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King David alumni take musical ‘Mandela’ to the global stage

SHIRA DRUJIN AND SA JEWISH REPORT TEAM

I was the dream of two King David Victory Park brothers. And, on Monday night, Greg and Shaun Borowsky, brought their dream, Mandela the Musical, to fruition on the international stage.

By all accounts, their production at the Young Vic in South London is about to become a huge hit. There were ups and downs over the past few years of its brewing.

At the premier, Greg told the Times “Broadway’s Future”. The Young Vic Theatre caught Lincoln Center as part of its monthly series called “Broadway’s Future”. The Young Vic Theatre caught wind of it, and here we are.

They took their proposition to Madasa, Mandela’s great-grandson, and asked him to listen to their demo tapes, according to an article in The Sunday Times in Britain. The Borowskys were nervous about doing this, but the response from Madasa was encouraging. He and his mother, Nandi, become producers of the show.

Mandela, who was in London for the premier, told the SA Jewish Report, “The theme of the Mandela musical is love and commitment, pain and endurance, and ultimately, the triumph of the human spirit against all odds. This isn’t Mandela the icon, it’s Mandela the husband, the father, and grandfather.”

On his first day at school, my grandfather wore his dad’s trousers which were cut at the knees because he didn’t have a school uniform. In spite of his humble beginnings, he lifted himself up by his bootstraps to become an icon loved by many throughout the world. The message of the show is relevant to us all. We can all overcome adversity.”

Greg tells how their love of musical theatre was inspired by their days at King David Victory Park when they took part in school plays. Barbara Wolf, former King David High School Victory Park deputy headmaster, remembers this well, and says the Borowsky boys and their sister, Ruby, came from a very musical family. “Their grandfather, Jules Borowsky, and great uncle, Bob, were founding members of the renowned Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir and Bob, a baritone, performed in La Traviata, Aida and other operas, in South Africa and after he emigrated to Sydney some years ago,” Wolf told the SA Jewish Report.

“Greg, Shaun, and big brother Wayne were highly motivated and extremely talented young students who involved themselves in many areas of school life. They all participated in the musicals we staged at King David Victory Park in the 1990s,” Wolf said.

She said Wayne, a good drummer, was a member of the school band, while Shaun always played straight acting roles and was part of the Sound and Light Team. Greg, however, she referred to as “drama’s triple-threat young man” because he could sing, act, and dance so well. Because of that, “while still young, he was cast as the talented, dyslexic Tyrone in the musical, Fame, and while only in Grade 11 he carried off with aplomb the extremely difficult role of the master of ceremonies in our production of Cabaret”.

Wayne, an acclaimed chiropractor in Johannesburg, was King David’s deputy head boy in 1994, and received provincial colours for cricket. Shaun, who was also a member of the school’s public speaking team, was head of his humble beginnings, he lifted himself up by his bootstraps to become an icon loved by many throughout the world. The message of the show is relevant to us all. We can all overcome adversity.”

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Kiss or curse?

Rabby Yeysi Goldman
- Life Rabbi extraordinarily, Sydneham Shul

Which is the greatest test of faith, affluence or poverty? Is it harder to be a good Jew when you’re successful or when you’re struggling? Surely, we prefer the test of affluence, but let’s take an objective historical look.

In the early 19th century, Napoleon was conquering Europe and promising liberty and equality for all. When he squared up against Russia, many Jewish leaders sided with him, hoping he would finally bring an end to Chasidic persecution and enable Russian Jewry to enjoy full civil rights. Rabbi Schneur Zaltman of Liadi thought differently. He actively opposed Napoleon, and even had his Chassidim assist in intelligence gathering so the Russian army would know where Napoleon’s forces were located. He argued that while Napoleon might be good for the Jews, materially, his victory would result in spiritual disaster. And history proved him correct. When the “Little Emperor” of Russia remained staunchly Jewish, while French Jewry virtually vanished. Most of French Jewry today hails from North Africa. The originals are few and far between.

There’s a fascinating Midrashic interpretation in our parshah about the difficult encounter between Jacob and Esau. ‘Esa’us ran towards him (Jacob) and embraced him – and kissed him.” The Hebrew word for “and he kissed him” is va’yislahuy. In the Torah, this word is written with a line of dots above it. Says the Midrash, these dots are there to indicate that the word should be understood differently.

Torah Thought

not va’yislahuy, he kissed him, but rather va’yislahuy, he bit him!

But how can the Midrash change the meaning of the word? An expression of love, and a bite is the opposite? Says the Stein Etzem, When Esau kissed, Jacob is bitten!

The American experience confirms beyond a shadow of a doubt that freedom, democracy, and equality are wonderful gifts of opportunity, but with every other American Jew moving out we don’t seem to be passing the test of faith with flying colours. So, it appears that when antisemitism bites, we intuitively know to how handle it.

Remember as a young rabbi working at the University of the Witwatersrand in the late 1970’s that the Jewish students were then completely apathetic to Judaism. My colleagues and I were struggling to elicit any meaningful response from our Jewish programmes on campus. During one meeting, we seriously contemplated getting up in the dead of night to spray-paint some swastikas on the Student Union building! Surely, that would get some reaction. Of course, we never did it. But the fact that we even crossed our minds demonstrates how external threats have a way of making people brace with pride and righteous indignation.

May we never again face the test of poverty or persecution. Please G-d, we’ll be proud and know who we are.

On page one

A former Victory Park head boy, Gideon Valkin, who was at the premiere, said, “It’s not uncommon for proud families and close friends to support the ones they love when they build, create, produce and launch. But only out of the King David community is it possible to witness something like this at the Young Vic.”

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The Boru brothers are something else,” said Ariel Zadikov, who made the journey from South Africa for the show.
Pandor’s theory of Jewish domination in the region echoes Amnesty International’s accusations that the state of Israel ‘considers and treats Palestinians as an inferior, non-Jewish racial group’ and ‘since its establishment in 1948, Israel has pursued an explicit policy of establishing and maintaining a Jewish demographic hegemony and maximising its control over land to benefit Jewish Israelis’. These comments were made in a report in February 2022. They were widely deemed antisemitic.

A joint statement by several Jewish groups in the United States, including the Anti-Defamation League, said Amnesty’s document ‘falsely associates around the world who seek to undermine the only Jewish country on earth, while simultaneously cheapening and downplaying the horrific suffering that was a result of apartheid in South Africa’.

Pandor also said, “The Palestinian struggle makes memories of our own anti-apartheid struggle against racial segregation and oppression.” In addition, she expressed support for the Amnesty International report. At the same time, she said, ‘We’ll continue to support the achievement of a two-state solution, with a viable, contiguous Palestinian state existing side-by-side in peace with Israel within the internationally recognised 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with all relevant UN resolutions, and international law.’ A viable and sustainable peace plan for the Middle East must ensure that Palestine’s sovereignty, territorial integrity, and economic viability is guaranteed, with sovereign equality between Palestine and Israel.”

Notes Guzda, “Even when talking about a two-state solution, it’s not stated that one of those states should be a Jewish state.”

In only one sentence did Pandor acknowledge that it will take both Israelis and Palestinians to resolve the conflict, saying, “As South Africans, we believe that it is unattainable for this conflict to ever be resolved if all sides are prepared to find solutions to the thorny final-status issues and engage in honest mediation without outside interference, both Israelis and Palestinians can live in two viable independent states, in security and prosperity. None of us can afford to give up on this end game, as until this is accomplished, the region will be mired in instability and conflict.”

Mayer believed that “peace will come only when both nations’ legitimate rights are addressed by reasonable leaders on both sides, supported by published views, as those espoused by Minister Pandor render South Africa irrelevant to any efforts to resolve the conflict.”
EFF calls on UN to “isolate Israel”

TALI FEINBERG

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) is demanding the United Nations (UN) “starts isolating Israel” and that the world must “boycott everything that has to do with Israel, starting with severing any form of state-to-state relations with Israel, excising their ambassador to South Africa and their ambassadors across the world.”

The party’s statement, censuring Israel as an “all-powerful”, “bloodthirsty” oppressor, was released to mark the 45th anniversary of the International Day of Solidarity with the People of Palestine on 29 November. It repeatedly called the Jewish state “the so-called state of Israel”.

According to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism, denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination constitutes antisemitism.

“We condemn the bloodthirsty and repressive US backed regime of the so-called state of Israel. We further call on the United Nations to stop paying lip service to the freedom of the people of Palestine, and start isolating Israel,” the statement read.

The EFF claimed that the partitioning of Palestine back in 1947 followed the UN adoption of resolution 181 (ii) led to the creation of “the so-called state of Israel”, which sparked “a civil war that led to over 750 000 Palestinians being displaced from their land”. The EFF called the creation of the state “a series of invasions”, and said Israel was “backed by the most powerful nations on earth”.

“The world watches these atrocities without any indignation because the atrocities are directed at people who are not worthy of being normal human rights and dignity by those with power in the world,” its statement read. “Its Aime Cesaire teaches us on his book Discourse on Colonialism, the West is not least bothered by crimes committed against people who are not white, because the very foundations of their society are premised on the exploitation and murder of people who do not look like them.”

It implied that the only reason the world cares about the invasion of Ukraine is “because people of Caucasian lineage are under threat”, and compared the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

“This is revolutionary rhetoric from the EFF, which has historically been firmly in favour of the Palestinian side,” said local political analyst Daniel Silke. “It’s keen to apply racial identities to any of its statements. It’s always useful for it in terms of mobilising its support base. Certainly, casting Israel as a white oppressor ‘racialises’ the response to the Middle East conflict, which is in line with its overall policy pronouncements.

“Ultimately, this message isn’t so much designed for Middle East consumption, it’s designed for its supporters here in South Africa, “he said. “It’s designed to find scapegoats among the population. It can use Israel in this process, then it will be an easy target for the EFF, and it explains the world in ‘black versus white’. This falls well into its particular worldview, which is racial baiting on the basis of being victims forever. The EFF uses the foreign policy issue to augment its domestic agenda.”

“The EFF continues to launch attacks on Israel in a futile attempt to appeal to local voters,” says South African Zionist Federation National Chairman Rowan Polons. “In spite of the EFF’s stab at historical revisionism, on 27 November 1947, countries from around the world, including those from African states, voted to recognise the millennia-old Jewish right to statehood and self-determination in their own land.”

“Since that date, powerful forces far greater than that of the EFF have sought to reverse that decision. Not only have they failed, but Israel has thrived, and is making peace with its neighbours while contributing to the development of Africa. The EFF’s position on Israel is irrelevant. It’s no benefit to Israelis, Palestinians, or South Africans, and won’t win it any votes.”

“The EFF’s support for the 45th anniversary of International Day of Solidarity with the People of Palestine is exactly what we would expect from the EFF,” said the Institute of Race Relations’ Sara Gon.

It’s a supposedly left-wing organisation and as such, will support the cause of any persons identified as victims.

“The Palestinians fit that perfectly. It’s the identity on which they have hung their identity and propaganda since Israel’s victory in the 1967 war. Palestinian nationalism really developed after what had been an embarrassing defeat of the Arab armies.

“Julius Malema has often made statements critical of Jews while appearing to flatter them,” she said. “He probably does it this way to avoid accusations of antisemitism. However, he has never said anything positive about and towards Israel, he has only been critical!”

Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Cape Town, Professor Milton Shain, said, “Whatever one thinks of the EFF, its knowledge of the Israeli-Palestinian issue is puerile and ahistorical. A complete issue is simplified into ‘good guys versus bad guys’, with absolutely no awareness of the historical evolution of the conflict. Simplicity is vividly captured in the EFF’s colour-coding: a white versus non-white struggle. It’s time for the EFF to reassess.”

The South-African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) dismissed the statement as unimportant. “This is the usual anti-Israel rhetoric from the EFF which attracts little interest and has no relevance,” said SAJBD National Chairperson Professor Karen Miller.

According to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), “Much of contemporary anti-Zionism, or the delegitimisation of Israel and its supporters, draws on and perpetuates antisemitic tropes.”

Anti-Zionism downplays the history of Jewish nationhood and its connection to the land of Israel. More than anything, anti-Zionism and extreme criticism of Israel frequently demonises the state of Israel as uniquely evil among all the nations of the world. “Denying Israel’s right to protect itself from populations that have actively sought its physical destruction, it magnifies every mistake and wrongful act possibly associated with the country, strips these of all context, and even invents new criminal accusations.”

Anti-Zionism in essence portrays Zionism as a monopolistic evil and as inherently opposed to Palestinians’ human rights and to the values of social justice.”

Anti-Zionists “use age-old anti-Jewish rhetoric in their charges against Zionism and Israel. For example, comparities of Jewish/ Zionist power over a country’s policy, and use of classical antisemitic imagery to characterise Israelis.”

In addition, the EFF’s description of Israel as “bloodthirsty” ties into the classic trope of Jews being associated with blood, or the “blood libel”. Some anti-Zionist cartoons and publications have incorporated the blood-libel myth, with imagery of Israeli leaders drinking Palestinians’ blood or eating Palestinian children.

Zionism views Jewish power as fundamentally malevolent, and denounces the Jewish aspiration for sovereignty,” notes the ADL. “Often anti-Zionists don’t scrutinise other nations or movements for nationhood to the same degree. Israel is regarded simply as an illegitimate state.”
Virgin Island tragedy unites Jews from far and wide

NICOLA MILTZ

Community members and thousands of people globally are praying around the clock and performing mitzvot for a mother of 13 children who is fighting for her life. This after battling in vain to save her four-month-old baby girl from a freak drowning incident in the United States Virgin Islands last week.

Rabbi Asher and Henya (Shmotkin) Federman have been serving people on the Virgin Islands for the past 17 years as Chabad Lubavitch emissaries. Their lives were ripped apart last week following the tragic drowning of their youngest baby, Shentina Sarah, when she reportedly fell out of Henya’s arms and into the water near the Oasis Cane Marins in St Thomas. Both parents jumped into the water to save their baby, and Henya had to be pulled out herself and resuscitated. It’s now touch and go as Henya cling to life on life support.

Esther Hecht, the program director at Chabad of Sandton, said the tragedy had created ripples of shock and concern for Jews around the world. “During this time, I got a peek into the amazing work they do. I remember at that time how dedicated they were to their lives as emissaries of the Chabad Rebbe. Their programmes included – and still include – providing kosher food, holiday programmes, Shabbos services, classes for adults and kids, and most importantly, a comfortable and welcoming space for all Jews, no matter their background, who live in and visit the Virgin Islands,” she said.

According to Chabad.org News, as news of the unfolding tragedy spread, countless WhatsApp relaying groups were set up encouraging Jews around the world to pray for the Federmans and their family. “We have a real connection with the family and annually reminisce when we see each other at the International Conference of Chabad Lubavitch Emissaries (Kinus Hiskounim). It’s a time to reach out and do as many mitzvot as we can because ultimately, there are no answers to why these things happen.”

Rabbi Asher Deren of Chabad of the West Coast in Bloubergstrand, who has a long association with the Federmans, described the event as an “unimaginable tragedy” for the couple who had achieved greatness together. “So teenagers and in our early twenties, Asher and I were in yeshiva together for a few years, and while he was a few years younger than me, he always had the admiration and respect of all of the bochurim. He’s a smart, passionate, focused person, with a real joy of living and a warmth that just flows out of him. Whether through rigorous Torah studies, soulful deep friendships, or spiritual self-development, we all knew already then that he was destined to achieve greatness. And greatness he and Henya achieved.”

He said the couple moved out to St Thomas knowing they had the privilege of working virtually with the dynamic Rabbi Asher and Henya (Shmotkin) Federman with their children

People have mobilised to do good and pray for her recovery. Henya was evacuated on emergency medical transport to Miami, and the couple’s children, some studying thousands of miles away including in Israel, flew back to the US to be with their family. Baby Shentina’s funeral took place late Thursday, 1 December, in New York, at Old Montefiore Cemetery.

Rabbi Levi Lipskar of The Shul at Hyde Park Chabad spent several summers in Israel on a study programme where Federman was his councillor.

“I was 15 years old, away from home, and the impact Rabbi Federman had on our young teenagers was immense. He was my counsellor for two years, and he was so patient with those of us from South Africa, non-judgemental, and caring. He’s a man with a huge heart, incredible wisdom, and a passion for imparting knowledge. He and Henya have made an indelible impression on thousands of lives,” Lipskar said.

He said his father, Rabbi Mendel Lipskar, and Henya’s mother, Linda, were in yeshiva together for a few years, and while he was a few years younger than me, he always had the admiration and respect of all of the bochurim. He’s a smart, passionate, focused person, with a real joy of living and a warmth that just flows out of him. Whether through rigorous Torah studies, soulful deep friendships, or spiritual self-development, we all knew already then that he was destined to achieve greatness. And greatness he and Henya achieved.”

He said he wanted Federman to know that the Jewish nation around the world was davening for Henya’s complete recovery and for him and the children to recover from “this most terrible story.”

The family is now split between Miami, where Henya is in intensive care, Detroit, where the children are with their father, and their home in St Thomas. With mounting costs, a fundraising campaign has been set up to help the family: https://matchathon.com/federman

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It's that time of year – a time of miracles! I don't know about you, but there's something magical about December. It's the month when we all down tools and take a break from our normal day-to-day life. Our lives go into peaceful, friendly, relaxed mode. We spend quality time with precious people, and we don't rush those encounters because we have work to do or get to somewhere by the day.

We see our children – that is if they aren't at machaney – and we have fun with them. We look people in the eye, reconnect with them on a deeper level, and take time to re-evaluate our lives. We slow down and rejuvenate ourselves.

And that's magical!

In fact, there's nothing more exquisite than taking real time to be with people who matter to us, no matter who they are and why they're in our lives. It's at this time of year that we all land up wondering why we live such fast-paced lives at breakneck speed. Its about now that we contemplate whether it's worth it, while reading another enchanting book to wake up the hours on the beach or on a bed with a view. Or even just hanging out at home, loving being in our own space with few if any responsibilities other than to enjoy the moment.

The idea of having a long languid lunch with people I love sounds like bliss, and becomes the norm at this time of year.

That's because this time of year is also about Chanukah, the festival of miracles. It was at this time of year that the tiny drop of oil that wasn't meant to last more than a day lasted eight days. It was a miracle, that one showed that the impossible is possible if you will it. It showed us that anything is possible.

We're a people who believe firmly in miracles, and mostly, we attribute them to G-d. We as – in our people – have witnessed many miracles through the ages. We witnessed the parting of the Red Sea when the Egyptians were chasing us, trying to reclaim us as their slaves. We witnessed the dogfish wash that brought down the walls of Jericho, also back in Moses’ time. Remember when Moses’ brother, Aaron’s staff turned into a serpent? And when, thanks to Esther and Mordechai, we were miraculously saved from uncertain death at the hands of the dreaded Haman?

Miracles are magical, but they aren't sometimes a case of manifesting our hopes and dreams or something happening that was going to happen anyway? Who can tell?

The point is that few things engender faith and hope more than miracles or wonderful things happening that appear unexpected or unlikely.

I love the fact that every time we light the chanukiah or menorah on Chanukah, we remember that miracles do happen. And, as we light those special flames, we teach our children to believe in miracles and magic. We teach them to believe that what's apparently impossible may not be.

I want my children and all the people I know to believe this because it's how we will survive our stress and our ability to get past holding problems, with the government's autocratic Kanye West, and those who think like him. It will enable us to see the good in the world – and there's so much of that – rather than all the doom and gloom.

This December, I'm doing something that I dreamed of doing all year, but it wasn't really possible. I accepted that it couldn't be, but knew that in certain circumstances, we would be able to do it. I spoke about it, I dreamed it, and then somehow it just fell into place. So, now I’m able to fulfil what was essentially a dream. Go figure!

Is it a miracle? Did I manifest it? Or was it in the natural order of things and it just happened when I really wanted it to? I can’t tell you because I’m certainly no expert.

I can just say that it makes me believe in the impossible, and it makes me feel positive about our lives and the lives of those around us.

On the front page, we bring you the story of the Bowrosky brothers who followed their dreams to bring Mandela the Musical to the international stage. These King David Victory Park alumni had a big dream that many thought was too big and would never be realised. But they made it happen. Kol hakavod to them!

Need I say, if they can do it, why can’t you make your dreams come true? What does it take?

Now is the perfect time to ruminate on what it is you want in your life. Now is the time to work out how you can make it possible, how you can take something that you think is impossible and for us as a community, country, and people. I wish 2023 could be a year of beautiful miracles, and that we could extend the celebration of Chanukah all year.

Shabbat Shalom and chag sameach!

Peta Kroet
Editor

PS: This is the last edition of the SA Jewish Report for 2022. We will resume publishing on 12 January 2023.

"It's the end of the world as we know it"
T

What might be in 2023

From all of us at Cape Union Mart
We will all be needing light this Channukah

against Taiwan,” I said. Again, tragically, one out of two. Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February, the story has dominated the news, and the war has worsened prospects for the global and South African economy, taking prices of fertilisers, food, and fuel. The war has also exposed South Africa’s closeness to Russia, in spite of claims of non-alignment to the conflict. I cannot see any resolution to this brutal war in the short term. It may well go on for years.

Next year, there will be some important national elections in Africa, including in Libya, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe, I expect ZANU-PF to win yet another disputed election. In Nigeria, Bola Tinubu of the All Progressives Congress is slightly ahead in opinion polls. If he wins, it will break the unwritten rule of combining a Muslim and Christian on the presidential ticket, with two Muslim candidates. In all, 26 African states are to hold elections at local, provincial, or national level in 2023. I hope these polls result in more stability in an increasingly coup-prone continent.

The Jewish state celebrates its 75th anniversary in 2023. Look out for big parties in Israel, South Africa, and across the Jewish world, and introspection about how far Israel has come and its persistent problems. It’s also 50 years since the 1973 Yom Kippur War, after which international sympathy started turning away from Israel and towards the Palestinians. Israel’s incoming Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, will lead a heavily right-wing government in 2023, even as he still faces corruption charges.

King Charles III will be crowned in May, full of pomp and ceremony like only the British can lay on. 70 years after the late Queen Elizabeth II was crowned.

In terms of milestones, 2023 is the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Eskom. I’m trying to make light of it. The iconic comic book character Spud turns 100, as does German-Jewish-born United States statesman and academic, Henry Kissinger (in May). Fifty years ago, in 1973, the first mobile phone call was made, the Watergate scandal broke, and the Sydney Opera House was opened. And 25 years ago, in 1998, the film Titanic won 11 Oscars. Google was founded, and the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed by Al Qaeda, killing 224 people.

In 2023, there will be the Cricket World Cup in India in October and November. Sigh! We’re likely to see another spectacular choke by the Proteas. I’d love to eat my words if I’m wrong. There’s also the Rugby World Cup in France in September and October. Our beloved Springboks won it every 12 years (1995, 2007, and 2019) but have never been able to defend their title. Their results have been disappointing after lockdown, in spite of good wins over the All Blacks and England. My prediction is an Irish start. Steve Kerr, the new head coach of the Golden State Warriors, will lead his side to victory in 2023.

The Jewish world, and introspection part of the ANC resurges. Expect some shenanigans.

To my surprise, COVID-19 subsided in 2022, and in many ways, the world went back to normal, with travel, working from the office, and gatherings resuming. A face mask is a rare sight today. It’s almost hard to believe all the restrictions imposed on us for two years. I don’t feel confident that the world is prepared for the next pandemic.

What might be in 2023

STEVEN GRUZ

President Cyril Ramaphosa

Henry Kissinger

King Charles III

King Charles III

Cyril Ramaphosa

Henry Kissinger

President Cyril Ramaphosa

King Charles III

What might be in 2023
I have my grandfather’s copy of the Pentateuch and barthabur, edited by Rabbi JH Hertz, passed down to my father and now to me. My copy is a third edition, published in 1950, though it contains the “additional notes” written in 1936. In these notes, Hertz seeks to draw out and make explicit Jewish principles of law and politics. They were written at a time of great anxiety, a few years before the Shoah.

In a section on “the supremacy of justice in the state”, Hertz insists that in the Torah, “biblical regulations concerning justice precede those of the appointment of the king”. He places ‘precede’ in italics for emphasis and explains: “justice is to be above the monarchy” or the state, an idea absent in the previous world.

In other words, the state may not act against the principles of natural law or justice. It was precisely this principle that was under threat in the 1930s. Worse, this principle was being turned upside-down by the Nazis, for whom “justice must be guided solely by state interests”. The biblical theory of government as discussed in Deuteronomy and Leviticus, we are told, finds expression in a “political constitution” through which “the spirit and aspirations of the community” and “laws of the ruler”. If these principles have that framed the modern theory of government, especially since the end of World War II, though earlier in some countries.

It’s useful to think about these remarks in relation to our times, for they, too, are a period of great anxiety in which the foundations of modern government are in jeopardy. In the United States, a then acting president, facing electoral defeat, encouraged an insurrection targeting the seat of democratic government. He later claimed that the election, which he lost, was rigged. Recently, and undeservedly, he has called for the setting aside of the US Constitution.

In Israel, the most right-wing government ever threatens to come to power. In the name of “religious Zionism”, it wants to reduce justice to what is in the interests of the state. “Religious Zionist”, whose proper name is fascism, is a politics based on weak halachic grounds. We read only recently in shul the parsha “Lech Lach”. There is written that Canaan belongs to the descendants of the seed of Abraham, including Isaac, but also Ishmael?

Closer to home, we’re come through a devastating period of “state capture”: my father told me in a 2017 report, The Betrayal of the Promise, South Africa underwent a “silent coup” in which state power was transferred to the basis of evidence in the public domain. Since 2011, the institution did not investigate it. It failed, found the Youth Commission, which argued that the conflation of party politics with state and state is unconstitutional. It also has a dire effect on how administrations perform. Finally, and most importantly, key state institutions are beginning to assert their autonomy.

One of the Zondo Commission’s most damaging findings on parliament was that in spite of being evident of executive malfeasance in the public domain since 2011, the institution did not investigate it. It failed, that is, to hold the executive to account. Ironically enough, the current Phala Phala crisis in South Africa arises precisely because parliament, for the first time, did not. In 2017, it investigated a sitting president on the basis of the public domain in the basic principle. We wish it had discharged its role earlier, at the time of arms-deal corruption, or Thabo Mbeki’s AIDS denialism, or Thabo Mbeki’s AIDS denialism, or Thabo Mbeki’s AIDS denialism.

In the first case, from about 2015/2016 the ANC under Jacob Zuma became increasingly paranoid that the ANC was at risk, then the nation at risk too. Taken together, these two elements justified a more brazen, increasingly authoritarian and criminal politics in South Africa. It’s not necessary to recount the effects of state capture on South-African institutions. We’ve known the consequences: a long list of ongoing electricity blackouts, water shortages, a weak police service, and a perpetually poorly performing economy.

While in large parts of the world, left and right governments, often in the name of popular sovereignty, place justice secondary to the interests of the state, in South Africa there are signs, admittedly tentative ones, of renewed support for constitutionalism. I am one of many South Africans who believe that the ANC’s state capture policy has been a disaster, while their record on corruption.

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Let’s bring Chanukah light to Hisham and Avera

I have been more than 3 000 days since Avera Mengistu, an Israeli citizen and member of the Ashkelon Ethiopian community, climbed over the border fence in Gaza and was captured by Hamas. His family has had zero contact with him since.

Roughly six months later, the same late benefactor, a 34-year-old who is part of Israel’s Bedouin community, Hisham al-Sayed, who crossed over into the territorially controlled enclave.

What was the reason these young men ended up in the Gaza Strip? They have a long history of mental illness, and often wandered hundreds of kilometers from their homes.

On 7 September 2014, Avera was highly agitated after his mental health began to deteriorate in the wake of his brother’s tragic death. As a result, he left home and began to wander. Video surveillance showed that he took off and walked approximately 18km along the beachfront between his hometown and the Gaza border, where he was eventually spotted, unassisted close to the border fence, by Israeli soldiers. The soldiers tried to get his attention, instead, he was startled and climbed over the border fence and disappeared into Gaza.

Hisham has a similar story too, he, too, went missing without previously informing his family of his whereabouts. In the past, he had entered Jordan, the West Bank, even Gaza, but he was always returned by security personnel who were aware of his mental status and vulnerability. In 2015, however, he was taken hostage by Hamas. Fast forward, and Hamas released a video clip only this year, which appears to show Hisham lying in a bed, looking dazed, and wearing an oxygen mask – the first sighting of him in over a year.

South Africa there are signs, admittedly tentative ones, of renewed support for constitutionalism. If the goal of South African foreign policy is to build a moral foreign policy, or Thabo Mbeki’s AIDS denialism, or Thabo Mbeki’s AIDS denialism, or Thabo Mbeki’s AIDS denialism.

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Jew hatred exists in the black American community. Deal with it.

Kanye West is a Jew-hater. Although he's a black man, he openly supports white-supremacy and Nazism. On the one hand, West has suffered consequences because of his hate. He has lost endorsement deals and huge companies, like Adidas (eventually) stopped working with him. But what's the wider context of his recent tracte about Jews, and how should the Jewish community respond?

There's a problem with Jew hate in parts of the black American community. That's not to say that every black American hates Jews, nor is it to erase the many black Jews that exist in the intersection of these identities. However, in spite of historic alphas and closeness between these two communities, we're seeing the rise of an anti-Semitic movement within parts of the black American community.

Spurred on by the Nation of Islam - a black American supremacist organisation - and Louis Farrakhan, who has described Jews as "termite" and has blamed Jews for the slave trade, notions of Jewish power and privilege have been circulating in sections of the black American community. Following criticism of Farrakhan's Jew hate in 2018, Nuri Muhammad, a disciple of Farrakhan wrote, "These same Jews that are attacking Nuri Muhammad, a disciple of Farrakhan criticism of Farrakhan's Jew-hate in 2018, the black American community. Following privilege have been circulated in sections of the black American community.

This notion is seen broadly across the world. This notion is seen in the contemporary setting.

Jews have to defend ourselves regardless of where the hate we face emanates. We can have empathy for other minority and marginalised communities, but that certainly doesn't mean we stay silent when faced with hate. Belonging to an oppressed people doesn't inoculate you against hate. If you are white, you must defend ourselves. It's not enough to just be aware of the hate train because you have mental-health difficulties. That's extraordinarily ablest.

There's strength in numbers, both for us and in our defence. But we must defend ourselves. That's extraordinarily ablest.

West's Jew hate is bigger than him. It's bigger than Black Hebrew Israelites or the Nation of Islam. It's rooted in thousands of years of deeply embedded systemic hate that has targeted Jews. There's strength in numbers, both for us and for those who hate us. We must fight back in any way we can. And we mustn't underestimate the severity of these battles.

Without sounding alarmist, there's a war taking place. In the media, at high-schools, in universities, in people's workplaces, on the streets. Jews are being targeted. We must wake up to this fact. We mustn't diminish it. We must understand it.

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A new COVID-19 variant could cause worse illness than the current predominant Omicron strain, especially in immunosuppressed individuals, according to a new study done by Professor Alex Sigal. It was Sigal’s Durban laboratory that first isolated the Beta variant of COVID-19, and it was also the first to report the Omicron variant “escaping” previous immunity.

Sigal, who was born in Russia, grew up in Israel and Canada, and understands the virus better than most. In South Africa, says he conducted the study because it’s “important to know what the possibilities are,” and there’s a “possibility” that the pandemic isn’t over and could become dangerous again.

This could take “a year or more,” he says. At the same time, he thinks vaccines “will probably keep protecting against severe disease, and people should be boosted for the foreseeable future.” He also predicts that “we won’t keep a social distance and wear masks based on a possibility. If it becomes reality, we should be prepared to do it.”

He believes the South African Jewish community “should continue the traditions of striving for and supporting academic excellence and excellence in human endeavour more generally. In my opinion, it’s such traditions that define the community here and are being championed by the current crop of politicians in Israel.”

First CT Jewish cemetery to be protected by national heritage body

When Jews first arrive in a new place and hope to establish a congregation, the first thing they do is get land for a cemetery. This was what the fledgling Cape Town Hebrew Congregation did when it purchased two plots of land in Woodstock in the early 1840s, which became the first Jewish cemetery in Cape Town.

Now, the South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) would like to declare it a heritage site, along with a number of other historical and religious sites in nearby District Six.

“This is a big deal,” says Craig Nudelman of Cape Town Jewish Tours and the Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD). “With so many cemeteries being vandalised, this will ensure that the site is preserved and protected. Restoring cemeteries is expensive, and it’s difficult to work with the municipalities. In addition, not a lot of people know about the Albert Road Cemetery, and this will highlight its status as the first Jewish cemetery in Cape Town.

“The cemetery has always been considered a heritage site, governed by Western Cape heritage,” says Eric Berger, the executive director of the Jewish community’s Cemetery Maintenance Board (CMB). “This is a new organisation that will be a national body. The CMB maintains the cemetery and does repairs. We’re not permitted to disturb the graves or ground. We also keep the cemetery locked and secure.” He says there are 38 graves there.

Howard Phillips, emeritus professor of history at the University of Cape Town, also believes it’s a significant move. An expert on Jewish cemeteries in South Africa, he notes that this wasn’t the first cemetery to be established in South Africa — that was in Malakhanda (formerly Grahamstown).

“The Albert Road Cemetery signifies almost two centuries of Jewish presence in the Mother City,” Phillips says. “The property was acquired by the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation in 1842. The first burial, of 41-year-old Abraham Horn, one of the congregation’s founding members, took place in December 1844. His son, Charles, was born after his death in 1845.”

Charles was possibly the first Jewish child born in Cape Town. “The cemetery was closed in 1887. Its Tahara House, only the foundation of which is now visible, was the first dedicated Jewish building in sub-Saharan Africa and until the congregation acquired its first synagogue in 1849.”

At the time the land was bought, “it was out in a fairly remote area,” says Phillips. Today, the cemetery is hidden behind a wall and locked gate, next to a busy road. Few know about it, even those in the Jewish community.

“All Jews who died in Cape Town were buried in the Albert Road Cemetery until the 1880s, when it was closed. The community then bought a site in Maitland — not the main cemetery there today, but a smaller one.”

Says Daniel Bloch, the executive director of the Cape SAJBD, “The Cape SAJBD works tirelessly alongside our partners to preserve our Jewish heritage and ensure that the community remembers to acknowledge the contributions of all those who came before us. We commend SAHRA for not only protecting the site of the first Jewish cemetery in Cape Town, but for recognising the importance of significant religious and educational landmarks associated with District Six.”

SAHRA is calling on the public to comment on its intention to declare the first site of eight sites in and around District Six as a national heritage site. This includes two churches, two mosques, two schools, and the Albert Road Jewish Cemetery.

“The declaration of these sites as heritage sites will ensure their protection. No person shall destroy, deface, damage, alter, move from its original position, subdivide, or change the planning status of any site declared a national heritage site without a permit from SAHRA, and no person may damage any fence, wall, or gate constructed or sign erected by SAHRA in terms of subsections,” says the announcement.
The secret to success

Over the past few days, as I reflected on the significance of the 15th yahrzeit, marked this week, of my mentor, teacher, and rosh yeshiva, Rabbi Azriel Chaim Goldtein of blessed memory, I realised that he taught me a vital lesson that can guide our community at this juncture. We live in a world of numbers. We count everything. We assign numbers to virtually every aspect of our lives. But we tend to be consumed by them, to ascribe them too much importance, often at the expense of that other critical element of appraisal – quality. While quantity is a measure of the physical world, quality is a measure of the spiritual world.

Rabbi Goldtein often emphasised the value of quality over quantity. As with all his teachings, he expressed this lesson in the way he lived his life. Though he ran a relatively small yeshiva in Johannesburg, its impact has been enormous, far out of proportion with its size. Indeed, through the quality of this institution – of the Torah that was taught there and students that were produced, communities far greater in terms of quality look to us for guidance in terms of quality.

But what’s the essence of quality? What gives it power over quantity? The key message of Chanukah is that quality is, at root, a spiritual force, and that the Torah, as G-d’s blueprint for creation, is the source of it. The closer we are to our divine source, the more we can develop our quality, and from there, change the world. Where do we see this lesson in the events of Chanukah? The mighty Greek empire, which had conquered most of the known world at the time, had invaded the land of Israel, and was pursing a relentless campaign to remove all vestiges of Torah living from the society. The situation seemed hopeless. Many Jews at the time were abandoning their faith due both to the existential threat and entiements of Greek society. It was at this point that a small group of people banded together – Matityahu and his brothers – to try and do something about the situation. What began simply as an act of defiance became a miraculous military defeat of the mighty Greek army, allowing the Jewish people to reclaim the land and the freedom to practice Judaism. It was the spiritual power – the righteousness and uprightness, the justice of the cause, the purity of vision – of the 10 Maccabean leaders that enabled them to defeat the great army of the Greeks. They were small in physical quantity, but potent in spiritual quality.

This idea is symbolised by the iconic miracle of Chanukah – the small jar of pure oil the Maccabees found when they recaptured the Temple, which burned for 8 days when it should have burnt for one. This is why we celebrate Chanukah by lighting candles for eight days. It was the oil’s spiritual purity that imbued it with the miraculous power to burn for eight days, to transcend its physical limitations.

The prayer we read recounting the great miracles of Chanukah describes how G-d delivered “the many into the hands of the few”. As the Torah says, “Not because you are the most numerous of the nations did G-d want you and choose you – for you are the fewest among the nations.” Jewish history is the story of the smallness of the Jewish people and our outsie impact on the world. It’s the story of quality over quantity. But the secret to our success – just as it was for the Maccabees – is our connection to the source of our power – the spiritual purity of the Torah.

And this is the great lesson of Chanukah for the Jewish people, and especially for diaspora communities like ours, that irrespective of our numbers, if we remain upright and loyal to our divine heritage, then we’ll survive and ultimately thrive. It’s instructive that, globally, communities that are becoming detached from their Judaism deteriorate as the new generation disengages and assimilates. On the other hand, communities that are growing in their Torah connection are enjoying not just qualitative growth but quantitative growth – the new generation is marrying Jewish, having children, giving tzedakah, getting involved in shuls and Jewish schools.

That’s the message we, the South African Jewish community, need to hear this Chanukah. As individuals, as families, and as a community, by growing in our mitzvot, in our Torah learning, in our journey to keeping Shabbos, in our acts of kindness, we can thrive. We can build thriving schools and shuls and community organisations and, most importantly, warm and vibrant Jewish homes.

Together, by dedicating ourselves to growing through Torah and mitzvot, and reinforcing what makes us special – by focusing on our key qualities – we can create a thriving, vibrant community that our children will want to be part of.
Children ignite the beauty of Chanukah

GILLIAN KLABANSKY

There’s nothing like the light of excitement that children add to Jewish holidays. This is particularly true of Chanukah, when children often ignite— or: inspire—their parents’ love of the festival.

A man-year end rush and subsequent holiday modulus, celebrating Chanukah often falls by the wayside. Even if we loved the festival of lights as children, those days are often long forgotten until our own children come along.

“When you see the festival through your children’s eyes where everything is so exciting and wonderful, you start to appreciate it more,” says Melanie Ger, who has a nine-year-old son and a seven-year-old daughter. “It brings an energy and a light, literally and figuratively.”

Ger believes the traditions around Chanukah are beautiful, but she says it’s the children who ensure that she and her husband celebrate.

“Why wouldn’t it do if it weren’t for them? They both come home from school with their menorahs and candles, which makes it easy to fulfill the mitzvah. They’re responsible for teaching us to do, which is awesome because it empowers them. The kids light their own menorahs, and then we light a big family one that came from my great-grandparents from Lithuania, connecting us to our heritage.”

Ger is happy that her children are at Sandton Sinai, where they’ve learned about Chanukah from the beginning of the chag. “Our kids are enthralled by Chanukah, and they share its history with us as well as with their grannies and Zadas, so it spreads across the generations.” It even further, she says, as adults, encourages children to organise and plan Chag activites with family around the world, creating connections that were otherwise impossible.

Ger believes that learning comes from teaching Hebrew, Jewish heritage, teaching Hebrew, Jewish heritage, teaching Hebrew, Jewish heritage, teaching Hebrew, Jewish heritage, teaching Hebrew, Jewish heritage. "There were bonfires outside, and we'd do something called cotevet, where you turn hessen around and find other children and games around and connect with your loved ones," says Kirsten Katzen. "It goes even further, she says, that teaching children about Chanukah reignites their connection to its rich traditions. This is the case for Stacey Urdang. "Christmas is such an exciting thing for our three-year-old, Jayden absolutely adores lighting the menorah, playing games behind the chag."

Committed and determined in her mission, her daughter, Stacey, has raised money to help local children in need. “Chanukah is a joyous holiday that celebrates miracles and strength.”

“Every year, Janie creates a magical menorah with colours and glitter, and there’s actually a real exitus to light the candles every night,” says Janie. “There are so many different stories to tell, so many different traditions to reflect and connect with your loved ones.”

Though she can’t replicate such large-scale celebrations, Herridge has bought a lamb koftas recipe that is perfect for that. “I grew up in Israel on a farm, so I’ve always been exposed to Jewish holidays,” she says. “Chanukah was a big deal.”

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Fry until cooked through.

Perfect food for relaxed Chanukah get-togethers

LAUREN BOULKIN

TikTok Potatoes
It’s hard to believe that 2022 has ticked away already, and here I am, writing Chanukah recipes. At least this year, COVID-19 is behind us and we can celebrate with family and friends again. These are the crunchiest potatoes ever, and so simple to make. Their perfection is enhanced by the fact that the daylight preparation is done the day before.

Ingredients

• 2 cup olive oil (duck fat is if you are making these according to the rules, but olive oil is perfect)
• 1 tsp salt
• Sunflower oil for frying

Method

Heat your oven to 125°C. Line a 25cmx12cm loaf tin (or a normal-width cake tin) with baking paper. Peel and slice the potatoes using a mandolin, and place them in a bowl of water to stop them going black. When all the potatoes are sliced, place them in a bowl with the olive oil and salt, and toss well making sure all the slices are coated. Layer the potatoes in the loaf pan overlapping them as you go. You should get four to five layers. Cover with the potatoes with baking paper and bake for three hours. Reduce to 100°C, and then place a second loaf tin on top of the paper (and the potatoes). Weight the loaf tin with stones to squeeze as much moisture out of the potatoes. Refrigerate until the next day.

Remove the tin. Carefully cut into squares, and dry fry until golden and crispy.

Lamb Koftas (Server 8)

I tried writing another dish to go alongside this recipe and then a churros recipe, but the truth is, we all buy them.

Ingredients

• 150g bulghur wheat
• 1kg lamb minced

Perfect food for relaxed Chanukah get-togethers

Method

Cover the bulghur wheat in boiling water, and leave it to stand for 15 minutes. Pour into a fine sieve, and press out the water with the back of a wooden spoon. Add in the “wet” ingredients, then add all other ingredients except the oil. Mix gently, being careful not to compress the meat.

Form into golf-sized balls, and place them on a baking sheet lined with wax paper. Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes and up to six hours. Fry until cooked through. Serve in a warmed pita bread with Israeli salad and hummus.
Since Capetonians Steve Liptz and Warren Fialkov started working tirelessly to professionalise the 36ONE Openwater Swim Series in Cape Town earlier this year, the number of swimmers at the events has multiplied.

The idea for the series came about two years ago, when Liptz swam in a Cape Town-based swimming event that the Fialkov family, a Jewish family, had been running in the city since 2005.

"I found an amazing legacy which the family had created, but entering the swim was cumbersome, to be honest," Liptz says. "The website hardly worked. It took me an hour every time I wanted to register for the next event. It was a fun swim, but the administration and operational side needed work. I wanted to do something about that."

Liptz and Fialkov went all-out, putting in much more time and effort than they had envisioned to ensure all aspects of the race were top-notch. They worked. It took me an hour every time I wanted to register for the next event. It was a fun swim, but the administration and operational side needed work. I wanted to do something about that.

Liptz says people are loving the race, according to the race’s surveys and those he has spoken with.

36ONE Asset Management, the company Liptz co-founded, runs several events, such as a mountain biking event. It also sponsored a football side called 36ONE Soccer Specialised, and has a mountain biking team, which once boasted the late two-time Absa Cape Epic winner, Burry Stander, and Olympic bronze medalist, Swiss Christoph Sauser.

"All the money and everything we gave to the mountain biking team, none of it went to the cyclists, but to the kids of Kayamandi, a township near Stellenbosch," Liptz says. "These kids would certainly have landed up on the streets without our support. Some of them ultimately became international cyclists. It changed their lives, and it’s still going to this day. We do it as a way of making a difference to South Africa. We’ve really stood by our belief since the beginning of 36ONE 18 years ago that education through sport will make a difference to South Africa."

Liptz’s plans for the series encompasses "creating a lifestyle and a family type atmosphere so that people can come together, get to know each other, spend time outdoors getting some vitamin D, and exercising their lungs. Also, all the benefits of cold water. This series has a double benefit - it brings people together, makes a positive impact, and the participants can feel better."

The series has swims for everybody, Liptz says. "We have events on the same day. We have different categories starting from beginners all the way to advanced categories in which Olympic champions have swum."

For example, the 36ONE Openwater Race Experience is a 90 or 180 minute swim for beginners. Spectators are encouraged to watch from the shoreline or boats anchored off the course.

Another swim in the series is the 36ONE Off-The-Beaten-Track Swim from the scuba dive site of Gsy Bay to Oudekraal Beach. When the visibility is good, swimmers can easily see the flora and fauna on the seabed and in the kelp forests, and maybe spot a diver too.

"We give prizes at the end, but to make sure it’s not just about the winners, we give away random prizes," Liptz says.

The series’ upcoming events are the Off-The-Beaten-Track Swim on 17 December, 14 January, and 18 February, the 36ONE New Year’s Day Mile and the 36ONE Clifton Mile Swim on 1 January; and the 36ONE Viking Swim Challenge on 18 March.

On top of all these swims, Liptz says, “Being involved in a new event encourages us to find additional ways to give back and support the local community. We think we’ve found an amazing initiative. We’re just finalising a few things before announcing what it is.”
Religious authorities in Israeli government “could deepen social divide”

In all its work, the organisation aims to help Jewish Israelis to connect their Judaism in a non-confrontive and non-judgmental way. For example, it introduces rabbis to couples who have never had a rabbi, creating an important and personalized connection before the chupah. This is important because otherwise, couples are assigned a rabbi who doesn't know them and they may feel uncomfortable. For example, when they arrive at the army, we'll match them with a rabbi who has been to the army and they are able to connect more easily. It has led to thousands of couples coming to Tzohar every year.

Stav says the divisions in Israeli society deepened after 1948, most would never have believed that these two ideas would come to compete with one another,” wrote Stav. “But 75 years later, the reality is that there are even those who believe that one cannot be a truly good Jew if one is a good Israeli, or a truly good Israeli if one is a good Jew.

“Every day, we need to think about what needs to be done to create a national social framework in which every Israeli – indeed every Jew across the diaspora – can take immense pride in the Jewish and Israeli identities and see no contradiction between the two,” he says.

“It was perhaps not intentional, but last week, tens of thousands of Israelis demonstrated their commitment to that back when they gathered in Yom Kippur services arranged by Tzohar throughout the country,” Stav said. “Every type of Jew was represented there. Sephardim stood alongside Ashkenazim and the secular alongside the religious. No delineations were made whether the person was voting right or left, Yesh Atid or Likud. Everyone was accepted and embraced. It was a moment of true Israeli unity.

“I know that this is a model that can thrive and needs to be replicated in all walks of life. Because if we fail to do this, we will be replicating the past and positioning us against each other,” he says.

In 1948, most would never have believed that these two ideas would come to compete with one another,” wrote Stav. “But 75 years later, the reality is that there are even those who believe that one cannot be a truly good Jew if one is a good Israeli, or a truly good Israeli if one is a good Jew.

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The trials of being a virgin machaneh mom

When I signed my children up for camp this year, I was excited for them. But I had no idea what was in store for me as a virgin machaneh mom.

Call it an initiation, baptism of fire, or even hazing, it was one of the toughest challenges I took on this year. I was spurred on by the fact that I knew my kids were going to have a phenomenal experience, but there were numerous times that I almost fell off the preparation wagon out of exhaustion.

All my Jewish mommy sentiments were challenged because the idea of my children being the only ones not having something made me tick all those damn boxes. This included going on a hunt for kosher biltong and two-minute noodles – lots and lots of them – to put in the boxes. This included going on a hunt for something made me tick all those damn things I would need to put in the trunk for my kids.

First off, I needed to get double-sided tape and reinforced duct tape. This was for putting up shelves, sticking battery operated lights, mirrors, and a pack of trommels onto the trommel. The trommel was to be their cupboard for three weeks. So, of course, they would need lights, shelves etcetera. I mean, how could they live out of a suitcase?

Then, there’s always a real chance that the trommels get wet, and what happens to all the clothes then? Simple, you buy zipped plastic bags of all sizes and proportions that will fit in the crevices and shelves of the trommel so that your clean and dirty clothes, as well as your wet, dry, smart, messing around etcetera clothes have their own bag in the trommel.

I understood I needed to send lots of bags – for toiletries, the beach, packing your stuff in before the end of camp when your trommels are on the truck home. There needs to be a bag for every occasion, and I don’t mean handbags as in what women carry around.

Then, if you have a look on the camp packing list, you’re told to bring a top and undies for every day on camp. Now, bear in mind, camp is three weeks long. My children would have to have something to wear while the other clothes were in the washing.

In other words, we either did a huge shop or they learnt what it is to hand wash their socks, jocks, and t-shirts. While I must admit, I did stock up on some new gear (thanks to Black Friday), I made it clear that they were going to be doing washing and gave them a handwashing lesson that I hope will stand them in good stead. I also sent rope for a washing line and pegs, which were on the packing list.

Then, I can’t forget that we had to get stretchers and mattresses to go with the groundsheets, blankets and sleeping bags, in a huge separate bag (thankfully we could buy from the youth movement). Ever priced a camping stretcher and mattress? Just saying...

Now, we’re a camping family and my kids have had their fair share of holidaying in the rough, so I wasn’t sure they needed the stretcher and the mattress, but no way I was sending them without that. My poor deprived darlings!

I could go on and on because packing those trommels took up every waking moment, that is, when I wasn’t working on this newspaper, but I’ll spare you all.

Instead, I’m going to my sister – who kindly lent me two seasoned trommels – started telling me what packing entailed. Bear in mind, I went to numerous machanot in what my kids tell me was “the olden days”. We would pack a suitcase of clothes, some soap for washing, a sleeping bag and a ground sheet, and got dropped off at Park Station. We and our bags were put in tents that then travelled by train to Hermanus, Mossel Bay, or wherever camp was. We and our bags were put in tents that became our homes for three weeks. No mess, no fuss. I do recall once or twice getting peckish between meals at camp when we would go raid the mitbach for snacks – should I be admitting this?

Back to my sister who saved my buns because she had two trommels on hand, who also kindly lent me two trommels for putting up shelves, sticking battery operated lights, mirrors, and a pack of trommels onto the trommel. The trommel was to be their cupboard for three weeks. So, of course, they would need lights, shelves etcetera. I mean, how could they live out of a suitcase?

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Most families fly to the Cape. But our family has always hit the road. What was originally motivated by budget has become a joy, so much so that some years, I enjoy the car trip “down” more than the destination.

They say that you shouldn’t get anywhere too fast, or you’ll lose your ethereal body behind. It explains why we feel so empty for a day when we arrive anywhere by air. But “slow travelling”, like “slow cooking” is something of a “practice”, like yoga. Whether it be the grand grassy plains of the Free State, the Jack the Giant Slayer-like peaks of the Sneeuberg, or the craggy infiniteness of the Cape interior, the journey is a meditation, taking me slowly away from my daily drudgery.

Of course, packing the car isn’t sweetness and light. First, everyone’s luggage has to be squeezed into the back, then what seems like a month’s worth of fruit and avocados in those uneconomical-sized fruit boxes (my husband is a health nut), then some unfortunate loaves of bread (which are sure to be squished, and some unfortunate loaves of bread) of fruit and avocadoes in those uneconomical-sized fruit boxes squeezed into the back, then everyone’s luggage has to be,”slow travelling”, like “slow cooking” is something of a “practice”, like yoga. Whether it be the grand grassy plains of the Free State, the Jack the Giant Slayer-like peaks of the Sneeuberg, or the craggy infiniteness of the Cape interior, the journey is a meditation, taking me slowly away from my daily drudgery.

Right at the back go two mountain bikes roped precariously onto a bike carrier designed for one sleek road bike at least 10 years ago. Needless to say, my husband can’t see very well out the back window, and depends on his side mirrors and sidekick – me. We’ve had a lot of adventures this way. One trip, to Sutherland, took us over gravel road through the moonscape of the Great Karoo for an entire day, while our small boys sat in the back with just one bottle of water between them. We had no idea that wouldn’t be a single other car for the whole journey through the heat and the dust. When we arrived, we discovered there was a far shorter and easier route to this small town from Cape Town. It seems some things have been kept secret from us Gautengers, no surprise!

Ditto Nieu-Bethesda, which has two roads leading it from the N9, one a long gravel road of endless switchbacks, the other a sweet, short tar road winding between koppies. No need to ask which one we took.

On one trip, which passed through Meiringspoort, I booked a poetic Victorian house in the middle of nowhere for an overnight stay, with wrap-around balcony and an infinite view. The owners of the house, in the tiny town of De Ruyt, took one look at our trailer, and said, “We may have to accompany you to the property”. An ominous sentence. The road went uphill at a 30-degree angle, dotted with large boulders. Eventually, not being able to go any further, we had to do a three-point turn with our trailer on a slope, which required much reversing and grinding of gears. The noise brought out the locals from distant farmhouses in the valley. Needless to say, we discovered what De Ruyt had to offer that night.

Then, there was the romantic stone farmhouse I booked that was owned by the padstal between Aberdeen and Willowmore. Even the names of these Karoo towns will inspire trepidation in any seasoned South African traveller because of the utter nothingness that surrounds them, so much so that people have been known to see apparitions crossing the road at dusk. The farm house, it turned out, was a two-hour drive into the farm from the padstal – nothing for the owners, it seems, who are used to living in infinity. Romantic and authentic, but spooky as hell.

Of course, this kind of trip isn’t complete without a stop at a padstal – or a Steers service station – though these two destinations are completely different. Padstals are poetic, and sell things we aspire to enjoy on our mythical holiday; service stations are gritty with toilets and hunger. Usually, the further we get away from Joburg, the more service stations turn into padstals. However, there is one stop close to Bloemfontein, which combines both – Tom’s Place – a forested refuge on a lake, with “slap” chips and petrol attached. Nothing short of a miracle!

Taking three days to do what most do in a day requires a certain level of humility. You have to stop at the Spar in some tiny town to shop for dinner and interact with the locals, who inevitably are winding down for a boozy weekend; you get dirty; and something happens which combines both – Tom’s Place – a forested refuge on a lake, with “slap” chips and petrol attached. Nothing short of a miracle!

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Living the right way up in an upside down world

South African born Rabbi Ralph Genende recently launched his book, Living in an Upside Down World, which is a combination of columns he has written. We speak to him.

Why did you choose this name for the book? The COVID-19 pandemic really turned our lives upside down. The title of the book comes from the Talmud (Pesahim 50b). It tells the story of Joseph, the son of Rabbi Zabob bin Levi, who became deathly ill and was thought to have died. After he suddenly regained consciousness, his father asked him, "What did you see?" Joseph said, "I saw a world turned upside down. What's above was below, what's below was above." His father said to him, "My son, in the world you have seen, the top is the bottom and the bottom is the top." And of course, if anything, the world feels even more upside down now.

Tell us about your life before you left South Africa? I was born in Zimbabwe, but grew up in Johannesburg. I went to school at the University of the Witwatersrand where Rabbi Kurtstag. They were all formative influences in my development. Being in South Africa during apartheid was formative in my passion for social justice and equality. My father, Caron, a South African who saw the moral complexities more acutely than I did, and my wife, Rabbi Genende, a South African woman, were both formative influences in my life. I believe in diversity, I believe in challenging the status quo, I believe in the power of members of the LGBTQ+ to shape the future. It's a fantastic challenge, and there's no one in any Orthodox synagogue who can engage in homosocial elements, countering members who publicly express hateful, homophobic opinions, and not find empathy in one's heart. This isn't the way of the children of Abraham, the forerunners of our legacy and kindness and compassion. This isn't the way of a Torah community that lives by halacha, namely, "You shall say to a person words that hurt or cause harm." (Deuteronomy 32:33).

I know this doesn't reflect the position of the broader world, nor even of many of the modern Orthodox establishments. I believe we should ensure that the right of our members to be presidents of Orthodox shuls, to carry the Torah with the same pride as men, to read from the Torah in a halachically acceptable way, and to ensure that women are represented on Orthodox boards and platforms. Not everyone appreciates your views on conversion. What impact has this had on you? I've been fortunate to be married to a strong-minded and independent woman. She was never a typical rebbetzin, but an individual with her own voice. What does this mean to you, and how have you dealt with it? What are your views on conversion? One shall not say to a person words that hurt or cause harm. I believe in orthodoxy, I believe in the power of members of the LGBTQ+ to shape the future. It's a fantastic challenge, and there's no one in any Orthodox synagogue who can engage in homosocial elements, countering members who publicly express hateful, homophobic opinions, and not find empathy in one's heart. This isn't the way of the children of Abraham, the forerunners of our legacy and kindness and compassion. This isn't the way of a Torah community that lives by halacha, namely, "You shall say to a person words that hurt or cause harm." (Deuteronomy 32:33).

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We wish our Jewish customers a Happy Chanukah filled with light.
**Slow Horses (Apple TV+)**
Gary Oldman is brilliant as the slovenly, surly, ultimately died for their ground breaking work. This mesmerising documentary, lyrically narrated, captures the story of their triumphant, and they too, all consuming obsession.

**The Bear (Disney+)**
This entertaining and charming series introduces us to the world of a young chef, who has to start afresh amidst financial troubles. The book reads like Whitey himself – down-to-earth, vulnerable, and the power it spins out of control. Reading this felt like I was sitting and chatting to a close friend, and in addition to some sensitive observation and profound insights, Michelle shares her secret stress-busting weapon – knitting! Other celebrity names that may appeal to or someone you know: Patricia Motsoeneng’s biography is going to be a winner. The book reads like Whitey himself – down-to-earth, unpretentious, brainy, but mischievous. It’s the massive success story about the trial of South African fraud. I loved the anecdote from his childhood that he recounts how he painted his old toys and sold them for pocket money – retail blood pumping through his veins from the get go! Finally, Fire is an introspective and un holds barred memoir from the mind and heart of one of South Africa’s charismatic national captains. Terry Pratchett’s biography is a portrait of the beloved man. The book is about how a man who takes on the system of white supremacy and the way he gets his way.

**Dive into the life of this glamorous African icon, but also a**

**The Patient (Disney+)**
Steve Carell, who has come a long way since his days as Chandler Bing on the TV sitcom The Odd Couple -style storyline comedy, Hacks also has plenty of heart, and is rich with insights into the culture war between boomers and millennials.

**The Odd Couple**

**The World According to Garp**

**It Starts with Us**

**No Plan B**

**Hacks**

**It’s beautifully shot and scored, and Wednesday’s**

**The English (Amazon Prime)**

**The Beginning**

**The Patient**

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Turning dump site into heart of creativity for Soweto youth

SAUL KAMONSKY

The gift of enabling children from Soweto to create arts at a former dump site in Freedom Park is not lost on Moshe Singer, a multidisciplinary artist who was involved in the initiative. Through surrounded by shacks, this area, called the Creative Arts Space, has become a place where children from the area can learn art, music, dance, and engineering.

Singer says he hopes “international communities will model what we have accomplished. My hope is artwork, you have an opportunity to try on a different part of your identity. So, for some of these children, where a lot of their identity may be coming from a trauma or quite traumatic home, it’s an opportunity to see themselves in a different way and explore different cultures. They wrote a Zulu song about being proud of their neighbourhood and community, and it gave them an opportunity for reflection on that as well.”

Says Sussman, “The arts can turn Malose’s hierarchy of needs on its head. Just because you don’t have your basic needs sorted out, it doesn’t mean you don’t deserve the dignity, joy, and equality the arts bring.”

Moloi is friends with artists and musicians who have come to the area to support the children and conduct workshops on Sundays, says Singer’s fellow Johannesburg-based Creative Gatherings co-founder, Yael Shapira, a music therapist. Founded about six years ago, Creative Gatherings brings artists from different areas together for collaborations.

Shapira and Singer got involved in the project when one of their friends from Creative Gatherings introduced them to the space at Freedom Park.

“The ethos of their project really spoke to what we were doing, so Moshe, myself, and a few other Creative Gatherings participants have gone there to work with the children,” Shapiro says. “Being part of a group called Hakhel: The Jewish Intentional Communities Incubator, and Shalom Corps, we brought along a group of volunteers from overseas.”

Volunteers from Mexico, France, Austria, and the United States all arrived in Freedom Park.

“We asked Thato and his partner what support they needed to make it sustainable,” Shapiro says. “We’re not bringing our Western ideas to fix what’s going on here. We actually have a lot to learn as outsiders, also as Jews, from this community, and how we can collaborate, learn from each other, and work together to support this project.”

Having international volunteers was important, as it allowed them to see the beauty and problems of Freedom Park, says Leigh Rudelman Sussman, a multidisciplinary artist and the founder of 9th Street, a South African art group. “Only through the eyes of somebody else sometimes can you truly reflect and do the tikkun olam. It’s like being a parent—often your children reflect back to you some of your inadequacies.”

Singer and Shapiro took the volunteers, not all of whom are Jewish, to help clean and teach at Soweto’s dump site during the past week. “We also went to the Holocaust Museum to share our history,” Singer says. “Then, we took the international participants to the Apartheid Museum. This was about mediating our understanding of each other’s backgrounds, contributing towards creating artwork that mashed up these different cultures.”

We had an incredible moment, for example, when the African participants performed the salsa, and the international participants learned African drumming. In the end, it was a constant exchange of art and styles, and how we can collaborate, learn from each other, and work together to support this project.”

For anyone wanting to get involved or contribute, please email sa.creativegatherings@gmail.com
BOILING PRODIGY PUTS ON GLOVES WITH LEGENDARY TRAINER

SAUL KAMIONSKY

Eighteen-year-old full-time boxer Joshua Feldman has proven to be a award-winning boxing trainer Colin Nathan that Jews aren’t “too soft” to succeed in boxing.

“This is a rarity in South African boxing history,” says Nathan, who is managing and training Feldman. “The top South African fighter who was Orthodox Jewish was Morris Weintraub [in the early 2000s].”

Nathan, who led Hekkie Budler and Sivenathi Nontshinga to improbable victories with his gym, says, “Training Joshua is special. I’ve always wanted to have a Jewish boxer. A Jewish manager/trainer – and a fighter – it doesn’t get better than this.”

After matriculating from Herzlia, Feldman moved to Johannesburg to train at Nathan’s Hot Box Gym in Savoy Estate.

Nathan first found out about Feldman last year. “My son told me, ‘Dad, there’s a Jewish kid in my school who is two years older than me. He is a very good boxer,’ Nathan recalls. “My son sent me some fight footage, and I thought Joshua was pretty talented, but I didn’t give it much thought. The next thing he was at the South African Championships. I saw pictures on Facebook of him, and I wondered if this was the kid my son was talking about. I got a message from my son saying, ‘The guy I was telling you about is fighting in the championships.’”

Feldman ended up winning the silver medal at the championships. “To get to the SA Championships, I started with three white-collar boxing fights, which are basically fights hosted by a boxing gym with no winner or loser,” he says. “I gained some experience in those three. Then I had about six or seven amateur fights, and won all of them. I had to go into dodgy areas in Cape Town, but I won all of them pretty easily.”

He subsequently won gold at the Western Cape Championships (with two wins in as many fights) in May 2023. “After that, I didn’t fight until the SA Championships in October last year. I just trained in that time,” he says. “At the SA Championships, he convinced me to have his semi-final against an Eastern Cape fighter. The final was the next day, so we had to do another fight. I came up short, and lost by a split decision. I think I won. That fighter was from Johannesburg. He was a year older than me.”

Feldman ranks the silver medal as his biggest boxing achievement because he “bought tickets to the other provinces within different styles. I didn’t know the competition I was coming up against. It was my first major tournament, and the people in that tournament had far more experience than me. They all had far more fights than I did. I was in touch with Nathan on Instagram.”

Joshua’s dad, saying, “My son has a massive potential to become a professional boxer, and you’re the guy recommended,” Nathan says.

Feldman got a reception from the other boxers at Hot Box Gym. “He’s the baby of the team,” Nathan says. “A lot of our boxers have pulled me aside saying they like the look of him because of his work ethic and discipline. Jordan was no fool, people, and just gets to work. He wants to make this a career, and I think he is going to be very successful at it.”

Feldman, who dreams about becoming a world champion, says determination, self-belief, and consistency are the most important traits needed to succeed in boxing.

Feldman’s grandfather was a sports promoter, who mainly promoted boxing, even managing Ernie Els, but he brought the big bout between American Davey Moore and South African Charlie Weir to South Africa in the early 1980s.

Feldman started boxing at the age of 12. “I was playing soccer and I had a problem with my knee. My dad told me I should go to boxing training because I wouldn’t have to run to train. I didn’t think much of boxing for about two years, but since the age of 14, I’ve been really passionate about it.”

Feldman says it’s a very Jewish and boxer who has only had about 10 amateur fights, but is planning to get his professional boxing license next year.

He trains under Nathan six days a week at Hot Box Gym. “Colin has corrected small details and little mistakes like technique. He’s helping me with those types of things,” Nathan says.

“It’s crazy to think he’s only 18. There are some ‘X’ factors to this kid besides the fact that he’s Jewish. He has very good technique and attributes a箱 good work ethic, and he has a lot of natural flow and ability. He sets his feet well, has good balance, a very good base and foundation, and good timing.”

Nathan likes what he sees in Feldman. “It’s crazy to think he’s only 18. There are some ‘X’ factors to this kid besides the fact that he’s Jewish. He has very good technique and attributes a箱 good work ethic, and he has a lot of natural flow and ability. He sets his feet well, has good balance, a very good base and foundation, and good timing.”

Feldman watches modern-day fights, with unified welterweight world champion Errol Spence Jr being a favourite of his, but loves studying old-school fighters like James Toney, Sugar Ray Leonard, Muhammad Ali, and Joe Frazier. “I feel the skill level and work rate was a bit better back then,” he says.

Who’s who at the zoo? What to do this holiday.

Johannesburg

Visit the Joburg Zoo (day or night)

During the day, you can see the more than 320 different animal species that the world-famous Joburg Zoo has to offer. At night, head over to the Festival of Lights, where you can see illuminated life-size animals, nocturnal animals in action, and enjoy live entertainment, food, and the craft night market.

Contact: jhbcityparksandzoo.com or joburgcityzoo.co.za/event

Go ice-skating

It might be summer outside, but the ice rink at Festival Mall in Kempton Park is frozen solid. Contact: 011 394 6702 or visit theiricerink.co.za

Artjamming

Release your inner Picasso, and create a truly memorable piece of art. Great family fun to be had in the heart of Melrose Arch Shopping Centre.

Contact: 011 684 1608 or visit artjamming.co.za

Rosebank Rooftop Market

From food, art, crafts, and antiques to live music, the event is perfect for everyone, and activities for children, there’s something for everyone at The Rosebank Rooftop Market. Open on Sundays. Contact: 072 243 8582 or visit roosbankmarket.co.za

Acrobranch Huddle Park

If you’re a fan of Taranzi, you’ll love this outdoor tree-hopping and zip lining adventure. Nestled in the trees at Huddle Park in Umhlanga, there’s plenty of fun to be had by the whole family.

Contact: 096 999 0369 or acrobranch.co.za

The Upside Down House

Get your camera ready and drive through to Muizenberg, where the water is slightly warmer. The penguins at Boulders Beach will also greet you on arrival.

Contact: 079 434 1293 or rak@chabad.org.za

Chanukah Candle Lighting

Chabad House will light Chanukah candles at the Giant Menorah in Sandton City outside the Bronia Road entrance) each night of Chanukah from Sunday, December 18, to Sunday, December 25. Time: 18:30 (Friday, 23 December, at 17:30; and Saturday, 24 December, at 20:00).

Contact: 079 434 1293 or rak@chabad.org.za

Cape Town

Tobogganing in Durbanville

Cool Runnings Toboggan Park in Durbanville has the largest downhill tobogganing track in Africa. Enjoy some outdoor fun at this family park where you can boodle down one of 1.2km steel pipe track.

Contact: 021 949 4439 or visit coolrunnings.capetown

Create Your Own Crockery

With studios in Both Street in Cape Town’s CBD and Hout Bay, The Clay Cafe is a great place to get your creative juices flowing.

Contact: 076 810 5120/062 455 6578 or visit capycafe.co.za

Cykle along the Sea Point promenade

Rent a bicycle, and go on an adventure along the Sea Point promenade.

Contact: 021 949 4439 or visit capycafe.co.za

Visit the Thaba Bongeta

Check out the world’s only indigenous art gallery in the heart of the Red City.

Contact: 021 949 4439 or visit capycafe.co.za

Go on a bus tour

See Durban’s iconic landmarks in miniature form, and explore the city in a unique way. Contact: 031 337 7892 or visit minitownbotanical.co.za

The Durban Botanical Gardens

Visit Africa’s oldest surviving botanical gardens, and see some of the rarest plants in the world.

Contact: 031 322 4021 or visit durbanbotanicalgardens.org.za

Catch the Umgeni Steam Train

Depart from the Inchanga Railway Station and take a train ride through the rolling hills of KZN. Plus you get a bird’s eye view of the world-renowned Moses Mahbida Stadium, and see Durban like you’ve never seen it before.

Contact: 031 322 9595 or visit minitown.co.za

Visit Mini Town

See Durban’s iconic landmarks in miniature form, and explore the city in a unique way. Contact: 031 337 7892 or visit minitown.co.za

The Durban Botanical Gardens

Visit Africa’s oldest surviving botanical gardens, and see some of the rarest plants in the world.

Contact: 031 322 4021 or visit durbanbotanicalgardens.org.za

KwaZulu-Natal

Big Bush Big Swing at the Moses Mahbida Stadium

If you’re an adrenaline junkie and are brave enough to face the fall 80m into the stadium bowl, then this is for you! Get a bird’s eye view of the world-renowned Moses Mahbida Stadium, and see Durban like you’ve never seen it before.

Contact: 031 322 9595 or visit minitown.co.za

Visit Umhlanga Pier

You haven’t officially been to Umhlanga if you haven’t taken a picture on this iconic pier and uploaded it to Instagram! Make sure to visit, and take in the breathtaking views of Umhlanga.
Peter Lindenberg, former South African barefoot water skier, powerboat driver, and car racer, describes himself as a "born risk taker." He says, "I would literally put my life on the line if there was a lap to go in a race." Coming second was never an option for Lindenberg in his more than four-decade-long racing career. Whether he was breaking records, earning Springerbok colours, winning world championships in barefoot water-skiing, or triumphing in powerboat or car racing, he would go Flat Out and Fearless, the title of his new book.

It documents the life of the Johannesburg-born Lindenberg, who received national colours on 39 occasions and has been named in the South African Hall of Fame. "My life has been about bouncing back from crashes, damages, and other obstacles," he said at the launch of his book at Exclusive Books in Rosebank Mall on 23 November. Lindenberg hopes that the book will encourage people to bounce back, an ability he believes is important, especially in the post-COVID-19-pandemic era. "Many people have problems," he said. "The harder you hit the deck, the higher you can bounce back."

Lindenberg wrote the book to share his story with others. "I wrote it in the most honest way I could, not incriminating people," he quipped. "I did some things wrong, and I’ve admitted to them. While writing the book, I often cried. "The real takeaway for the reader is that in 99% of situations, an opportunity exists for an alternative way forward. Most importantly, don’t bother with stuff you can’t control. Get on with what you can influence." While he was putting the book together, "I was fortunate that I had my last [car racing] championship," Lindenberg said. "It was really exciting racing, and I was 66 years old."

He previously missed two events when he couldn’t travel because of COVID-19 restrictions, and then the contracted the virus. "I was literally knocking on the door. When I started to feel a bit better, I was still lying in the hospital, and I thought, ‘You know what, they still haven’t published the book. I’m going to write another chapter because I managed to survive COVID-19 as well.’" The cover of the book is like a montage. The photo next to it portrays Lindenberg triumphing at the British Grand Prix in 1989. Another image depicts Lindenberg in one of his three favourite race cars – a particular Mustang from 1999. "That car was written out of the rules after one year, and the book tells how I got it." A further snapshot shows Lindenberg in a wheelchair at Johannesburg International Airport after suffering a brain haemorrhage while on a flight.

Lindenberg was born in Johannesburg in 1955, and said he was fortunate to have a family who stood by him when he made mistakes. "Everybody thinks teams sport are tough, soccer, cricket, etc. Meanwhile, what I did was a team sport. It’s just that I was the guy at the top of the team. You had to surround yourself with the right people and, importantly, you had to trust them because if one of those guys made a mistake or didn’t do their job properly, you would die. It’s as simple as that."

Lindenberg thanks all his competitors in the preface to the book. "Without competition, I wouldn’t have won. Having them is what pushes you to win."

Lindenberg said his dad was the driving force behind his water-skiing performance, but he had no history of being involved in any kind of water sport. "When it came to racing, I created the opportunities myself, but I needed other people to believe in and back me. That’s one of the most important things if you do what I do."

Someone pinned Lindenberg one night and said, "You’ve bought a Formula One boat."

"I’ve never sat in a Formula One boat. I’ve never really watched a full Formula One race," Lindenberg responded. Nevertheless, the person believed in Lindenberg’s ability, and gave him his first Formula One boat. "It’s of my driving ability must have somehow been in-born because I won my first boat race, and I won my first ever Formula One race," Lindenberg said.

Lindenberg also used to steal his mom’s car and drive sideways on the sand road near their house. "I think that helped as well," he laughed. The book describes the distractions Lindenberg often faced, pulling him away from his goal, but he managed to keep his eye on the ball.

On the day of his British Grand Prix win in 1989, the word spread, and the race was delayed. Lindenberg walked past a place where bets were being taken, and saw he was the fourth favourite, at 7/1 to win the race. "Oh! I’m a good bet here," he said to himself. "I’m going to win this race."

He scurried back to his wife, Debbie, and said, "How much money do we have?" She counted it, and said they had £7 000. When Lindenberg asked her to bet all their money on him winning the race, she said, "No, it’s crazy, we still have another week and a half before we go home."

Debbie, nonetheless, was able to bet only the amount of money the bookmakers were prepared to accept, which was £3 000. Lindenberg ended up winning the race and receiving his biggest payday. "If Debbie was cross in the beginning, she wasn’t so cross afterwards," he said to laughter from the audience.
Words fail me describing this year

INNER VOICE
Howard Feldman

Th e image of the Durban mayor taking a swim in the ocean to prove that it’s safe to do so was a particularly horrible one. Although a potentially valuable idea, the action seemed more than he might have intended. Simply by needing to slide down to his lycra, he exposed just how little he can do to convince me.

and some of you did what you could to convince me that the Jewish community can look forward to a better year than it might have intended. Simply by needing to slip down to his lycra, he exposed just how little we can do to convince me that the Jewish community can look forward to a better year than it might have intended.

The project will transform the shul to better serve the community in the future.

The upgrades will serve the shul, parents at the nursery school, students at the primary and high schools, and the wider community.

King David Pre-Primary School Victory Park paying tribute to Sharon Levin-Kur (holding gift)

KDVP Pre-Primary plays tribute to a remarkable teacher

Waverley Shul gets lift for the future

UJW celebrates kids of Alexandra Aftercare project

Herzlia Weizmann welcomes Grades 6 and 7 boys to minyan

Jewish Board of Deputies end-of-year book sale a title event
Dis-Chem Baby City

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF WISH YOU

Happy Chanukah
KosherWorld
Truly Kosher

CANDLE LIGHTING
SUNDAY 18 DEC - 6:30 PM
MONDAY 19 DEC - 6:30 PM
TUESDAY 20 DEC - 6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY 21 DEC - 6:30 PM
THURSDAY 22 DEC - 6:30 PM
FRIDAY 23 DEC - NO LIGHTING
SATURDAY 24 DEC - 8:30 PM
SUNDAY 25 DEC - 6:30 PM

Chabad, KosherWorld, Feigels
Chanukah Celebration
Sunday 18 December 2022

All Day Putt Putt from
10am to 4pm

World Cup Soccer Final
1st Floor KosherWorld Centre, Big Screen
Kick Off 5 PM

Donuts, Dreidels, Music, Entertainment, Food
and More ... From 4 PM...
Candle Lighting 6:30 PM

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