ranks the 12 countries surveyed as follows: Italy: 79; Hungary: 76; Denmark: 75; the United Kingdom: 75; Austria: 75; the Netherlands: 74; Sweden: 73; Germany: 72; Spain: 70; France: 68; Poland: 66; and Belgium: 60.

Staatsky gave each surveyed country grades on

Hungarian Jews at the opening of a new synagogue in Budapest on 27 August 2021

Photo: Cnaan Lipshiz

Saudi Arabia following the killing in 2018 of Saudi dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul.

For Israel, the visit is important for regional stability and the struggle against Iran.

Bennett has repeatedly pointed to recent events on the Iran nuclear front as a major success of his coalition. In February, when it seemed as though an Iran deal between Teheran and the P5 + 1 was around the corner, Bennett, Defense Minister Benny Gantz, and Lapid became more vocal in speaking out against the negotiations to return to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The dissolution of the Knesset comes at a critical time in Israel's battle to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons – a time at which continuity, or a lack thereof, could have an impact on the outcome. The fact that there is such political turmoil at such a pivotal time for Iran-related diplomacy is a challenge for Jerusalem.

Unlike Netanyahu, who refused to discuss anything to do with Iran talks with his American counterparts, Bennett has engaged with the Biden administration. As a result, Washington has been transparent with Jerusalem on related matters.

In the long run, Bennett supports an Iran deal, but one that lacks the JCPOA's weaknesses, like gradually lifting restrictions on Iran's nuclear programme. In theory, Iran would be enticed to join the deal by the lifting of economic sanctions and deterred from leaving it by the threat of them snapping back.

Such is the nature of Israeli politics at the moment that should Biden return for another visit to the Middle East later this year, he could well be meeting with still another prime minister. Perhaps it would be someone he has met before, such as Netanyahu, or wannabe prime minister and current Defense Minister Benny Gantz.

Israeli politics is interesting, if nothing else.

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

multiple subjects, including the Jewish sense of security, public attitudes to Jews, and the number of Jews who said they had experienced antisemitism. The grades were based on major opinion polls in recent years, including those conducted by the Action and Protection League, a group that monitors hate crimes against Jews in several countries, and the European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency.

The study combined those scores with scores the author gave to countries' government policies, including their funding for Jewish communities, whether they had adopted a definition of antisemitism, and the status of Holocaust education and freedom of worship.

Germany received an overall score of 72 in spite of having the best score – 89 – on government performance. A relatively low score on Jewish sense of security – 46 – hurt its overall score.

But the prevalence of antisemitic sentiments in Hungarian society – an Anti-Defamation League survey from 2015 found that about 30% of the population hold them – "shows there is work to be done here, too, in education and outreach", Koves said.

WE ARE COMING TO SOUTH AFRICA

Talk to us about buying property in Israel.

BOOK AN APPOINTMENT 19TH - 28TH JUNE 2022



Yamim Hatzira, South Netanya

Developed by the Yuvalim Group, this residential project will include **872** new residential units in **14** buildings with an array of apartments of various sizes to choose from.

FROM **NIS 2,350,000**



44 Yehezkel Street, Tel Aviv

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

FROM **NIS 4,700,000**

Since 1985 - Hold is the premier real estate firm for property investment in Israel.

With a global portfolio of clients, Hold also manages over 170 rental properties in Israel.

Meet with Julian Nathan 19th - 28th June 2022



Managing Director
Hold Real Estate
✉ julian@hold.co.il
☎ +27 87 551 0734
📠 +972 58 631 9754

HOLD REAL ESTATE

SECURING YOUR FUTURE IN ISRAEL

Visit our website: www.hold.co.il

The unfettered facts

I find it astonishing that our government or minister of international affairs and cooperation is scoring points with Hamas, a vicious group known around the Western world as terrorists. Hamas makes no bones about its determination to rid the world of Israel and all those who live there.

So, cosying up to Hamas and being honoured by this band of terrorists for her stance on Israel is nothing less than intolerable.

You know, Dr Naledi Pandor is an extremely educated and smart woman who, in the past, I truly admired and thought was someone we needed in government. She made impressive moves as minister of education and home affairs. However, she may be smart, but she's blinded by her hatred for Israel.

I find it so much more offensive when someone who I expect more of because of their education and wisdom comes out with blanket hatred for Israel.

She compares Israel with the worst of South Africa's apartheid crimes. Clearly, she doesn't have the full picture of what goes on in the Jewish State.

Comparing the funeral of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh with the Soweto Uprising is ridiculous. For starters, between 176 and 700 children died as a result of the Soweto Uprising. Nobody was actually harmed at the funeral of Abu Akleh. But Pandor's rhetoric seems not to let the facts get in the way of an anti-Israel hate fest.

Unfortunately, her views are popular with the government and the circles in which she mixes. So, no real, unbiased research is being done about Israeli-Palestinian issues.

It's so frustrating to sing this same refrain time and time again about unfettered, untested anti-Israel hatred in certain sectors of the government, the African National Congress, and political circles.

Frankly if it wasn't so damaging and concerning, I would say it was downright boring. Same old, same old, only worse.

Just this week, a communal leader referred to us as a "BDS newspaper" because (I imagine) we write so many stories about anti-Israel sentiment.

What this person doesn't realise is that we would much rather be writing stories that have nothing to do with Israel hatred, but as a responsible newspaper, we need to give you the facts.

We would be amiss if all we told you was the good news. Trust me, I love stories with happy endings. I love the human interest pieces that touch our hearts. And we jump on those stories with energy because we know that as a community, we need to feel love and be inspired. It's also never a bad thing when a story inspires us to do something wonderful or to help a person or group of people.

We are a helping kind of community.

The fact is, in spite of all this anti-Israel nonsense, we truly live a blessed life in South Africa. We have flourished and continue to do so in this country and have every benefit of freedoms of religion, expression, media, and all the other freedoms we're given in South Africa.

We don't experience day-to-day antisemitism. We generally have an exceptional life here.

The only undercurrent to our existence is the blanket hatred by some groups towards Israel. And try as we might to wish it away or excuse it as disliking a certain style of government, there's no mistaking that some hate Israel just for being Israel, the Jewish State.

As the *SA Jewish Report*, we believe we cannot ignore this hatred. We need to call it out for what it is, and let you decide how to deal with it.

However, we shouldn't deny that it's happening, ignore it, and act like ostriches.

Another comment that passed my desk this week had to do with last week's lead story on how CAP, the police, and CSO rescued a man who had been kidnapped and held for ransom.

I was asked if CAP paid us for the publicity we gave it. I have to say, I giggled at this because of its absurdity.

Here we were telling you an amazing story about someone who could have disappeared for good. Instead, thanks to the incredible work of what was originally a communal organisation, he didn't and is alive and well enough to tell the tale.

Instead of feeling chuffed and relieved that we have such a phenomenal body at our disposal, this person felt it was us giving free public relations to CAP.

I guess it takes all kinds of people to make up our community. Having said that, isn't it astonishing how many South Africans have been honoured by the Queen of England?

I have to say that knowing the family of Andy Kuper, I could think of few people as deserving as him. This young social entrepreneur makes a living out of empowering people around the world who need it most. What an incredible way of life! As he earns his money, he's making life better for others. *Kol hakavod* to him and all the other South Africans who were honoured.

Finally, I feel it's necessary to mention the issue of Israelis in Turkey and the fact that they have been warned to steer clear of the country.

Again, there were people who felt we shouldn't write this story because they believe it to be spreading fear, which is exactly what terrorist groups want us to experience.

So, do we ignore the fact that so many South Africans are flying via Turkey to Israel? Do we ignore the fact that this does have an impact on us? Are we fearmongering by telling you this story?

I think not. We're simply giving you the information with which you can make up your own mind as to what to do.

We can't tell you that you dare not go to or fly via Turkey. Who are we to do this? All we can do is give you the facts and people's opinions so you can make up your own mind.

If any of this brings you food for thought or Shabbos dinner banter, we've done our job.

Shabbat Shalom!
Peta Krost
Editor



ANC decline heralds fragile coalition government

OPINION

PAUL BERKOWITZ



The 2021 local government election continued the trend of the 2016 election, with more coalition governments, more losses from the African National Congress (ANC), and more unpredictability. The by-elections since then show more of the same.

Over the past five months, there have been 25 by-elections held across seven provinces. That's about 0.6% of all the wards in South Africa, not a large sample but big enough to confirm some trends in the 2021 local government election and to corroborate what we see in the news and social media.

At a party level, these include the continued decline of the ANC, no growth from the Democratic Alliance (DA), and continued growth of ActionSA and the Patriotic Alliance (PA). This means more coalition politics beyond the metropolitan municipalities (metros), the Western Cape, and KwaZulu-Natal.

It's the broader implication of fractured voting and voter apathy that are a concern. Our electoral system reduces the power of large parties and supports new and small parties. Five of the eight metros have coalition governments. Will more coalition governments lead to more instability?

Photo: Ilan Ossendryver



Multiple wards across South Africa have gone to vote in by-elections this year

At the ward level, the increased splintering of the vote has led to interesting outcomes. Ten of the 25 wards were won with less than 50% of the vote – in four of these wards, the winning candidate received less than 40%. The current record-holder, receiving just less than 32% of the vote, is an ANC candidate in Johannesburg Ward 53.

This is the downside of direct democracy and first-past-the-post voting – you can represent an area where less than a third of the voters chose you. But these anomalies are corrected at municipal (and national/provincial) level.

It's clear that the ANC isn't doing well and continues to shed support, not just in the metros but increasingly in rural wards. The party lost six of 21 wards it defended. The DA also lost support in the two wards it defended. The party retained both wards with less than a majority of the vote.

ActionSA, the PA, and Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) have been the success stories of the by-elections. The EFF won three wards off the ANC. Though ActionSA and the PA didn't win any wards, their growth prospects look better over the medium term, particularly ActionSA.

Beyond by-elections: the health of local government

The by-election results help to predict the fortune of political parties, but they don't speak to the quality or stability of local government. Our MetroMonitor project measures the political risk across the eight metros, and identifies the trends across different coalitions.

It's been just eight months since the local government election, and already one metro has

been placed under administration (Mangaung) and another (Nelson Mandela Bay) is perilously close to the same fate. Councillor assassinations and factional violence have been rife in both municipalities as well as eThekweni and Buffalo City.

It's no coincidence that all four metros are under ANC control, either by majority or in coalition. There are ongoing reports of corruption and service delivery failures in all four. Honest coalition partners in Nelson Mandela Bay have left the coalition in disgust while pliable opposition politicians in eThekweni voted with the ANC to award themselves large bonuses.

Though the DA-led coalitions in Johannesburg, Tshwane, and Ekurhuleni haven't been a picnic, they've managed to remain intact, to compromise on council positions, and to pass critical legislation, including the 2022/2023 budgets. The success is partly due to skilled negotiation, partly luck, and partly a maturity of the coalition partners – the DA, ActionSA, FF+ (Freedom Front Plus), ACDP (African Christian Democratic Party), and COPE.

The coalition – and the DA particularly – are lucky that Herman Mashaba left the Johannesburg council to build his party nationally ahead of the 2024 national/provincial election. There were too many big egos within the coalition's tent in the first few months. The coalition is also lucky that the ANC has become so radioactive that the EFF would rather support DA mayoral candidates than work with the ANC.

The coalition partners in the Gauteng metros have been more willing to compromise: in Johannesburg, there are at least eight parties represented in the mayoral committee and the other committees. These include the PA, Inkatha Freedom Party, and even the UDM (United Democratic Movement). The UDM chair is an interesting example of how the different parties are providing checks and balances and keeping each other accountable.

She's chair of the municipal public accounts committee, a powerful committee with strong oversight powers. Both the DA and ANC caucuses voted for her, which is a big boost to independence and transparency in the metro.

There are at least two other examples: the coalition parties voting for EFF proposals in the Ekurhuleni council, and the DA and ActionSA compromising on the adjustment budget in Tshwane in order to pass it by deadline.

The ANC, however, is struggling to hold its coalitions together and struggling with governance and transparency when it's in majority. It's not an exaggeration or an unfair generalisation to say that the party is the common denominator in corruption and mismanagement.

Coalition governments are an increasing reality in South African politics. There are no guarantees that the coalitions in Gauteng will continue to hold, but there's a better blueprint now for how to make things work. We have to make sure that they work.

• Paul Berkowitz is a director at The Third Republic, a non-profit company that supports democratic participation and community development. MetroMonitor is an ongoing research project that reports on political/economic risk and service delivery in the eight metropolitan municipalities. See more at www.t3r.org.za

Commemorating an untold Youth Day massacre

HOWARD FELDMAN

This is a story seldom told. Which is why on Sunday, 19 June, ChaiFM got together with Alex FM for a joint broadcast. For three hours, the stations shared a studio, presenters, and listeners to recount and commemorate the largely unknown events of 1976.

In 1974, under the apartheid government, the minister of Bantu administration and development, MC Botha, issued a decree that made the use of Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in black schools compulsory from Standard 5 (Grade 7) onwards. Over the next two years and under the oppressive apartheid regime, black society in South Africa became a pressure cooker of tension.

At the 1976 student uprising, the youth were officially protesting Afrikaans as the language of instruction, but this was just one aspect of the “Bantu education” enforced by the regime. Although the protests are grouped as the “Soweto uprisings”, the reality is that they occurred throughout the country. Some communities experienced more violent responses from the government than others.



Howard Feldman with Alex FM host Muntu Mbabjwa

On 18 June 1976, in Alexandra, police opened fire on protesting youth, killing 22. Forty-five more were injured. It was their stories that were told on our broadcast.

Together with Muntu Mbanjwa from Alex FM, I was privileged to spend three hours interviewing survivors, teachers, activists, and even a newspaper delivery man at the time of the protest.

The conversations were real, unscripted, and spoke not only of the injustice of the time but of frustration with the current government which hasn’t delivered. It spoke to a younger generation in search of a cause and desperately in need of direction and guidance.

Towards the end of the broadcast, a moment of silence was held. Each name was read along with the age of the victim and the cause of death. It was stark and sobering. The memories lingered in the air long after the studio fell silent.

It was thanks to information that Wendy Kahn, the national director of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies provided, and the incredible effort of Kathy Kaler, the chief executive of ChaiFM, that this initiative was borne. It was an uncomfortable, real, and inspiring morning, and I’m grateful to have been part of it.

It’s difficult to understand why some stories are told while others aren’t. But now at least the events of 18 June 1976 are more widely known.



CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE?

www.charidy.com/dllink

DL Link's Circle of Life... Circle of Light

Each one of us has the power to transform darkness into light, and each of us has the power to bring light to others in their darkest moments.

Join DL Link in its annual Charidy campaign, from 28 to 30 June, and partner with us in the invaluable work we do.

The theme of our campaign this year is the circle of light based on the Circle of Life from The Lion King. The DL Link circle encapsulates the full spectrum of life - happiness, sadness, breakthroughs, challenges, and miracles. But through all the ups and downs and uncertainties, there's one thing that is certain, and that's that DL Link is always there to ensure that no one suffers their journey alone. There's always a hand to lift our warriors, a heart that

truly cares, and countless interventions that make all the difference.

Our precious Devorah Leah, after whom the DL Link was named, lost her life, but she won the battle for others, as DL Link is now a lifeline to more than 850 cancer warriors.

We invite you to partner us as we make the circle of light even bigger and brighter, as each cent that you donate is doubled by generous backers.

We thank you for your meaningful contribution, and pray for healing for the world and all its people.



To donate, go to www.charidy.com/dllink


Banking details: DL Link • Nedbank • Account Number: 1001082818 • Branch Code: 196605


"A true king's power is his compassion," says Sarabi, King Mufasa's wife in the Lion King

DL Link

THE CIRCLE OF LIGHT

A LION SLEEPS IN THE HEART OF EVERY BRAVE PERSON





28-30 JUNE

www.charidy.com/dllink

The inspiring legacy of Carolyn Gad, art’s magical fairy

TALI FEINBERG

Carolyn Gad had attracted international attention, been invited to be artist-in-residence at a prestigious medical institute, and illustrated a book to raise funds for cancer research all by her early 30s.

She did it all before contracting cancer herself. It was such a rare form of the disease, that only seven people in the world were diagnosed with it. “Each one of them would wear a t-shirt printed with an illustration by Carolyn. And one by one, they passed away,” says her mother, Millicent.

“A talented artist, she lived her dream,” says her father, David. The Cape Town couple, who have three elder sons, laid their only daughter to rest in December 2020. She was 37 years old. Her parents have since made peace with her passing. But when they read of the recent death of young Hanna Green, also from a rare form of cancer, they reached out to her parents to offer support and comfort in the face of such senseless loss.

Carolyn’s art developed into a distinct, whimsical, and playful style that’s instantly recognisable. It all began at a young age, when her drawing was selected to be printed on a t-shirt for her Jewish pre-primary school in Cape Town. Millicent is also an artist. After Carolyn passed away, her mother painstakingly made a mosaic of Carolyn’s own illustration, titled *Flower Girl*, to cover the grave. People from far and wide stop to admire the magnificent image created by a young woman gone too soon and by a mother who had to bury her own child.

Carolyn had perivascular epithelioid cell neoplasms. These are rare soft-tissue tumours, often formed around small blood vessels. “It wasn’t genetic – just bad luck,” says Millicent. “Although when she was diagnosed, the doctor asked if she was an Ashkenazi Jew. Apparently such rare cancers are often found in Ashkenazi Jews because we’re so intermarried.”

Carolyn matriculated from United Herzlia Schools in 2001. Writing in the schools’ alumni publication in

2017, she said, “Shortly after I matriculated, I completed a BTech degree in textile and surface design at CPUT [the Cape Peninsula University of Technology]. After graduating in 2005, I spent time travelling and working before accepting a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work in a relatively unknown town called Olomouc, a quaint university town in the Czech Republic.

“During my stay, I held the position of invited artist at the Institute of Molecular and Translational Medicine in Palacký University’s biomedical research department. It’s the only university in the world that employed an artist-in-residence for its medical research programme. My role centred on bringing science to the public through art, and I was mainly tasked with creating illustrations for talks about medical research given by the institute’s director as he would speak to the public at conferences around Europe.

“A while back, the institute’s non-profit organisation approached me to illustrate a book titled *Dedicated Fairy Tales* for the purpose of raising funds for cancer research. Ten well-known Czech and Slovak personalities had written the stories. The launch was a momentous and proudly South African moment for me as I earned international recognition as an illustrator. *Dedicated Fairy Tales* has been well received and exposed widely in the media.”



Carolyn Gad at work

Her parents say she was incredibly brave in moving to the Czech Republic, taking such a unique opportunity while knowing no one. This bravery would continue as she battled with cancer. Carolyn fell in love with her new home, which in turn seemed to fall in love with her.

She was warmly welcomed and made friends wherever she went. Her art can be found in the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland, France, Slovakia, the United Kingdom, United States, South Africa, and Australia. She chose to have much of her medical treatment in the Czech Republic. “The public hospitals were top class – on par with medical care in America or Israel,” says her father.

But disaster struck when doctors discovered the extent of her cancer. “They told her that she had just two to three weeks to live,” says David. Twenty minutes after she received that news, another life changing announcement came through: she was invited to exhibit at the Jewish museum in Prague, with the work being viewed by 7 000 people a day. But in light of her diagnosis, she had to turn it down – a heartbreaking decision. She also had to leave the Czech Republic, where she felt she truly belonged. Her parents took her home, and she lived for another 16 months. They buried her at the height of the pandemic.

Carolyn would explore her illness through her art. Her last image posted on her Instagram account, titled *The Butcher*, depicts a doctor doing an operation. Though it’s in her bright and playful style, the painting is harrowing. Other images show her tumours as frightening faces, but some pictures are more light-hearted. *Self portrait with Epithelioid Angiomyolipoma* is colourful and almost joyful. She even depicted herself having surgery in an illustration that’s peaceful and

startling.

Now, her legacy continues. Her parents recently bestowed a generous annual award to the University of Cape Town’s Michaelis School of Fine Art. “Carolyn was a driven person who had so many dreams about her career and future, we wanted to leave a legacy in her name to continue for many years. We felt the prize should be shared to give two people the opportunity of winning. It will be given to the top student in practical and the top student in theory.”

In her piece for the Herzlia alumni publication, Carolyn described her motivation and process. “I want to remind people of the importance of using imagination – a powerful tool, which, unfortunately, many of us are suppressing by immersing ourselves in technology. My inspiration arises almost entirely from my imagination. I play around with elements extracted from doodles to create new and unique compositions. My illustrations mostly depict fantasy worlds and the whimsical characters that exist within them. Unlike most illustrators today, I prefer to create by hand instead of on a computer. My preferred medium is gouache [a water-soluble pigment] watercolour, and fine liner pen on watercolour paper.

“We tend to grow up believing that we should stick to one particular course in life and follow in the footsteps of those before us,” she said. “I believe that there’s no specific recipe for each of us to adhere to in life, and we shouldn’t feel pressured into following the crowd but rather design our own lives by striving towards our dreams and desires.

“My advice to anyone wishing to pursue a career in the arts is to spend less time immersed in technology and preserve your imagination,” she wrote. “It’s difficult to be original these days, but always be yourself. Don’t be intimidated or discouraged by the enormous pool of talent out there because someone may be better than you on a technical level, but there’s only one you and nobody can express your story as creatively as you can. So go out there, and tell your story.”

Cryptocurrency – future money or folly?

SAUL KAMIONSKY

“Bitcoin represents something profoundly important, notwithstanding some of the scepticism that surrounds it,” says Steven Boykey Sidley, the co-founder of multiple technology companies and an award-winning author of six books.

Sidley, who has held the position of chief technology officer at many companies, including Anglo American and one of South Africa’s first blockchain projects, project UBU, was speaking about cryptocurrency at the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre in Johannesburg on 8 June.

Sidley insists that the technological engine that underpins Bitcoin is going to be transformative. He cites the example of getting money to his daughter who is studying overseas. She called him for R1 000. Going through a traditional bank, there was a lot for him to fill in and questions he didn’t know the answers to. He had to call the bank and ask a friend for advice. It took him half an hour, and then the bank would still take 15% out of the transaction.

“So, I called my daughter and said, ‘Please open an account at Crypto Exchange.’ It took her a few minutes. Within about seven seconds, I sent her the R1 000. Nobody asked me my name, nobody asked why I was sending it, the transaction was completely blind to the South African government, European government, or any other surveillance authority.”

Sidley says the inventors of Bitcoin wanted to build a digital form of money that couldn’t be printed, debased, and inflated by any central authority.

The inventors were concerned that the central bank of a country could ban Bitcoin. “So, they did a thing called decentralisation in which there’s no corporation, there’s no partnership, there are no people,” says Sidney. “This is a piece of software that runs on thousands of computers. You can’t put people in jail for using Bitcoin because there’s nobody to sue.”

In 2011, Russian teenager Vitalik Buterin took a copy of the Bitcoin blockchain and built his own one called Ethereum. “But he put one extra piece, a programming



Steven Boykey Sidley

language, on top of it,” says Sidney. “He believed that all this magic embedded within this blockchain had many other potential uses which he couldn’t think of. So, he handed this programming language to the world, saying, ‘Can you guys dream up anything that you may want to do with this?’ There was a Cambrian explosion of creativity, which started in about 2014.”

Emboldened with this programming language, people wrote a smart contract on the blockchain to mimic borrowing and lending, says Sidney.

In terms of stocks, if you want to buy shares, you can open an account at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) and the broker takes a fee. “The crypto industry has built decentralised exchanges, which have no centre,” says Sidney. “The commissions are cents on the rand. They are 1 000 times less than the JSE, the New York Stock Exchange, or Nasdaq. The stock exchanges can’t compete. Last week, a decentralised exchange on a blockchain exceeded a trillion-rands-worth transaction. It’s now the biggest exchange in the world.”

However, though organised crime investigation company IRS Forensic Investigations (IRSMI) doesn’t have an issue with Bitcoin, it has an issue with people using purported Bitcoin investments to commit crime, says Chad Thomas, the chief executive of the South African independent financial crimes investigation team.

“South Africa has become a black sheep worldwide in respect of Bitcoin-related scams,” says Thomas.

According to Thomas, “The biggest global crypto scam to be reported during 2020 emanated out of South Africa, and that was the Mirror Trading International [MTI] scandals. MTI would take your Bitcoin, and it claimed to have an algorithm which would generate better investment opportunities than if you had to trade it yourself. It became a massive Ponzi scheme.”

Thomas also mentioned the Africrypt scandal, in which two Muslim brothers from Johannesburg are

Continued on page 14>>

Distributions Officer

A large charitable foundation, based in Durban, is looking for someone to co-ordinate its charitable distributions, as the current incumbent is retiring.

The ideal candidate will:

- Have a tertiary education, preferably in social work
- Be able to exercise strict control over current application processes
- Be computer literate
- Be prepared to travel into rural areas
- Have his/her own vehicle with a valid driver’s licence
- A competitive salary, pension fund membership and a non-contributory group life scheme is offered.

Please email application letter and CV to admin@daitzfoundation.org

Only those applicants who are required for an interview will be contacted.



Dave and Gidon Novick

Comair – the end of a family airline

PETA KROST

LIFT airline co-founder Gidon Novick felt a deep sadness when it was announced that competitor Comair would be liquidated last week. It meant the death of the airline company that was an intrinsic part of his childhood and the launchpad for his career.

Comair was the business his father ran for more than 50 years, and it was on this company that Shabbos dinner chatter focused for a lot of Novick's life.

So, though he wasn't upset to lose a competitor in a tough market, the end of Comair and its airlines, the British Airways franchise and kulula.com, signified the end of an era.

"I grew up in Comair," Novick told the *SA Jewish Report*. "I wasn't sad for the entity or brand, but for what my dad spent two-thirds of his life building. I felt for the people who had been there for many decades."

Though Novick's dad didn't start the company, he took it to heights unimaginable for a private airline company in South Africa.

The concept of Comair was created by three South African Air Force pilots in the middle of Egypt when they were fighting for the allies in North Africa in the early 1940s.

Leon Zimmerman, AC Joubert, and JMD Martin decided to start a business that would offer pilot training, a charter service, and possibly sell the occasional aircraft.

For the first four or five decades, said Novick, Comair wasn't just an airline but a general aviation company that included an agency for Cessna aircrafts.

Dave Novick, the son of a couple who escaped Latvia to South Africa in the 1930s, got his first job at Comair when he became a chartered accountant.

I underestimated the impact it would have on him. When I left, he left in tandem, and we sold our shares. It wasn't just a business to him, it was his baby.

He was one of four siblings whose father battled to make ends meet as a carpenter in Doornfontein, Johannesburg.

JMD Martin, one of the founders, was Dave's boss when he joined what was then a small aviation company in 1961 that was part of a large listed group. When Dave started, there were about 50 employees and two DC3 aircraft.

Martin Maritz joined four or five years later. The two and their families became close, even going on family holidays.

Within four years, Dave became managing director and Moritz, who had a legal background, worked closely with him as general manager. Dave and Moritz saw its potential, and decided to buy it out in 1978.

"They did a leveraged management buyout from the owners of the listed company, effectively using the strength of the company's balance sheet to buy the company," said Novick. In other words, they used the company's assets to help acquire the shares as the two businessmen didn't have the personal security to do the buyout.

"At the time, it wasn't clear whether this was legally doable in South African company law, but it was accepted by the sellers. That is, until they changed their minds a few weeks later," said Novick. "They decided they didn't get the right price and this led to a stressful, drawn out court case that became a legal precedent in this particular aspect of company law.

"I was just a kid at the time, but I remember this as being a stressful time because it was either successfully buy it or be fired as executives and lose everything. The houses and cars were all company assets, which would have been lost," Novick said.

He recalls it all being "a bit scary and leaving a lasting impression" on him. "Looking back, through this time, I learnt about resilience and how one must inevitably be prepared for struggles in business and in life."

Ironically when Novick was studying to become a chartered accountant in the 1990s, he was faced with a question related to the Novick versus Comair case in his board exam. Clearly, it wasn't difficult for him to respond.

The Novicks were an aviation family, always going to airshows. Each child got a chance to go the Cessna factory in the United States, and the boys all got their pilots licences as soon as they could.

Until 1991, when the domestic aviation market was deregulated, Comair was allowed to fly only secondary routes. The Novicks, as a general rule, didn't drive out of Johannesburg, they would fly, including to the Kruger National Park (one of Comair's routes) for weekends. They flew in DC3s – old World War II carrier planes.

After deregulation, Comair started building bigger routes, selling off smaller ones, and buying jet aircraft.

"We were conservative, being reticent to take on debt and growing slowly," says Novick. However, the company did make some bold moves, like taking on the British Airways franchise, the first franchise for the airline outside of Europe, and later launching kulula.com, the first low-cost airline in Africa.

"My dad brokered the deal with British Airways, which strengthened the airline, and its frequent flyer programme grew 10 times in size over the first couple of years here," he says.

A couple of years later, the low-cost airline model was created, with high density seating, no business class, with direct internet distribution. Comair jumped on it, launching kulula.com. "What you needed was a strong consumer brand because you couldn't rely on agents to promote your product, so it needed in-your-face marketing," he said. "It was revolutionary at the time."

Novick had joined the company in 1998 and earned his stripes before becoming joint kulula.com chief executive with Eric Venter until 2011.

"By then (2011), the dynamics had changed and Bidvest was a major shareholder. It was time to have a single chief executive, and the board decided Eric was the guy to run it."

Until then, Novick said, "My dad was still very much pulling the Comair strings and controlling strategy and I was running the nuts and bolts. I was interested in exploring new things, however it happened quickly, so it was traumatic."

For Dave though, who was then chairperson of the Comair board, it was the end of a lifetime involvement with one company. "I underestimated the impact it would have on him. When I left, he left in tandem, and we sold our shares. It wasn't just a business to him, it was his baby."

Novick said after they left Comair, Shabbos dinners were more inclusionary and less business focused. However, many are relieved Dave, who passed away in 2019, wasn't around to see the death of Comair.

"There's a cycle of life and business," said Novick. "New models come along, and businesses need to adapt."

Novick launched his new airline, LIFT, at the end of last year, which inevitably caused pressure on other airlines.

He believes the reduction in capacity from the loss of Comair will be managed because the flying market is smaller.

"People are fortunately now travelling again for leisure, but it's more expensive. The jury is still out whether they will resume flying for business, which was subsidising the cheaper tickets," he said.

"The biggest crisis for us is the fuel price. A year ago, a plane would use R30 000 of fuel from Johannesburg to Cape Town, now it's R100 000. That's way more than half of our costs. So, it's more expensive to fly, and fewer people can afford it."

However, he is a firm believer that the industry will prevail and easily survive this knock.

Read the SA Jewish Report online and sign up to our weekly newsletter

www.sajewishreport.co.za



sajewishreport



sa_jewishreport



Torah Academy School is Hiring a High School Maths Teacher

To start July 2022

Our Ideal Candidate Would:

- Be SACE Registered
- Have at least 3 years' IEB experience

Apply Now

Email your CV to hr@torahacademy.co.za

*Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted





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.

Percelia 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
percelia@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



KING DAVID HIGH SCHOOL LINKSFIELD

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

HEBREW SECRETARY

King David would like to appoint an experienced secretary for the Hebrew Department

The ideal candidate must

- ▶ Be fluent in Hebrew and English and be able to type in both Hebrew and English
- ▶ Be fully computer literate
- ▶ Have secretarial experience
- ▶ Have good organizational skills
- ▶ Have excellent inter-personal and communication skills
- ▶ Be confidential and professional

The successful applicant would ideally begin on 25 July 2022
CLOSING DATE: 24 June 2022

This is a mornings only position.

A Curriculum Vitae, with letter of motivation and references should be e-mailed to:
The Principal, King David High School, Linksfield
E-mail address: rosenfelddb@sabje.co.za
Tel: 011 480 4553

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

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

Empowering people more valuable than a Queen’s honour

SAUL KAMIONSKY

To be named on the Queen’s 2022 Birthday Honours list with one of Australia’s highest civilian honours was a wonderful surprise for South African-born social entrepreneur Andy Kuper, but it’s far more important to him to empower others.

He reached a milestone in the latter – what Kuper considers the highlight of his career – just three days after being awarded an AO, an officer in the general division of the Order of Australia on 13 June for his role in founding and building LeapFrog Investments, a global impact investment corporation.

“We said that LeapFrog companies would reach 25 million low-income people with essential services, which everybody thought was a wild goal. But on 16 June, we announced that our companies had reached 250 million low-income people across 30 countries – 10 times our original aspiration. At the same time, we also announced that our companies had grown 27% a year and had outperformed major investment benchmarks across every region and strategy. So, after 15 years, we have demonstrated the power-of-profit-with purpose at a scale that no one previously imagined possible.”

The royal recognition was for his “distinguished service to the impact investing industry, to global business leadership, and to financial inclusion” but assisting humanity is Kuper’s driving force.

His profit-with-purpose business ensures that tens of millions of families have access to quality medical services, medicines, insurance, savings, pensions, credit, or remittances for the first time. Kuper launched the company with former American President Bill Clinton and two South African co-founders Jim Roth and Gary Herbert in 2008.

“It’s a great honour for me, but also my family, community, and all the people in the impact investing industry who have worked for so long to bring it from being a non-existent industry to something that has raised more than a trillion dollars and is positively affecting hundreds of millions of lives.”

Kuper says he had “the full South African spectrum” during his school days. Having started at Laerskool Boskop while living in a farming area, he went on to attend a Montessori school on the Jukskei River before going to Woodmead School, the first fully multiracial school that existed during apartheid, and then spending the last three of his school years at King David Victory Park.

Kuper believes all this had a profound impact on the direction his career took.

“I had early exposure to how the world can be very badly structured, and how committed individuals and communities can seek to change that. I was on the Union Buildings’ lawns in Pretoria on the day Madiba was inaugurated. I still remember when we all heard a massive bang and thought something bad had happened, and then looked up and saw six jets trailing the new colours of the South African flag and saluting Nelson Mandela as president. So,



Andy Kuper

for me, the sense that you can actually change the world in a very fundamental way started in South Africa.”

After matriculating in 1992, he studied a politics, philosophy, and an English literature BA honours at the University of the Witwatersrand before leaving South Africa to attain his master’s and PhD at the University of Cambridge in England and being a visiting scholar at Harvard University and Columbia University in the United States.

Studying philosophy rather than finance helped him to develop blue-sky thinking. “The point of philosophy is often to question assumptions, such as, ‘Is there a table here?’ ‘Why are we here?’ These sorts of questions tackle the basic structure of reality and turn out to be very good training for entrepreneurship and finance because it allows you to envision something systematically, to question the received wisdom that something isn’t possible.

“LeapFrog invests only in companies that serve low-income people, who, as defined by the World Bank, are living on an income of less than \$11.20 [R180] per person per day. We invest in healthcare companies such as pharmacies and clinics, and we invest in financial-services businesses, such as insurers, pensions businesses, and so forth. For example, LeapFrog and Prudential Financial, one of the largest insurers in the world, bought a significant stake in Alexander Forbes, which has the largest number of clients who are relatively low income.”

One company LeapFrog invested in, Goodlife Pharmacy in Kenya, went from being a small chain of pharmacies to the largest pharmacy chain and health hub in East Africa. “It’s changing millions of lives,” says Kuper.

LeapFrog has also invested in Jumo, a financial technology company founded by a South African entrepreneur. “Jumo serves millions of low-income people who can get loans for anything from, say, \$10 to \$300 to start or grow their small business,” says Kuper.

Kuper co-founded the Global Impact Investing Network and the World Economic Forum’s Mainstreaming Impact Investing Working Group.

“The first is an industry association that tries to create standards and forums where impact investors

can all work off the same metrics, processes, and understandings.

Kuper is the author of the book, *Democracy Beyond Borders*. “It’s about

That’s incredibly important, because once you have industry norms, investors know what they can benchmark you against and what they can expect from you. That allows them to commit capital. The second was around how we crowd very big investors into the space. In subsequent years, we’ve been pleased to see several such leading investors come in.”

how we can preserve democracy in a world where so much power sits with business, non-profits, and multinationals, in which none of us elect the leader or representatives.”

His other book is called *Global Responsibilities: Who Must Deliver on Human Rights?* “It’s about how you can assess who the agent of responsibility is, and hold them accountable for delivering on certain rights.”

Kuper still has strong ties to South Africa. “I come back to the country regularly. I still have an office, and one of our largest teams there. I’m often on the phone with Gary Herbert, the South African-based co-founder of LeapFrog, who has been working with me for 14 years. LeapFrog’s success is in good part a result of his moral compass as well as his excellence as a leader and investor.”

Jewish school saviour on Queen’s honour list

SAUL KAMIONSKY

About seven weeks ago, South African-born Mark Blankfield was walking to the doctor in Melbourne, when his phone rang.

“Hi Mark, I’m Fiona from the governor’s office,” said the voice on the other end. “You’ve been nominated for an award. We just want to know if it’s offered to you, will you accept it? I’ve sent you an email.”

When Blankfield arrived back home, he had an email with an official letterhead nominating him for the Medal of the Order of Australia in the general division. “I called my wife. I was shaking,” he says. “It took me by surprise.”

Blankfield credits his family, friends, and colleagues for his award, which was officially bestowed on the Queen’s 2022 Birthday Honours List, published on 13 June. He says the main nominator for this recognition was Bialik College, a Jewish school in Melbourne. “I’ve been on its board for about 36 years,” he says. “I also was involved with the United Israel Appeal. For 16 odd years, I chaired the communal part of the appeal. I had a lot of fun all the way through.”

Blankfield got involved with Bialik in 1985 after he and his wife, Hilary, researched a suitable Jewish school for their children. “Bialik had a very caring environment to it,” says Blankfield. “It had almost a consistency to what we were trying to achieve at home. We wanted that for our children, and what they saw at school wasn’t confusing for them. We had been at the school for about only three months when we got called to a mass meeting at a town hall to be told that the school was hopelessly insolvent, faced with closure, or amalgamating with the largest school.”

With neither of those options being palatable, Blankfield tossed and turned throughout the night. “I came up with a five-year prepayment plan, went to the college the next day, spoke to the business manager, saw what the accounts really looked like, and formed an action group. I had a lot of support.”

The benefit of Blankfield’s idea for parents was that they would be locked in at 1985 rates for five years. “When you put in a factor for interest, they got a genuine

tax-deductible receipt, which gave them tax deductibility for that component,” he says. “The fees were aggregated over 60 equal payments to the bank. The

bank offered this as a no-questions-asked loan if parents needed it.”

More than 66% of the parents took advantage of this. “We then went to the community and raised A\$1.2 million (R13.3 million). Within 28 days, we turned around, and I was appointed to the board. The people who were on the action group joined me on the board. The rest is history. Today, Bialik is the number one Jewish school in Melbourne.”

Thereafter, Blankfield served as chairperson of Bialik’s Fee Relief committee until 2020. “It basically implemented the dream of the founders of the college that no Jewish child would be denied a Jewish education because of a parent’s inability to pay school fees.”

Blankfield says being in this role was the most fulfilling part of his time at Bialik. “I would attend graduation ceremonies and speech nights, watching children who were beneficiaries of this assistance walk away with awards.”

That said, the highlight of his life is his children and six grandchildren, and the person he was most influenced by was his late dad, who was on board the ill-fated South African Airways Rietbok plane that crashed into the sea off East London in 1967.

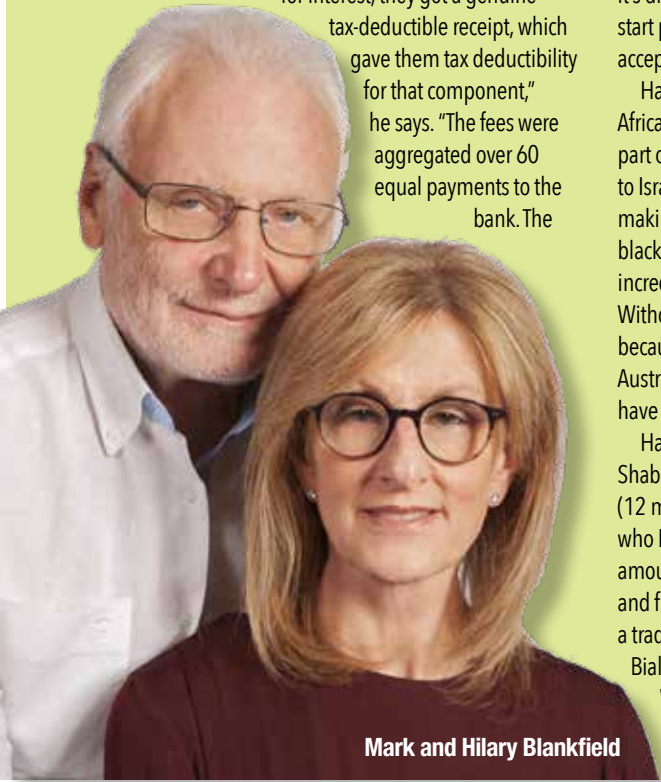
“At the time, he was just 47, and I was just 15,” says Blankfield. “He was the most wonderful man, a passionate family man, a caring person, who was driven to improve the lot of people who were less fortunate than us. He had an energy, work ethic, and morality that people could aspire to emulate. He started Bellavista School in South Africa, the first school catering for children with learning disabilities. This, during a time when children with learning disabilities were just pushed into the back of the classroom. I was at King David until I lost my dad, and then I went to Damelin, where I matriculated. While schools play a very important role in a child’s formation, parents’ responsibilities are abrogated by just writing out a cheque to pay school fees.”

Having been involved in tutoring in the townships and legal aid in South Africa, Blankfield emigrated with his wife to Melbourne after he fell in love with the city in 1970. “We entered the most wonderful Jewish community in the world,” he marvels. “You just can’t believe what the Australian Jewish community has. It’s rich, it’s diverse, it’s a caring community. Five years in, I was able to start putting back into this community which had been so warmly accepting of us.”

Having been a canvasser for the United Israel Appeal in South Africa, he joined its board in Australia before chairing the communal part of the campaign for several years. “I led a number of missions to Israel and redefined what the campaign was about in terms of making it non-elitist and open to all. We had opening functions, black-tie and gala dinners for 1 600 people. I had the most incredible professionals who were involved in these organisations. Without them, I could never have done it. It became so much fun because out of the group of friends my wife and I made here in Australia, a lot of them joined me on my journey. The past 42 years have just been a remarkable chapter of our lives.”

Having grown up in a traditional Jewish family who had Shabbat dinners, Blankfield observed *shneim asar chodesh* (12 months of mourning) when his dad passed away. “The rabbi who Barmitzvahed me took me under his wing. I got a tremendous amount of warmth, empathy, and solace from him, from the shul, and from saying *kaddish*. I always vowed that one day, I would have a traditional Jewish home. My children have all graduated from Bialik College, with two of them marrying Bialik graduates.

We’ve got Jewish continuity in our family and this, to me, has been very important.”



Mark and Hilary Blankfield



The
South African
Gold Coin
Exchange
THE MARKET LEADERS

STAND A CHANCE TO WIN R1 MILLION WORTH OF COINS

Spend over R50,000 online, in store or over the phone and get a **golden ticket entry** to win your share of **R1M worth of coins** – prize draws every week! **PLUS** get a gift with every purchase.

OFFER VALID UNTIL 31ST AUGUST 2022 OR UNTIL STOCKS LAST



LIMPOPO MALL OF THE NORTH CAPE TOWN CANAL WALK • SOMERSET MALL • V&A WATERFRONT GAUTENG SANDTON CITY
EASTGATE MALL • BROOKLYN MALL KZN PAVILION MALL • ATHLONE CIRCLE • GATEWAY MALL EASTERN CAPE WALMER PARK

CALL 011 784 8551 • SHOP ONLINE AT [SCOINSHOP.COM](https://www.scoinshop.com) • T'S & C'S APPLY

Ties that bind: SA and Ireland linked by Litvak roots

TALI FEINBERG

“Our culinary delights are the same. No English Jew knows of *perogen* or *taigel*, but Irish and South African Jews do,” says Yanky Fachler. He discussed the fascinating similarities between the Irish and South African Jewish communities in a recent article titled *Two Litvak Communities: South Africa and Ireland*, published on DafkaDotCom, a platform hosted by the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies.

Speaking to the *SA Jewish Report* after the publication of the article, he says, “Linguistically, too, there are Yiddish words and expressions that seem to be unique to the South African and Irish Litvak community, like ‘*ferible*’, which is like ‘*broigess*’.”

Fachler visited South Africa in 2017, met several lay and religious leaders of the Johannesburg Jewish community, and gave a talk about his South African connections. “I was impressed with – and not a little jealous of – the degree of communal solidarity, something that’s much less prevalent in Ireland today,” he says. He’s the chairperson and founder of the Jewish Historical Society of Ireland, and a member of the Jewish Representative Council of Ireland. He lived in England for the first 25 years of his life, then Israel for the next 25 years, and then Ireland for the past 25 years.

“Moving to Ireland a quarter of a century ago suddenly made me mindful of my own – and Ireland’s – Litvak heritage,” he wrote in the article. “When I was researching my book, *Kaleidoscope: Key characters who helped shape the Irish Jewish community*, something that Dublin-born Max Nurock [a former Israeli ambassador to Australia and New Zealand], once said resonated. Nurock stated, ‘Ireland’s Jews are a community founded largely by an incomparable generation of Litvak pioneers.’”

One could say a similar thing about South Africa’s Jewish community, which has always had a pioneering spirit. “About 90% of South African Jews are of Lithuanian descent. Although a significantly smaller Jewish community, the equivalent figure for Ireland is

about 80%. In both Ireland and South Africa, the Litvak newcomers – who mainly came after 1881 – essentially swamped the existing Jewish communities, giving them a distinctly Litvak feel,” wrote Fachler.

Asked why he thinks it’s meaningful for communities to identify similarities with other communities, he says, “It’s natural to want to belong. The fact that any Jew in the world can walk into any synagogue and be familiar with the liturgy has always been a great source of comfort. Irish Jews living in London or Israel tend to create mini Irish Jewish communities. I’ve observed the same phenomenon with South African Jews living in London, Australia, and Israel – they often tend to seek one another out. I don’t think that many Irish Litvaks are aware that the country with the biggest concentration of Litvaks is South Africa.”

THERE ARE YIDDISH WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS THAT SEEM TO BE UNIQUE TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND IRISH LITVAK COMMUNITY, LIKE ‘FERIBLE’, WHICH IS LIKE ‘BROIGESS’.

Fachler has several personal connections with South Africa. “At the turn of the 20th century, my maternal great-grandfather, Yakov Yehoshua Becker, left his family in Lithuania to explore whether he could make a living in South Africa. After a year there, he decided that he could, so he went to the South African (British) authorities and received a fistful of passports for his wife and children.” Fachler is, in fact, named after this great-grandfather.

“He returned to Lithuania, the family packed up their belongings, and were about to leave for South Africa when Yakov received a telegram from his cousin who lived in Pretoria, ‘Your partner has run off with all your money, don’t bother coming back.’ So Yakov and his family joined his oldest son, David, who lived in Frankfurt, Germany,” says Fachler.

“When it came to World War I, the Germans wanted to intern the Beckers, but they explained that their British citizenship was a sham. All except my maternal grandfather, Sam, who asked to be interned as a South African citizen.

In 1938, my Frankfurt-based grandfather, by now married with two daughters (my mother and my aunt) whom he had registered at the British consulate, was able to use his passport to waltz into Britain with no quotas.

“So, in my family history, Yakov Becker’s South African passports eventually saved every member of the family from the Holocaust. Without these passports, who knows whether I would have been born.”

Another connection is that his late younger brother, Rabbi Mordechai Fachler, “spent more than 25 years in Johannesburg, where he was rabbi of several leading synagogues. I visited the family twice in Joburg, once for the Barmitzvah of one nephew, and once for the wedding of another nephew. My nephew, David Fachler, in Israel is writing his doctoral thesis on the phenomenon of Johannesburg’s Jewish community having become more religious in recent decades.

“The Irish Jewish community has shrunk from its heyday [about 70 years ago] of 5 000 to less than 1 000 affiliated Jews today,” he says. “In its time, being a Litvak and being a Zionist were synonymous. There were maybe a dozen Zionist societies. Today’s ageing Irish Jewish community is less committed to Zionism. Though several dozen families have children living in Israel, many families have no organic connection. In general, the Litvak identity in the community has been much diluted.”

Another similarity is that the core Zionistic characteristic of Litvak Jews has been challenged in Ireland, just like it’s being challenged in

South Africa. “Ireland is known as the European country most antagonistic to Israel,” says Fachler. “This political antagonism may not necessarily be reflected in the general public, but the mainstream media are quite virulently anti-Israel. For a few diehards like

myself, this is very distressing, but most Jews in Ireland don’t give this too much energy.”

Fachler wrote that Ephraim Mirvis, now the chief rabbi of Britain and the Commonwealth, was born in Cape Town, where his father and grandfather were communal rabbis. Mirvis spent a decade in Ireland, first as rabbi of Adelaide Road Synagogue in Dublin, and later as chief rabbi.

He always claimed that as a South African, he benefitted from sharing Litvak ancestry and values with many of his Irish congregants.

Commenting on the article, independent researcher Juan-Paul Burke noted, “Another connection is that Rev. Alfred Philip Bender was an Irish Jew who came to minister in Cape Town.”

Fachler started the Jewish Historical Society of Ireland about 10 years ago. “Until COVID-19 struck, we held live meetings in Dublin’s Irish Jewish Museum. In the past two years, I have delivered more than 200 Zoom talks, as well as a couple of dozen guest talks on other Zoom meetings (in Israel, the United Kingdom, and the United States). Two collections of my talks have appeared in print in self-published books.”

He suspects that within a few short years, “there will be very little memory of the Litvak Zionists who played such a big role in building the Irish Jewish community in the late 19th century and the early 20th century”.



Yanky Fachler

Oy vey! Crystal goes Yiddish at the Tonys

ANDREW LAPIN – JTA

“Ella Fitzgerald, wherever you are, I apologise in advance.”

Billy Crystal gave this year’s Tonys a jolt of Jewish shtick when he coaxed the audience into a call-and-response “Yiddish scat” routine as part of a live performance to promote his Broadway musical, *Mr. Saturday Night*.

In a good-faith mockery of Fitzgerald’s own famous “scat” routine, Crystal, in character as his show’s fading comedian star, Buddy Young Jr, let loose on the Sunday night telecast with a series of nonsensical guttural sounds vaguely approximating Yiddish.

He then gleefully entered the audience for a bit of crowd work, messing with attendees Samuel L Jackson and Lin-Manuel Miranda – who unwittingly became a Jewish *Hamilton* alter ego: “I’m Alexander Rabinowitz.” (Miranda has proven his Jewish-theatre bona fides before – he sang *To Life* from *Fiddler on the Roof* at his own wedding, and also performed in Hebrew in a college a cappella group.)

After briefly cursing “an old Jew’s worst nightmare: stairs”, Crystal ended his routine by leading Radio City Music Hall in a giant “Oy vey!” chant. It was surely a nice consolation prize, given that *Mr. Saturday Night*, based on Crystal’s 1992 movie of the same name, left the evening with none of the five awards it had been nominated for (the top prize for best musical instead went to Pulitzer Prize winner *A Strange Loop*).

Some other Jewish-adjacent nominees

were more successful. *The Lehman Trilogy*, an expansive play about multiple generations of the Jewish banking family, took home best play and four other Tonys. *Company*, a gender-swapped revival of the classic Stephen Sondheim show that premiered shortly after the Broadway titan’s death, won five awards including best musical revival. And *Take Me Out*, a restaging of Jewish playwright Richard Greenberg’s 2002 play about a professional baseball player who comes out as gay to his teammates, won best revival of a play, as well as for its lead actor Jesse Tyler Ferguson.

Girl From the North Country, a jukebox musical that reimagines Bob Dylan’s songbook for a Depression-era story about American hardship, also won a Tony for best orchestrations. During the broadcast, *North Country* star Jeannette Bayardelle delivered a showstopping live medley of Dylan’s *Like a Rolling Stone* and *Pressing On* (the latter from the raised-Jewish rocker’s Christian conversion phase in the 1970s and 1980s).

And there was one more Jewish appearance at the Tonys, as *Spring Awakening* star Lea Michele reunited with that 2006 show’s cast for an anniversary performance.



Billy Crystal performing a Yiddish scat routine during the 75th annual Tony Awards

Photo: Screenshot

Terrorist group praises Pandor for anti-Israel speech to UN

>>Continued from page 1

But as Gon said, it rang hollow.

“I believe Pandor’s statement clearly reflects the government’s position on the conflict. The bit about a two-state solution is a sop to international opinion. The African National Congress has close relationships with organisations like Hamas and Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions. It cares nothing for Israel and the complexities of the situation. Pandor’s words leave us in no doubt – she’s not a friend of Israel.”

The UN committee convened the “conversation” between Zeid Raad Al-Hussein, the former UN high commissioner for human rights and member of the elders; and Dr Agnes Callamard, secretary general of Amnesty International.

According to the minister’s spokesperson, Lunga Ngqengelele, the Palestinian foreign ministry, through Dirco, asked Pandor to deliver a pre-recorded video message of solidarity in line with the theme “apartheid, international law, and the occupied Palestinian territory”.

Solomon said it “wasn’t good” that Hamas praised Pandor. “Forget about how Israel would feel about terrorists praising her, how would the Palestinian Authority feel? The bottom line is that she needs to be more measured in her response, especially on an issue so complex.

“If South Africa wants to act as a mediator, it needs to be perceived as impartial, and unbiased and statements like this won’t help,” he said.

There was also the issue of capacity. A country which couldn’t fill potholes, provide drinking water, or electricity to its citizens shouldn’t be projecting either hard or soft power 9 000km away, given the complexities and the lacklustre calibre of its diplomats, he said.

Shulman criticised Pandor’s comparisons with apartheid. “Israel is a democracy, as opposed to apartheid South Africa, in which democratic rights were suppressed. In Israel, all citizens of all races and religions have equal representation in government and in all of society. The attempt to try and apply the apartheid label to Israel is disingenuous and dishonest,” he said.

Pandor’s comparisons between South African freedom fighters and Palestinian extremists were “disturbing and odious”, he said.

“Comparisons made between those who fought for freedom and who actively worked to limit any deaths of civilians cannot be compared with the deliberate targeting of ordinary Israeli women and children through terrorist actions by groups like Hamas.”

He pointed out that the minister’s calls for action against Israel failed to mention the human rights abuses occurring daily under the fundamentalist Hamas rule in Gaza, let alone in other parts of the world.

“Minister Pandor chooses to remain tepid on Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, which the rest of the world loudly condemns. This glaring omission exposes the double standard against Israel and the minister’s transparent desire to attack Israel at any opportunity and exploit every circumstance.”

Professor Karen Milner, the national chairperson of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, said Pandor’s personal obsession with Israel was obscuring her capacity to fulfil her role as an international minister.

“South Africa is becoming increasingly irrelevant in both the African and the international diplomatic world,” Milner said. “Furthermore, her rant against Israel is unlikely to change anything. Indeed, her disregard for the pain and suffering on both sides and her use of divisive language positions them alongside those who have no desire to see the end of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict so long as the Jewish state continues to exist.”

Novel look at the many ways of being Jewish

Author **Tamar Hodes** recently published a book called *Mixed*, which looks at different types of Jewish people and their lives. The SA Jewish Report spoke to her.

What drew you to becoming an author?

I didn't ever decide to become a writer. It's what I was, and am. I suspect writers are born, not made. I wrote from an early age and completed my first novel at 18. My father was an English teacher and wrote non-fiction books, and my mum was a painter, so it was a very creative household with books and paints everywhere. It wasn't the most stable upbringing, but it was inspirational and never boring.

You have written a few books, but this is the first with a Jewish theme. What inspired it?

I don't think I could have written this when I was younger. I'm 60 now, and have had the privilege of meeting many Jewish people in my lifetime. Growing up in north London in a Jewish area, I witnessed interesting ways of life and as an adult, living in non-Jewish areas, I have seen others. A lot of writing is thinking, and I have been planning this novel for years. There are Jewish elements in my other work too, but less overtly. Many of my short stories have a Jewish theme and, in my previous novel, *The Water and the Wine*, I explore Leonard Cohen's life and Judaism on the Greek island of Hydra in the 1960s.

You were born in Israel, but lived in South Africa for part of your life before moving to the United Kingdom. Tell us a bit about your childhood in Israel and in South Africa.

My father was from Cape Town, and my mother from Oudtshoorn. In the 1950s, they each answered a call to work on a new kibbutz called Timorim in Israel, where they met. My brother, Gabriel, was born in 1958 and I was born in 1961 but by then, my father was working as a translator for the American embassy in Tel Aviv. My dad wanted to write and my mother to paint and they heard about Hydra, where there was an artistic community. They took us there for a year when we were six and three and then after that, my dad went to America to research his next book and my mum took us to Oudtshoorn for nine months. We were all reunited in north London on 12 January 1967. I was five years old. Sadly, my parents separated when I was 13, and each married again years later.

Why did you leave South Africa? What's your relationship with South Africa now?

My parents thought it would be good to bring us up in London. I have been back to South Africa several times. I still have family in Cape Town, and it's a beautiful country which I enjoy visiting. Likewise Israel. I was due to read at the Jewish Literary Festival in Cape Town in 2020, but it was cancelled due to COVID-19.

You make reference in your book to being a Jewish-Brit and a British Jew. Explain the difference.

The Jewish-Brit sees his/her Judaism as coming first before his/her nationality. The British Jew sees nationality first and Judaism second. There's a difference in allegiance.

Where do you fall?

I see myself as a reform or progressive Jew. I'm involved in Jewish life, but in a modern way. The synagogue I belong to has men and women sitting together and women play an equal role in services. My Jewish identity is strong. For my 60th birthday, I had a Batmitzvah, which I found poignant. I feel British, having lived here for most of my life but with strong connections to South Africa and Israel.

Who and what inspired your various characters?

The range of characters are inspired by people I've met, but they are amalgamations of people. The novel isn't about the Orthodox, but other Jewish perspectives are well represented, I hope.

Many grapple with living a Jewish life in a non-Jewish world. Do you believe it's possible?

It's possible, but there are different ways of doing it. In my novel, Ruth lives in a Jewish area, has a Jewish husband, and her children attend Jewish schools. She's very involved with the shul. It's vital to her that her children marry Jewish people, and that the tradition and heritage are passed down. Her sister, Miriam, lives in a non-Jewish area, has a non-Jewish husband, and her children attend a school where they are the only Jewish children. Her best friend, Mehreen, is Muslim. Miriam values her Jewish identity, but she wants to mix with the world at large. Then there's their Uncle Gerald, who is against all religion, and many other characters with different Jewish perspectives. Each tries to find his/her own way, but aren't that tolerant of each other.

Outside of being an author, what do you do? Tell us a bit about your family.

I've been married to David, who isn't Jewish, for 38 years. We have two grown-up children, Ben and Daisy, and they each have a son, so I'm now a proud granny! I love all the arts: music, books, theatre, cinema, art exhibitions, and David and I both love travelling and nature, especially birds. I'm not in the best health, sadly, as I have an autoimmune condition which has damaged my kidneys, so I'm on plenty of medication. Luckily, writing is a sedentary activity.

What was your process in writing this novel? How was it different to the others?

Some of the novel was hard to write as I wanted to represent many points of view and not be judgemental, but other

parts fell on the page like rain. Because the viewpoints are so varied, the structure needed to be too, so I mixed narrative, character chapters, and funny takes on Jewish recipes together, taking the plaited structure from a challah. I hope the novel is joyful, painful, complex, and thought-provoking - like Judaism itself.

What do you hope your readers will get from this book?

That they will accept that there are many different ways of being Jewish. As long as you aren't hurting anyone, they're all valid. Judaism is robust enough to embrace us all.

What are you planning for your next book?

I have an unpublished novel called *Meadowland* about a couple trying to save land from developers. I want to go back to that and see if I can improve it.



Tamar Hodes



What if you could know the cause and extent of a child's learning struggles and find out how to intervene effectively? It is never too late to help a child, but it is close to impossible to do so without the right information. Schools and parents need to know and not guess the answer to the question, "Why does this child struggle?"

Book an assessment with a skilled, multi-disciplinary team at Bellavista S.E.E.K.

Children struggle to read and learn for a reason. Until you get a better understanding of what the reason is, you will play 'hit and miss' with the solutions and interventions, costing the school and parents time, money and emotional energy. Will it be a new tutor? A different school placement? Accommodations or concessions? The introduction of an assistive device? An alternative way of doing school? Therapy? A reading programme? Further medical investigation?

Until educators and parents know WHY, they can't know WHAT to do and how best to find the right help.

Medical specialists use scans, EEGs and other diagnostic examinations to guide people towards wise health decisions. They look beyond the visible symptoms to understand the problem. The same applies to understanding the barriers to learning that a child experiences in a classroom. Cutting edge, standardised assessments can be applied to get the best possible insight into a child's strengths, weaknesses and personal learning style. There may be well intended interventions at play in the form of extra lessons and small classes, but are these targeted to meet the very specific needs of the individual learner in question?

Every child has the potential to learn. How, where and when are the variables. Listed below are just a few symptoms that struggling learners present with:

- inability to focus and pay attention
- low reading competency
- limited written output
- poor Mathematics results
- protracted hours spent on homework
- disruptive or withdrawn behaviour
- failure to follow instructions
- falling behind peers scholastically
- anxiety and fear of failure
- school refusal or task avoidance
- poor grades and low motivation
- social problems

Notwithstanding poor instruction, challenging home circumstances or a breakdown in the teacher-child trust relationship, there may be cognitive, esteem, emotional and perceptual reasons for the difficulty.

Bellavista S.E.E.K. uses the latest test editions, cognitive, speech-language, occupational and scholastic assessments to create a rich profile of a learner and so guide practitioners, educational or otherwise, towards relevant and effective interventions.



Call Bellavista S.E.E.K. to be guided through the process of application for assessment on 011 8802674, e-mail seek@bellavistaschool.co.za, or take a look at the website, www.bellavista.org.za. 35 Wingfield Avenue, Birdhaven, Johannesburg, Gauteng.

Hadassah Kobrin – strong like the Myrtle

Hadassah Kobrin (nee Goldberg), a resident of Golden Acres in Johannesburg, recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Hadassah means Myrtle tree.

Born on 7 May 1922, Hadassah, the second youngest of six daughters, was given a most appropriate name. Still living at Golden Acres with good hearing and able to get herself around, her demeanour is strong like the myrtle, and her resilience is like the Myrtle leaf, which gives off a beautiful fragrance when crushed.

Hadassah was born at the Strand in Cape Town at 06:00 on 7 May 1922. She went to Hottentots-Holland High School, and then tried her hand at shorthand and typing. “The trouble was, I couldn’t read back what I had written in shorthand, so I gave up that career as a bad job, and then went to work in my father’s bakery. He was known to bake the best bread in the Cape province,” Hadassah says. Tongue-in-cheek, she tells that her mother and her two friends, Mrs Ginsberg and Mrs Nochomowitz, who liked to be called Mrs Nochy, considered themselves socialites. “We called Mrs Nochy, Mrs Snotty because she thought she was so posh”.

Hadassah married Basil Kobrin, and they came to live in Benoni. For many years, they ran the Van Riebeeck Hotel. They had two sons and two daughters. Gillian Kaplan now lives in Australia, Trevor Kobrin, a professional photographer, lives in Dallas, Texas, and Sue Rosen lives in Johannesburg. Sadly they lost their son, Raymond Kobrin, in 1991. She has

six grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.

Though Hadassah brushes off her involvement in the broader Jewish community as minimal, there are several ex-Benoni residents living in Golden Acres who are happy to tell of her achievements. Hadassah still has a beautiful singing voice, and was a member of the JNF Ladies Choir. She participated in Thelma Dancig’s productions of *My Chair Lady*, in which she sang a duet with Diane Levy. The production was showcased numerous times in Benoni and Johannesburg as a popular fundraiser, with the proceeds going to different Jewish charities. Hadassah was also honoured with a lifetime membership of Second Innings for her contribution to the success of the organisation.

She has been a vegetarian for many years, and is now living with her second pacemaker, which was replaced last year. Her memory is clear, and she can say who lived where in Benoni. She remembers Neville Miller, who turned 87 on 6 June, singing in the Benoni Shul Choir, and even remembered Neville’s father’s name and his profession. He was a senior partner at the Benoni legal firm of Lovell, Miller and Dreyer. Neville and Diane live near Hadassah at Golden Acres.



Hadassah Kobrin with her granddaughter Alyssa Kaplan

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.

Seamstresses graduate from UJW’s sewing school

Ariane Heneck, the manager of the Union of Jewish Women’s (UJW’s) Sewing Empowerment School, congratulated graduates of the school’s four-month intensive sewing course. The students began the course hardly able to switch on a sewing machine, and today, they have made their own outfits fit for a red-carpet event.

The UJW established the sewing empowerment school in 2010 to contribute towards alleviating South Africa’s most pressing problems – lack of skills and poverty. Since then, more than 89 students have learned new skills and graduated from the course. Some of them have found employment in the industry, and others are working for themselves.

The course is made possible by the UJW’s donors, who give financial support, sewing machines, fabric, and haberdashery.

A graduate of the Sewing Empowerment School class of June 2022

Sunday 26 June <ul style="list-style-type: none">Pine Street Shul presents “From the Cape Flats, to Miss South Africa, to Jerusalem, and onwards” with Elana Kazarnovsky. Time: 10:00. Cost: R50. Contact: 083 320 9229 or lynarch@worldonline.co.za	Wednesday 29 June <ul style="list-style-type: none">ORT Jet presents Power Point 101 with Tracey Bosch. Time 09:00. Entry: Free. Contact: 011 728 7154 or admin@ortjet.org.zaJohannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre hosts “Fear/ Freedom: A Confrontation Between a Bully and His Victim Then and Now”. Time: 19:00. Contact: dowi@jhbholocaust.co.za or 011 640 3100
Monday 27 June <ul style="list-style-type: none">Union of Jewish Women presents Daphne Kuhn – Theatre on the Square “To be or not to be!” Time: 10:00. Entry: R40. Contact: 011 648 1053 or admin@ujw.co.zaChabad House hosts weekly senior programmes. Time: 09:30. Address: Chabad House 27 Aintree Avenue Savoy. Contact: 011 440 6600 or rak@chabad.org.zaCape Town Holocaust & Genocide Centre hosts a webinar “Is there a consensus in Germany on how to remember the Holocaust?” Time: 13:00. Contact: 021 462 5553 or admin@holocaust.org.za	Thursday 30 June <ul style="list-style-type: none">ORT Jet presents “In The Boardroom With David Shapiro”. Time 08:30. Entry: R100 members, R200 non-members. Contact: 011 728 7154 or admin@ortjet.org.za
Tuesday 28 June <ul style="list-style-type: none">Union of Jewish Women presents Brain Boost – a brain stimulation group. Time: 10:00. Entry: R100. Contact: 011 648 1053 or admin@ujw.co.za	Sunday 3 July <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies host the launch of Marlene Bethlehem’s Memoir – “To Serve with Love”. Time: 15:30. Contact: hazel.rchcc@gmail.com

Letters

JUDGE DAVIS SHOULD KNOW BETTER

I refer to the article, “Put the occupation on the table,’ says Judge Davis” (*SA Jewish Report*, 16 June 2022).

As a judge, he should know better. Israel isn’t occupying any land. The West Bank wasn’t sovereign Jordanian territory when

NO “OCCUPATION” TO PUT ON TABLE

In response to “Put ‘the occupation’ on the table, says Judge Davis”, (*SA Jewish Report*, 16 June 2022), there’s no “occupation” to put on the table.

Under Oslo Accords II, Area A, Area B, and Gaza – collectively, the “Palestinian territories” – are under the authority, control, administration, and jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority.

Factually, Israel has no ability to “occupy” any part of the Palestinian territories where more than 98% of Palestinians live since Israel has (a) no access to these Palestinians; (b) no presence in the Palestinian territories; and (c) no authority, jurisdiction, or control over Palestinians living in the Palestinian territories.

There are no Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories.

Legally, Article 42 of the 1907 Hague Regulations states that a “territory is considered occupied when it is actually placed under the authority of the hostile army”. The Palestinian territories aren’t subject to the authority of the Israeli Defense Forces, and it follows that there’s no occupation.

WHAT’S ON

Jordan attacked Israel from there in 1967. A judge should understand the law and definition of “occupation”. He talks about it as though it’s a fact, when it’s actually a falsehood. – Dan Burland, San Diego

The area which Judge Davis refers to as the “occupation of the West Bank” has been declared by the Palestinians to be their state of Palestine, has no Israelis present, has only Palestinian authority and control, and is recognised by about 138 countries, including South Africa. Where’s the “occupation” and “oppression”?

Area C is the only area under the authority, control, administration, and jurisdiction of Israel. Area C is mainly high ground, mostly uninhabitable, but crucial for Israel’s security. Israeli settlements are all in Area C, which under Oslo Accords II are subject to Israel’s authority, jurisdiction, and control. The Israeli settlements, which are not prohibited by Oslo Accords II but are subject to negotiation, take up about 2% of the total area of the West Bank.

Judge Davis can relax. There’s no Israeli minority ruling a majority in the state of Palestine, and it follows that there cannot be any “oppression”. There’s no “occupation” for Israel to put on any table.

– Charles Abelsohn, Kfar Sava, Israel

Cryptocurrency – future money or folly?

>>>Continued from page 8

accused of pocketing nearly \$3.6 billion (R57.7 billion) in Bitcoin, as well as the Praesidium, Imagina FX, and BTC Global scandals.

These five scandals are arguably the main five Ponzi schemes to affect South Africa in the past five years, says Thomas. “And all have a Bitcoin element to it.”

He says cryptocurrency fraud in South Africa has affected an “unbelievable” amount of people and the total money lost would be about R20 billion.

His advice to identify a Bitcoin scam is to remember that if you buy Bitcoin, you have to convert your rands to Bitcoin, which means a commission must be paid to whichever organisation, agency, or individual is converting it. “Then people claim to play the forex market on your behalf, using Bitcoin, selling into pounds, into dollars, into euro, into ruble, selling back into Bitcoin. Herein lies a problem. They make it sound so complex, that they offer training courses to those who want to play the market themselves. The courses are so overly complicated that they give you an out. Then they say, ‘You could rather invest with us, and we will trade on your behalf. That’s the move.’”

“They may be scam artists”, says Thomas. “They are going to pretend to trade your money. If you don’t understand the product, neither invest in it nor get somebody else to invest in the product for you,” he says.

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

SA history’s turning point

The uprising that began in Soweto on 16 June 1976 was a turning point in South African history. It sparked off the most sustained period of resistance to the iniquitous apartheid system since the early 1960s, and while it was ultimately suppressed, the flame of defiance it kindled in the hearts of a generation of black youth was never extinguished. Instead, it continued to smoulder before bursting anew into flame the following decade, precipitating the events that culminated in the transition to democracy in April 1994. In recognition of the courage shown by the youth of Soweto and the sacrifices made by so many of them to bring freedom to their country, 16 June was subsequently designated Youth Day.

In the post-apartheid era, the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) has striven to lead our community in identifying with and involving itself in the greater national heritage. By doing so, we strengthen our connection to the society of which we are part, build bridges with our fellow South Africans, and create new avenues through which we can contribute. Public holidays provide ideal opportunities for this kind of identification, and over the years, the Board has headed up many initiatives in this area including organising leadership delegations to attend commemorative events in Sharpeville on Human Rights Day and in Soweto on Youth Day.

To commemorate Youth Day last week, we again took a delegation of students from King David Linksfield and Yeshiva College to the Hector Pieterse Memorial in Soweto. Hector Pieterse was one of the first to be killed in the 1976 uprising, and has since come to symbolise the more than 700 South Africans who ultimately lost their lives. It was a deeply moving experience. We joined our fellow citizens, together with Gauteng Premier David Makhura, Executive Mayor Dr Mpho

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

ABOVE BOARD

Karen Milner

Phalatse, MEC Mbali Hlophe, and other provincial and local government leaders in remembering those horrific events. We were also privileged to hear first-hand the memories of the families of some of the victims. They included Janet Goldblatt, whose father, Dr Melville Edelstein, also died on that day. This, in turn, brought back memories of our participation in the 2016 Youth Day event, when a memorial to Dr Edelstein was unveiled and his grandson, Levy Rosenthal, celebrated his Barmitzvah by reading from the Torah at a shacharit service held near where Dr Edelstein was fatally injured.

Originating in Soweto, the 1976 uprising rapidly spread to townships throughout South Africa. One was Alexandra, where on 18 June 1976, at least 22 protestors were killed. On Sunday, 19 June, ChaiFM 101.9 and Alex FM Studios partnered in a three-hour broadcast commemorating the Alexandra massacre, during which numerous witnesses to the events of that day shared their stories. The SAJBD initiated this historic collaboration and was involved in its organisation as well as engaging closely with the office of the MEC for sports, arts, recreation, and culture. It demonstrated how different communities can be brought together by a shared commitment to commemorating, sharing, and learning from their common heritage. That International Relations and Co-operation Minister Naledi Pandor chose to use this significant national day of remembrance as an opportunity to further peddle her obsessive anti-Israel agenda is, to say the least, regrettable.

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



Face it, masks were there for a reason

My mask compliance is spotty at best. Sometimes it covers my mouth, sometimes it rests on my chin, and I invariably lower it when I’m unable to hear what someone is saying. Ours is one of the few shuls still enforcing the regulations but still, adherence is low. I know that I wear it only when Dr Anton Meyberg is sitting next to me. He can be quite annoying that way.

Which is why I was particularly delighted to read that for the first time since March 2020, South Africa might be mask free. On Tuesday, the health minister wrote a letter to MECs of the country explaining that as we had exited the fifth wave, masks should no longer be required indoors.

Before we rip them from our faces and dispose of them, I thought we might consider the following. When Moses was told to smite the Nile in order to bring the first plague of blood, he didn’t do so but rather asked his brother to assist him. Why? Because the Nile had saved him when he was set assail as a baby. When it came time for the second plague, he was told to do the same to the earth. Again, he asked his brother, Aaron, as the earth had protected him when he killed a slave driver some years prior.

Consider further why we cover the challah on Friday night. Because normally, we begin a meal with a blessing on the bread whereas on Shabbat, it’s on the wine. We cover it in order to prevent embarrassment.

These examples might sound ludicrous, but the idea is to teach us sensitivity and gratitude. The idea isn’t

INNER VOICE

Howard Feldman



that we attribute human characteristics to inanimate objects but rather that the inanimate objects remind us what it is to be human.

Humans who are grateful. Wearing face masks hasn’t been easy. It was inconvenient, alienating, and for those of us who wear glasses, blinding. They were uncomfortable, contentious, and at times divisive. They became a symbol of political alliance and sometimes defiance. What’s infinitely worse is that after more than two years, I still couldn’t remember if the light blue side faced inward or outward.

But they kept us safe and prevented not only serious illness, but also death. And that’s something that we should be grateful for.

Our Talmud teaches us that we shouldn’t throw a stone in a well that we have drunk from. It’s obvious that the water has no feeling, but once again, the lesson is ours. Be grateful, appreciative, and make sure to acknowledge that even an inanimate object has served and enriched us.

I’m not sorry to see the end of the mask mandate. I celebrate that we no longer require them. But before we rip them from our sun-deprived faces, it’s worth acknowledging that these little pieces of double ply paper did as much for us as the Nile did for Moses.

BRIGA... is coming to Raanana



- 2 ,3 & 4 Bedroom's
- Luxury Penthouses
- At Pre-Sale prices



For more information:

Cell : +27-87-5503194

Office: +972-9-8866270

Fax: +927-9-8866271

selwyn@homeinisrael.net

www.homeinisrael.com



DAPHNE KUHN PRESENTS

LOCKED upside DOWN & inside out

THE SEQUEL TO THE HIT MUSICAL COMEDY REVUE

CONCEIVED BY AND STARRING
SHARON SPIEGEL-WAGNER, LORRI STRAUSS
& INTRODUCING **ELIZABETH LEMMER**
DIRECTED BY **ALAN SWERDLOW**

THEATRE ON THE SQUARE, SANDTON
22 JUNE – 9 JULY

011 883 8606 | 083 377 4969

THEATRE ON THE SQUARE

Youth in meaningful 16 June memorial

Members of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and student leaders from King David Linksfield and Yeshiva College attended a memorial ceremony for the 16 June 1976 student uprising and resulting massacre at the Hector Pieterse Museum in Soweto on Thursday.

The day began with a tour of the museum by Hector's sister, and was followed by laying of wreaths at the memorial. Janet Goldblatt, whose father, Dr Melville Edelstein, also tragically died on that day, shared her father's story. Also in attendance, was Johannesburg Executive Mayor Dr Mpho Phalatse, Premier David Makhura, and MEC Mbali Hlophe.



A multi school delegation with Wendy Kahn attended the memorial ceremony for the 16 June 1976 student uprising

Photo: Ilean Ossendryver

Slam dunk for Torah Academy's new volleyball court

Torah Academy Boys High School expanded its sport offering on Monday, 20 June, with the opening of a volleyball court. Boys, teachers, and donors competed against each other with much excitement, cheering enthusiastically and coaching each other how to serve, spike, and block.



Torah Academy Boys High School volleyball

Alon Ashel hosts high tea for carers



Herzlia Alon Ashel Pre-Primary carers and children

Herzlia Alon Ashel Pre-Primary hosted a high tea for the children's carers on the school's astroturf on Wednesday, 15 June. As a value-based school, Alon Ashel teaches children to express appreciation through reciprocity to those who care for them. The children were invited to bring along a special person who cared for them at home. One hundred and sixty carers participated, entertained by cantor Ivor Joffe.

Yeshiva Grade 3s take the cup

In an unbelievable display of heart and soul, Yeshiva College Grade 3s beat King Edward VII Preparatory School 4-1 to win the U9 Discovery Cup 2022 on 14 June.



KDL reaches out to partners on Youth Day

In celebration of Youth Day on 16 June and in memory of former headmaster Mr Elliot Wolf, King David Primary School Linksfield hosted its partner schools, Summerwood and Houghton Primary, on Wednesday, 15 June.

After 27 years as headmaster of King David High School Linksfield, Wolf served as director of the King David Schools' Foundation until his death last year. King David Primary School Linksfield's partnerships with Summerwood and Houghton is testament to the passion Wolf had not only for Jewish education, but for the education of children in the broader South African community. Guided by the philosophy of partnerships rather than outreach, teachers and children are motivated to work collaboratively, learning

to respect diversity in appearance, culture, and beliefs.

Sponsored by the King David Schools' Foundation, the children of the three schools played netball and soccer, were entertained by South African singer John Tsenoli, KDAM musicians, and professional dancers led by Tsholofelo Pule and Sihle "Wooda" Magubane.



King David Linksfield, Summerwood Primary, and Houghton Primary students

Food and fun at Yad Aharon

2022 Emunah Batmitzvah group



The 2022 Emunah Batmitzvah group recently packed Ohr Natanel school lunchboxes at food fund Yad Aharon & Michael, which will be distributed to Jewish children in our community in need of assistance.

KosherWorld

TRULY KOSHER

MANY MORE SPECIALS IN-STORE

59⁹⁹
KLEINE DRAGEN GRAPE JUICE RED 750ML

16⁹⁹
FITCH & LEEDES SPARKLING DRINK INDIAN OR PINK TONIC 1L EACH

49⁹⁹
JUNGLE OATSO EASY ASSTD FLAVOURS 500G EACH

23⁹⁹
ANATS CHILLI SAUCE 125G EACH

29⁹⁹
FATTI & MONIS PASTA SPAGHETTI 1KG

86⁹⁹
MONTAGU CASHEWS RAW 250G

113⁹⁹
TELMA PARVE CHICKEN SOUP 400G

Give a gift that keeps on giving...
Yad Aharon benefits every time you buy a ready-wrapped gift

Feigels
Yummy!
Tray of 6 Kneidlach **79⁹⁹**

Hometown Pharmacy
For Better Protection of Wounds

BAND-AID
CLEAR STRIPS 25'S **29⁹⁹**

COBRA
PASTE LEMON, POT POURRI & SUMMER FLOWERS 350ML EACH **29⁹⁹**

COLGATE
TOOTHPASTE REGULAR 100ML **18⁹⁹**

69⁹⁹
CAPE POINT HAKE FILLETS 800G

231⁹⁹
DELAVI SALMON SMOKED TROUT 500G

33⁹⁹
ALL GOLD PASTA SAUCE TOMATO & GARLIC OR TOMATO & HERBS 405G EACH

24⁹⁹
WELLINGTON SAUCE TOMATO 700ML