

Paul Blomkamp,
Simple Quantum Ciphers (4)
R40 000 - R60 000

French Louis XVI-style
table/desk
R8 000 - R12 000



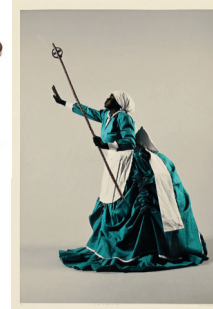
Astrid Dahl,
Ovoid Vessel
R5 000 - R8 000



Diplomat world globe
on mahogany stand
R8 000 - R12 000



Mary Sibande,
I Put a Spell On Me
R180 000 - R240 000



SCAN THE QR CODE TO
REGISTER & DOWNLOAD OUR APP

011 789 7422 • info@rkauctioneers.co.za • www.rkauctioneers.co.za
256 Oak Avenue, Corner Republic Road, Ferndale, 2194

Grande Wunderkammer Auction
Until Sunday, 30th November
LIVE ONLINE NOW



South African Jewish Report

Volume 28 - Number 40 ■ 27 November 2025 ■ 7 Kislev 5786

www.sajr.co.za

Fundraiser against Cape Union Mart halted

TALI FEINBERG

Local crowdfunding platform BackaBuddy has frozen a Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) fundraising campaign on its website. The campaign was urgently trying to raise money to fund the PSC's defence in its case against South African Jewish-owned family business Cape Union Mart.

The PSC launched the campaign on BackaBuddy three months ago, but this week ramped up its call for financial support. However, after the *SA Jewish Report* and others pointed out to BackaBuddy that the campaign went against its rules, it closed it and placed it under review. As of 26 November, the campaign has been shut down. If it remains closed by BackaBuddy after the review process, the money raised will be returned to donors.

BackaBuddy Chief Executive Patrick Schofield told the *SA Jewish Report* that the PSC's campaign was brought to BackaBuddy's attention on 25 November, and once reported, "it was flagged multiple times by multiple people".

Schofield says the campaign "didn't conform to our guidelines as a platform that looks to ensure that no campaign has the potential to incite violence or hatred. It has been closed and placed under review with the content removed. I apologise that we didn't pick up on this campaign sooner."

He says after seeing the content of the campaign, it's "very unlikely" it will be allowed to continue on the site, but BackaBuddy will still follow its review process.

Cape Union Mart and its executive chairperson, Philip Krawitz, are asking the Western Cape High Court to interdict and restrain the PSC, several named individuals, and unidentified protesters from making defamatory claims about him.

Cape South African Jewish Board of Deputies (Cape SAJBD) Executive Director Daniel Bloch says "antisemitic rhetoric, defamation, harassment, and incitement to violence have no place in our society. Those who engage in such conduct will face consequences, including financial ones. This is a stark realisation for the PSC, which now must raise funds to pay for its actions."

The PSC's campaign comes hot on the heels of another fundraiser on the same platform by local author Zaahied Sallie, who is being sued by local rabbi Nissen Goldman for defamation. Like the PSC, Sallie is looking for supporters to fund his defence. That campaign has also been brought to BackaBuddy's attention, but remains active for now.

The PSC campaign named its fundraiser "PSC Zionist Lawfare Defence Fund" and it was aiming to raise R300 000 before February, when the case will be heard. As of 25 November, it had raised R75 000, only about 25% of its goal. In a video on social media, PSC treasurer Martin Jansen said, "We need funds to defend ourselves. Unfortunately, legal defence costs a lot of money. We need senior counsel, for example."

The PSC campaign on BackaBuddy included a video showing images defaming Krawitz and Cape Union Mart. On the same

fundraising page, the PSC states that the organisation was formed to "campaign in support of Palestinians and the liberation of their land from European Zionist Jews' colonial occupation and genocide", and describes Israel as "the Zionazi terrorist state". The organisation said that one of its aims was to "counter South African Zionists' support for Israel".

Cape Union Mart Group Legal Adviser Simone Sulcas says Cape Union Mart has taken legal action to "stop the PSC from defaming the company by falsely accusing it of funding genocide and killing children". The company further asserts that these protest actions "aren't being conducted lawfully, as they involve harassment and intimidation of customers".

The lawsuit "sends a clear message that such defamatory and unlawful conduct will no longer be tolerated or allowed to continue unchecked", Sulcas says. Though Cape Union Mart "respects lawful protest and freedom of expression, it insists that these rights must be exercised without infringing on the rights and safety of others". Cape Union Mart is "committed to protecting its reputation, and ensuring that defamers are held accountable under the law".

In the video on BackaBuddy before the campaign was closed, PSC coordinator Usuf Chikte stated, "We are willing, waiting, and wanting to be in court [to fight the case]. We are going to boycott them [Cape Union Mart] and even if we must change the law to do it, we will do it."

On the BackaBuddy page before closure, the PSC stated that on the day Hamas committed its 7 October 2023 massacre, "the Israeli regime declared its final solution genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people. Since then, we campaigned for a boycott of Cape Union Mart due to the support by its owner, Philip Krawitz, to the state of Israel."

Bloch says the Cape SAJBD "supports the legal recourse taken by Cape Union Mart. We reject the baseless and defamatory accusation of genocide directed at both Cape Union Mart and its Jewish owner. These claims are legally and morally indefensible. They are designed to incite hostility, spread misinformation, and inflame public sentiment."

One supporter who donated R1 000 anonymously on BackaBuddy stated, "We must defeat the fascists if we want a better world." However, on Instagram, a social media user posted, "Why pick a fight knowing that it's going to court? This



In the Gardens Shul, Cape Town See story on page 10

Continued on page 3>>



The most important time in any child's life is
HOME TIME

If you've got room in your home and in your heart, talk to us about fostering a Jewish child.

Please contact socialservices@jhbchev.co.za



Green energy and red lines from only Israeli at G20



YOSEF I. ABRAMOWITZ

It may have been one of the only – perhaps the only – Israeli at the G20.

I often accompany Israeli leaders on African state visits in my role as a founder of the solar industry in Israel and Africa. It's important to me as a person, a Jew, and an Israeli to advance African social and economic development, and green energy access is my value-added leverage point.

Since this was the first G20 on the continent, there was a concerted effort by civil society groups to ensure that the needs and concerns of Africans would be heard in the halls of power, especially since the G20 controls 80% of the world's economy. The relationship with Africa has to change dramatically from one of extraction and exploitation to partnership and value-creation for all to benefit.

That's very hard to do when 600 million Africans still lack access to electricity, which should be recognised as a fundamental human right. I was privileged to be part of the S20 under the ECOSOCC (African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council) delegation, and with our friends and partners at the ONE Campaign, which is an important part of activist and rockstar Bono's activity to empower Africa. Bono came to the opening of my first solar field in Africa, in Rwanda, a decade ago to support our efforts, and the dream then was to bring power to hundreds of millions of people.

We still have a long way to go. I felt privileged to participate in the G20 and get a front-row seat watching Africans advocate with intelligence and dignity for their fair-share of the world's economic development and for a just transition to renewable energy throughout the continent. Africa produces about 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, but is constantly and disproportionately hammered by the negative effects of climate change, usually extreme floods or droughts.

Israel is unique in having some of the world's best climate technology that can raise human dignity for hundreds of millions of Africans. This is true for green energy, water, agriculture, and more. When people asked me where I was from, I usually answered, "The holy city of Jerusalem." This usually elicits a warm response because of the deep faith of many Africans.

There's an historic opportunity for Israel and Jewish investors in powering Africa's growth. Half the world's fastest growing economies are in Africa, and soon one in four people on the planet will be African.

Every once in a while, a speaker would invoke the

Palestinian cause or the war in Gaza, but it was on the margins and not consequential. I thought about speaking to a presenter who demanded that Africa have a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, but I was incredulous that he supported the Palestine

because of bad behaviour at home and abroad.

I was also happy to meet old friends in the Jewish community and hope to come back more often. The first time, in 1987, I came as a guest of the South African Union of Jewish Students during the state of emergency, when I was almost deported for my anti-apartheid activism. Though it's good to see a democratic South Africa, it's also deeply painful to see how the country's leadership has squandered the opportunity to govern with the interests of the people in mind.

I would hope that South Africa's government would pause the case at the International Court of Justice against Israel for a year. It only bolsters the right-wing in Israel, causing people to circle the wagons, and is costing the South African taxpayer tens of millions of dollars when the needs at home are so great. And it makes things more difficult for South Africa with the White House.

In addition to being a co-founder of the Arava Power Company in Israel, I serve as chief executive of Gigawatt Global, which is developing utility-scale solar projects in a dozen African countries to advance social and economic opportunity, lift dignity, as well as provide impact investors to align their values and money.

• Yosef I. Abramowitz is an Israeli-American environmentalist, solar energy pioneer, and activist. He is president and chief executive of Gigawatt Global (Energiya Global Capital), as well as co-founder of the Arava Power Company and nongovernmental organisation Gigawatt Impact. He has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize for his activism three times by 12 African countries, Belize, and Israel.



U2's Bono and Yosef Abramowitz at sub-Saharan Africa's first solar field in Rwanda

Photograph courtesy ASW

Solidarity Movement, which is irresponsible, both because it's warped and because it does the opposite of advancing the interests of ordinary Africans who could benefit from being in relationship with Israel.

For African leaders to make the case for that permanent seat on the UN Security Council, there has to be much more progress in advancing peace on the continent as well as economic development. If corruption can buy off an African government to prevent switching from expensive diesel to low-cost solar, it can also buy off a veto at the Security Council.

South Africa should take pride in hosting the G20, but be aware that boycott by some world leaders is a sign of the waning influence of South Africa, mostly

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

ETERNAL MEMORIALS
 Rabbi Ryan Goldstein
 083-458 9965
 RabbiRyanG@gmail.com
 "I will help you through this difficult time in your life with all the necessary tombstone requirements"
 Continuing Rabbi Sher's z"l Legacy

D&S PRESS EST 1983
 creating the right impression
ORDER YOUR CALENDARS & DESKPADS FOR 2026
 Tel: 011 907 7882
 info@dspress.co.za | www.dspress.co.za
 See our website
 www.benchingcards.com

ANDREA BUYS
 Old Jewellery, Old Coins
 and Antique Hallmarked
 Silver Items
 Fair and Friendly Buyer • I Come To You!
 083 760 0482 • andrea.attic@gmail.com

VEHICLES WANTED
 ANY MAKE
 ANY MODEL
 ANY CONDITION
BEST PRICE GUARANTEED

Arnold Orkin 082 823 7826

Finding meaning in the journey

Torah Thought

This week's Torah reading, *Vayeitzei*, tells a story that speaks to every generation. It's the story of a forefather, Jacob, who leaves the comfort of home and walks straight into a future filled with uncertainty. He's not a superhero. He's not fearless. He's simply someone trying to navigate life, make good choices, and stay true to himself while the world around him feels unpredictable.

And if we're honest, that's something most of us can relate to.

The Torah tells us that Jacob sets out on a long journey and stops to rest for the night. There, he has a dream of a ladder rooted firmly in the ground but stretching all the way to the heavens. Angels go up and down, rising and descending, almost like the rhythm of life itself.

The ladder represents a balance we all try to achieve, staying grounded in daily reality work, family, finances, pressures, while also striving toward something higher. Call it meaning, purpose, or simply becoming the best version of ourselves.

We can take a simple message from this: life isn't lived on the mountaintop. It's lived on the climb.

What's even more striking is where Jacob's journey takes him. He arrives in a place called Charan, described as corrupt, messy, and spiritually chaotic. It's the last place you'd expect someone to grow.

And yet, that's exactly where he builds his family, his future, and ultimately, his legacy.

The takeaway is universal: sometimes, we discover our greatest strength in the least ideal circumstances.

Growth doesn't happen only when everything is calm and comfortable. More often, it happens in the moments that stretch us, challenge us, or push us to find resilience we didn't know we had.

This week also marks an important date on the Chabad-Lubavitch calendar: 10 Kislev, the anniversary of the release of Rabbi Dovber Schneuri (1773-1827), known as the "Mitteler Rebbe", the second Rebbe of Chabad, from imprisonment in 1826. Though this may sound distant or niche, there's a broader message for anyone reflecting on personal freedom.

The Mitteler release wasn't just a historical event, it became a symbol of emotional and spiritual liberation. It represents the idea that even when we feel constrained by circumstances, stress, or the pressures of life, there's always the possibility of renewal and release.

Taken together, these two stories, Jacob's journey and the Mitteler Rebbe's freedom, offer a meaningful reminder for our modern lives.

Every one of us

walks through our own version of "Charan", those messy, complicated chapters with no easy answers. But those are exactly the places where we often discover clarity, courage, and the beginnings of something new.

Life is a journey none of us fully control. But how we walk it – grounded, hopeful, and always open to growth – is where meaning is found.

Rabbi Pini Pink
 Chabad of Greenstone

Shabbat Times brought to you by
Spencer Schwartz from You Realty
 Residential Property Sales and Rentals + Auctions

	Starts	Ends
Johannesburg	18:15	19:20
Cape Town	19:15	20:19
Durban	18:15	19:17
Bloemfontein	18:15	19:34
Gqeberha	18:15	19:51
Plettenberg Bay	18:15	20:00
East London	18:15	19:38
Jerusalem	15:55	17:14
Tel Aviv	16:14	17:15

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

 Jacob had 12 sons, and I'm sure that not many homes could fit a tribe that size. If you're looking for the perfect place, I will find it. *Spencer*

US slams door on Pandor as tensions spike

NICOLA MILTZ

The abrupt decision of the United States to revoke former International Relations and Cooperation minister Dr Naledi Pandor's visa drew a muted, cautious response from the South African government, underscoring deepening fractures in SA-US relations.

Last week, Pandor confirmed that she had received a short, formal email from the US consulate informing her that her visa had been cancelled without explanation.

A US government spokesperson told the *SA Jewish Report* that under US law, visa records are generally confidential.

"We will not discuss the details of this individual visa case," the spokesperson said. "Visas are a privilege, not a right. Every country, including the United States, can determine who enters its borders. Visas may be revoked at any time, at the discretion of the US government, whenever circumstances warrant."

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation (Dirco) hasn't issued a statement or responded to questions.

The timing cast a long shadow over the diplomatic landscape. The revocation came just as South Africa hosted the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg, which the US pointedly boycotted amid a dispute over the ceremonial handover of the G20 presidency.

The summit ended without the ceremonial handover to Washington, highlighting how fragile the relationship between the two countries has become. The friction follows rising tension over South Africa's high-profile genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), a legal and diplomatic offensive that has placed Pretoria in direct confrontation with US foreign-policy priorities.

Pandor, who was Dirco minister between 2019 and 2024, is widely credited for spearheading the country's case against Israel at the ICJ.

Minister in the Presidency, Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, said the visa revocation was of little consequence for South Africa.

Speaking on the sidelines of the G20 Leaders' summit she said, "Former Minister Naledi Pandor isn't a minister in Cabinet. Like any other country, they can decide to give you a visa or not. It doesn't change the price of bread." "Even if they revoke my visa, it's fine. I would not have to go to the US. Most of us don't go to

the US." She said those who do travel generally attend United Nations meetings.

Pandor herself echoed that stance. She said she was offered no explanation for the cancellation and understands that the US is under no obligation to provide one. Her comments align with government's broader approach: acknowledge the revocation factually; avoid a public confrontation; and contain political fallout.

But diplomatic observers say the action has greater significance than Pretoria is willing to acknowledge publicly.

Brooks Spector, political analyst and former

foreign-policy and national-security interests", it said.

The SAZF highlighted a litany of actions it believes contributed to the US decision. It pointed to Pandor's conversations with Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in the week immediately after the 7 October 2023 massacre, during which she conveyed South Africa's "support and solidarity" despite Hamas being a US-designated terrorist organisation responsible for the mass killing and kidnapping of civilians.

The SAZF said her repeated public accusations that Israel was committing "genocide", "war crimes", and "apartheid" mirrored extremist propaganda rather than responsible diplomacy.

It also cited her calls for protests outside the embassies of the US, the United Kingdom, and Germany; her central role in South Africa's ICJ genocide case; and her increasingly combative international rhetoric. The SAZF said these actions amounted to a deliberate targeting of key Western partners.

SAZF National Spokesperson Rolene Marks said, "When a senior Cabinet minister engages with terrorist leadership mere days after an atrocity; aligns with sanctioned actors; adopts extremist rhetoric; repurposes national institutions for ideological crusades; and deliberately antagonises Western partners, visa consequences aren't surprising, they are inevitable."

The SAZF went on to criticise Pandor's leadership at the Nelson Mandela Foundation. Instead of protecting Mandela's legacy of reconciliation, it said, she had turned the institution into a platform for a radical foreign-policy agenda aimed at isolating Israel and undermining Christian Zionist communities in

U.S. IMMIGRATION VISA REVOKED

Former South African minister Naledi Pandor has had her U.S. visa revoked without explanation, deepening diplomatic tensions between Washington and Pretoria.

US diplomat, said the development needs to be understood against years of friction between Pandor and Washington. "She has been fiercely and vociferously critical of US policy for years," he told the *SA Jewish Report*, noting that her confrontational posture on foreign-policy issues hadn't gone unnoticed in Washington.

Spector said disengagement was rarely constructive. "From a diplomatic standpoint, dialogue is always preferable to building barriers. If I were managing the relationship, I would choose engagement over silence.

"It's evident she rejects key US positions," he said, "and Washington has now chosen not to engage with her."

The South African Zionist Federation (SAZF) called the visa revocation predictable in light of Pandor's behaviour. Pandor's conduct had "for years placed South Africa in direct confrontation with American

Fundraiser against Cape Union Mart halted

>>Continued from page 1

makes no sense. You are going to lose this case not because of money, but on principle."

The PSC continued to say that "Zionist forces in South Africa have retaliated with their lawfare campaign to silence and cripple us. We have had to defend ourselves and the constitutional right to protest at great expense, and we are winning. However, our defence needs more funds to continue to do so."

But Krawitz stated in his affidavit that "the applicants are in no way attempting to prevent the respondents from exercising their right to freedom of expression and freedom to assemble. The relief sought doesn't curtail those rights."

In August, the Western Cape High Court ordered protesters to stop harassing customers outside Cape Union Mart stores and preventing shoppers from going into the stores. The

South Africa.

It also noted her public alignment with Francesca Albanese, a UN official sanctioned by the US for what Washington described as advancing "political and economic warfare" against both the US and Israel. Albanese's visit to South Africa was facilitated under the auspices of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, and Pandor publicly embraced her presence.

Pandor's continued travel to Iran and Qatar; her engagement with officials linked to organisations identified by US authorities as supporting Hamas; and her rhetorical endorsement of terms associated with extremism, all compounded Washington's concerns, the SAZF said.

The revocation casts a shadow over the direction of the bilateral relationship. The US rarely revokes visas of former senior Cabinet ministers unless the message is intended to be heard. Washington has chosen to close a door; Pretoria has chosen not to say anything.

parties agreed that the main application would be postponed to February, when the rest of the issues as per the notice of motion will be ventilated in court, including the determination of costs.

At the time of the order, Krawitz said, "Like most South Africans, I would desperately like to see an end to the war and the tragic deaths of innocent civilians on both sides. As a father and grandfather, I particularly agonise over the deaths of children. It's now time to find a route to peaceful coexistence of Israelis and Palestinians."

Bloch says the Cape SAJBD will "continue to support our community and all who stand with us in the fight against hatred. We will not hesitate to advocate for our rights or to take legal action against any individual or group who seeks to undermine them."

ELEVATE
ON Instagram

Follow us

61.3k Likes
JOIN US!
#a platform for meaningful connection, learning, and inspiration.

instagram.com/elevate_ckt

JAWITZ PROPERTIES | *Leading* REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

FOR SALE

SYDENHAM | R 1 750 000

3 3.5 Web Ref: JRL22081

Spacious and secure well-kept 3-bedroom Sydenham townhouse with 3 bathrooms (2 en suite), a large main suite, modern kitchen with gas hob and walk in pantry. Open-plan living leading to a private patio, neat garden, and pool. Includes family room, staff accommodation and a double garage.

Joel Harris: 082 926 0287
Laureen Shalpid: 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

GLENHAZEL | R 799 000

2 2 Web Ref: JRL37019

Sunny north-facing unit offering 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms (m.e.s), a bright open-plan reception area leading to a balcony. Well-fitted kitchen. The complex features 24h/7 access security, a pool, tennis and squash court. 2 carport parking. All perfectly located near shuls, schools, and shopping centres in the heart of Glenhazel.

Joel Harris: 082 926 0287
Laureen Shalpid: 083 789 0229

FOR SALE

WAVERLEY | R 2 950 000

5 3.5 Web Ref: JRL37233

An attractive buying proposition for a wide range of purchasers. Stand of 2974m². Renovate & regenerate the existing dwelling, create your multi-generational living solution, re-zone for development. See the potential, imagine the possibilities & bring them to life.

Chrissie Hammer: 082 568 0440

FOR SALE

MORNINGSIDE | R 5 995 000

5 5.5 Web Ref: JRL37257

Unique Sandton hideaway on 3500 sqm offering a serene lifestyle with eclectic living areas, lush garden, pool and patio. French kitchen with deck and laundry. Upstairs games room and office/5th bedroom. Main suite with steam room, gym and jacuzzi. All bedrooms ensuite. Staff rooms and double garage.

Linette Oosthuizen: 082 572 5314

Dust settles around emotional KDVP closure

LEE TANKLE

As King David Victory Park enters its final weeks and the community prepares to say goodbye, there's a sense that the dust has settled, and people are optimistic.

"The vision is exciting. It was brutal for everybody involved, myself included," said Rabbi Ricky Seeff, the general director of the South African Board of Jewish Education (SABJE). "I mean, I love Victory Park. I was the principal there for six years. I know the kids. Emotionally, it's been hard," he said. "What's starting to happen is the community is coming together."

Though the campus hasn't been sold yet, Seeff said there were a few prospective buyers, and the SABJE is exploring its options and is working with the shul to ensure that it finds a place that ensures its longevity. The future location of the shul depends on the sale of the campus.

Seeff said a team of staff members and parents had come together to catalogue everything on campus so that nothing would be lost in the move. "There's 60 years of history there, and we're mindful about capturing and preserving it all," he said. "We're collating everything and planning how it will be presented and where it will be installed. We're committed to ensuring that everything of value and nostalgia is recorded, kept, and displayed wherever possible. There's so much meaning in those six decades, far more than anyone can truly quantify."



Students enjoying a break on the field

For weeks, Seeff and the SABJE faced a flood of concerns from KDVP parents trying to understand the decision. Many told him they had chosen the school deliberately for its small classes and unique culture, and feared closing it meant losing what made the school special. Others were second or third-generation Victory Park families who didn't want their children to miss out on the school that had shaped their own lives.

Seeff said a major concern was losing students altogether, as well as losing those who had moved from Linksfield to Victory Park. "For those children, we offered counselling and arranged external psychologists to support them," he said. "Of that group, we've retained about 70%, who are now returning to Linksfield, largely because they'll be going back with their friends."

Said Seeff, "There was an openness to giving it a chance. Linksfield has a bit of a bad rap, but not every child there is a bully. Bullying does happen everywhere, and we've even had children move from Victory Park to Linksfield. What's been amazing is that even those who might have had good reasons for not returning are coming back."



Last of the exams in the hall

Similarly, King David has been working with an organisation called The Guardian to completely overhaul the school's bullying policies and conduct an audit on safeguarding in the school and the way bullying and other types of abuse are reported and managed.

Seeff said King David had retained 90% of its students and 85% of its staff in this process. A handful of families had already given notice earlier in the year, so their departure wasn't triggered by the announcement. In total, about eight students were planning to leave regardless. The rest are dispersing to a mix of remedial, private, or geographically closer schools. Only two students from that group are transferring to other Jewish schools, with the majority leaving the Jewish school system altogether.

For King David Ariel students, it's an easier adjustment, as they will have the same teaching staff and principal, the only thing changing is the school's location. It has even led Ariel to add three more classes, as people are more interested in sending their children there because of the new location.

Seeff said that though staff members were initially concerned about the change, after some staff integration days, many are feeling more positive and are excited to get on the ground and to see what this new school year will bring.

Brandon Haberfield, who has four children spread across four campuses, said that though his children are mourning their school, they are looking forward to being on the same campus next year.

"Though there was deep sadness and nostalgia about the closure in the past, we have finished grieving and have fully embraced the new reality," he said. "There is constant conversation about the new campus life and their sibling camaraderie, and all are excited to be part of this new and happening campus life with all its facilities and opportunities. There is natural trepidation about the exact transport plans, traffic, and class placements, but that will calm as the weeks progress."



Ground staff practicing a dance for final assembly

Similarly, Lara Price said that though her child had a lovely experience at KDVP in primary school, she's excited for what's to come with their move to King David Linksfield as "it will be a great opportunity for my kids to meet new friends, experience new things, and grow and flourish."

Seeff said that though it may feel like a squeeze next year, there are plans for a new foundation phase building at King David Linksfield, and in the interim, there will be modular classrooms. He said the high school campus had enough classrooms for 930 students, with teachers having to share classrooms.

Though many parents have accepted the change, some remain upset. Lea Glass, a primary school parent, said that though she wants her child to go to a Jewish school, she can't bring herself to send them to King David Linksfield and will move elsewhere.

"Not everyone fits the Linksfield mould," she said. "Some children don't want a massive school where they feel lost. I'm comfortable with our decision to leave, it's a better fit than the limited choices we were left with."

Similarly, KDVP parent and lawyer Jason Morris said that although his children would attend King David Sandton next year, he plans to move his daughters out of the system altogether. "We're actively looking for other schools," he said. "The frustrating part is that the board made this decision in September, when enrolments elsewhere were already closed."

Seeff asserts that in this transitional period, the principals of the different schools have met more than 300 families to ensure that this transition will be as smooth as possible.

"It's focused on culture and people. With many

Victory Park teachers and leaders involved, there will be an infusion of their culture, though it won't replace Linksfield's, since most students and staff are from there. It will be a merging of culture, guided by staff and student leadership. The student leaders are working with Linksfield peers to introduce elements of Victory Park's traditions. It's a process, but the goal is to keep aspects of the

Victory Park culture alive.

"We held extensive parent sessions, met students, and brought in outside emotional support," said Seeff. "We worked hard to show that this wasn't a harsh business move but a decision we believed was best for the community. Parents and staff were deeply engaged, and I think families saw our sincerity. We believed in the

choice, and parents ultimately wanted their children to stay in the Jewish school system."

Antrim Place

NEW APARTMENTS & VILLAS

7 NORTHFIELD AVENUE
GLENHAZEL

RENTALS FROM R15 000
SALES FROM R1 575 000

SEVENSEVENTY.CO.ZA | 065 522 6544



SEVENSEVENTY

Chev seeks foster families as need keeps growing

GILLIAN KLAWANSKY

"We're trying to create a sense of belonging while making sure it's in the children's best interest," says Jaimie Deetlefs and Ronette Von Abo, social workers in Family Protection Services at the Chevrah Kadisha (the Chev). With a constant need for foster placement in the community, the team is seeking more prospective foster parents to match with the children in their care.

Though fostering children is something Shula and Meir Zaiden have considered for decades, they completed the process only recently. "My parents ran Oranje Orphanage in Cape Town before I was born, and it has always been part of our family narrative," says Shula. The couple also have friends who have fostered and adopted.

When they heard of a Chev advert seeking foster parents, they made enquiries. "We knew that there were Jewish children who needed a home, and that we had a home and space in our hearts." The couple is now in their fifth month of full-time fostering two children, aged three and four.

"In a similar way to having a newborn, you have to be aware that absolutely everything changes," says Meir. "Your relationships; your work; your family life; your spirituality; your energy levels; your finances; and your future plans. Naturally, the aim is to make all these changes positive. We're lucky to have a very supportive extended family who help whenever they can."

Regardless, foster situations often come with challenges, with vulnerable children in the community often staying at Arcadia Jewish Children's Home before being fostered. These children have parents who are unable to care for them full-time, be it due to substance use; abuse; mental illness; neglect; or other factors. Some children may also be orphans.

them to the right kids.

"There has to be a love connection," says Deetlefs. "You can't put any child with any parent, it has to be the right fit." The Chev arranges visits between prospective foster parents and children, where social workers help to build relationships between the parties involved.

The team also deals with the legalities involved in fostering, administering psychometric testing, and completing the required legal screening and home visits. They present their findings in reports presented in court.

Prospective foster parents need to release any idealised preconceptions they may have, they say. "People often want a baby and that's not the reality of it," Deetlefs stresses. "We have so many beautiful kids at Arcadia, but they range in age and are currently between six and 17."

Each of these children comes with baggage, the social workers caution. "Whether they're [aged] one or 15, they've gone through something to get to where they are now," Deetlefs says. Von Abo agrees, stressing the need for patience and a willingness to learn. "They must be able to work with kids who might have past trauma, who need a lot of unconditional love, support, attention, and understanding. That's why we also have so much training around this for our foster and temporary safe-care parents."

You need strength and an open mind for this journey, Deetlefs says. "We're looking for foster parents who are willing to go through the rocky road, to put the child's needs first and know that they're doing something beautiful." Each case is different, from blood-relative foster parents to strangers who don't have children or want to expand their families.

The Zaidens already have four biological children – their oldest has already moved out, while their youngest is 14. They have been supportive from the beginning, say their parents. "Bringing new children into an established family is complicated, especially when they come from an already complicated dynamic, so we are proud of our children's maturity, generosity, and love."

It's been amazing to watch the children grow, moving from multiple daily tantrums to settling into a routine and learning normal family behaviour, says Shula. "They want a mommy and a daddy, discipline and boundaries, and to see the same faces waking them up as those who put them to sleep," Meir says.

Though the fostering agreement is generally renewed multiple times, fostering is a long-term commitment, often extending throughout a child's life. Foster parents must also accept that the biological parents will still be involved through supervised visits, a sometimes-difficult scenario that the Chev prepares families to handle.

"The most challenging part is dealing with the 'unsettle' that happens after each biological family visit," Shula says. "We know that this is a non-negotiable part of fostering, and that we will always have a few days of them being off balance after those visits." The Zaidens are grateful for the Chev's support.

"There will be a lot of ups and downs that we have to help manage," Von Abo says. The biological and foster parents each have their own social worker, who collaborate with one another to ensure the best interests of the child.

While adoption may become an option, it's case-dependent and can happen only with the biological parents' consent. Regardless of where the fostering journey leads, with the Chev, foster parents will never walk this journey alone, says Deetlefs. "We're with them for every single step."

Before seeking external foster families, the Chev exhausts every option within the child's biological family. This was the case for Lauren and Damon Kalvari, who foster their niece. "There was a desire for all of us to live together, and our niece determined that this was an environment she wanted to be in," they say.

Their niece was 16 at the time and already had an established relationship with them. Though it was initially an informal living arrangement, the Kalvaris became formal foster parents for stability and practical reasons. This also enabled the Chev to give them appropriate support.

"The addition to our home has provided our only child with a sister she's never had," say the couple. "It's enriched our family, and it feels good to be making a valuable difference in another child's life."



It's enriched our family, and it feels good to be making a valuable difference in another child's life.

Though each child is well looked after at the home, something is missing. "You have your own bedroom and social worker, but you don't have a family," says Deetlefs, "you don't have that connection, that sense of belonging. Our hope for these kids is to create family. We will always manage, but we're putting out a plea to help more kids."

"The nature of our work means more kids will always come into our system," says Von Abo. "It helps to know that there are people who take them in." The Chev screens potential foster parents and works to match

CAMPAIGN EXTENDED

OUT OF ORDER FOR REPAIRS

Imagine arriving for monthly dialysis and finding this note on the machine.

For hundreds of Jews, SOSA is the only doorway to access proper healthcare,
Don't wait. Donate

Raising R3.3M
All Donations Doubled
www.SOSAmmedical.org/2025



JEWISH WOMEN'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY
Fund Raising Inc. 1978-2019

FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS TERTIARY EDUCATION GRANTS

BOOKS R40 EACH

IF YOU READ IT, YOU CAN DREAM IT

THE PHENOMENAL JWBS BOOK SALE

Last Sale Of 2025!

Sunday, 30 November 2025

Time: 9 am - 2 pm
Venue: Genesis Conference Centre - 10 Sandler Road, Fairmount (Mezzanine Level - one escalator level up from Pick n Pay)

011 485 5232
www.jwbs.co.za
office@jwbs.co.za

Novels ; Judaica- English and Hebrew, Religious and Secular; Nonfiction- subjects diverse and interesting; Children - all ages; Recipe books; Dictionaries; Plays; Poetry; And Classics!



DONATE NOW



South African Jewish Report

Targeting the good folk



It seems that all eyes are no longer just on Israel, as we were led to believe in the past two years. All eyes are on anyone who doesn't slate Israel as a genocidal maniacal country. Seriously, I'm beginning to believe that those who have come out vehemently against Israel and Jews are partly doing it to avoid being targeted themselves by our haters.

Not that I believe it's acceptable. It isn't. Siding with terrorists can never be acceptable. But the pressure on anyone who isn't vocally and blanketly anti-Israel and therefore antisemitic seems immense and totally unconscionable.

More and more, I'm seeing people who have stood up against antisemitism and Israel hatred in support of the truth being cancelled or put under huge pressure in their careers.

For the most part, these are individuals who stand up against violence, hatred, and bigotry and simply feel that they can't be silenced when seeing people supporting Hamas and Hezbollah.

Our haters are making it difficult for these individuals to find work, defaming them by saying that they support genocide and the murdering of babies and the like. They put massive pressure on potential employers not to hire them. How despicable can people get!

Then there are Jewish people who are targeted, like Philip Krawitz and his company Cape Union Mart. In this instance, Krawitz, who has endured extreme bullying and hatred, employs thousands of South Africans who then feed and educate their families with their earnings.

Our haters have pinpointed Krawitz because he happens to be Jewish and, like most of us, he supports a Jewish state for obvious reasons. He has never come out in support of the present Israeli government, nor has he ever publicly made anything other than humanitarian utterings about the Jewish state.

However, those who don't like Jews have him in their sights and are now reaching out for funders to help fight Krawitz in court. (See story on page 1.) Frankly, it's outrageous to call on others to help pay for your antisemitic antics.

However, what a relief it is to find that BackaBuddy has recognised what these people are trying to do, and have stopped it in its tracks. Well done BackaBuddy! It's great to know that there are people out there with backbones who recognise what is right and wrong in our world.

It beggars belief that our haters continue their charade of attacking Krawitz and Cape Union Mart, which is like cutting off your nose to spite your face in a country desperate for employment. If Krawitz goes down, so does every single person in his employ. And their families will be without a breadwinner.

I guess, though, those who despise us don't care a jot about anyone left unemployed. Their focus isn't on South Africans, although they live here and are clearly influential in government circles. Instead they support terror and bringing down democracy and the Western world.

You know, I would love to believe that they care about the plight of Palestinians, the very people they purport to support. However, when the ceasefire was implemented in October and Hamas had innocent Gazan Palestinians publicly executed, there was not a word from these supporters. So, who exactly do they support? Whose side are they really on?

When Palestinians come to South Africa to escape Hamas in Gaza, it took a while for anyone to come to support them. Those self-same supporters who have so much to say about Jews in South Africa who want to maintain a Jewish state, were nowhere to be seen when those Palestinians needed help. I wonder just how well they are being looked after now in South Africa. Or are they helpful only in being pawns in the war against the Jewish state?

It seems that this isn't the only posturing going on in South Africa. My sense of the G20 that took place last weekend is evidence of that. I have to say, I love the flowers on the side of the road and that many potholes – not even close to half – have been sealed. There was a massive push to clean up our city and make it look beautiful to impress international leaders. (See opinion pieces on page 2 and page 6.)

When a friend commented how astonishing it was that world leaders were in our city, I agreed. It is phenomenal that we hosted world leaders, only to what end exactly? What did South Africa get out of it? Or is that the wrong attitude to have?

Here's my thinking. In South Africa, about 19.7% to 22.2% of households face moderate to severe food insecurity, with nearly 3.5 million families lacking sufficient food daily. Hunger rates vary by province, with the Northern Cape, Eastern Cape, and Mpumalanga being most affected. These issues are particularly acute for female-headed households and children, who show high rates of malnutrition and stunting.

Okay, so we hosted world leaders here. What impact did it have on this? Nothing.

In the first quarter of this year, from January to March, 10 688 rape cases were reported to the police. The majority of the victims are women and girls. And we know that only one in nine rapes are actually reported to the police.

What impact did hosting world leaders here have on those women and girls? Not much.

I get that South Africa cannot only look inwards, but I think we are missing the point if we spend our government's time and energy focusing on people in other countries and on hosting leaders here.

Really, we need to heal our own country and find ways to sort out our ourselves first and foremost. Posturing and supporting terror isn't going to cut it. Supporting entrepreneurs and business leaders who are doing good and employing many is. Making sure that hate-filled people don't get away with targeting and bullying those on the side of good would also go a long way to get people to stand up and be counted in helping those who need help.

Shabbat shalom

Peta Krost
Editor

The G20 circus leaves town, but clowns remain

OPINION

STEVEN GRUZD



The South African government is basking in the glory of what it considers a successful G20 Summit in Johannesburg, having managed to forge consensus in a fractured world. This was despite the shenanigans of the United States. The meeting did manage to agree on a joint communiqué, albeit a rather *parev* one, dubbed the "Leaders' Statement". Much was made of this being the first G20 hosted on African soil. But what did all this talking accomplish?

Although the presidents of Argentina, China, Indonesia, and Mexico sent their proxies, and the US boycotted and then changed its mind too late, other heads of state and government were out in full force for the family photos. President Cyril Ramaphosa was praised for his statesmanship and deft handling of this unwieldy multilateral gathering at a time of great geopolitical and geoeconomic uncertainty, a world of tariffs, conflicts, and climate emergency.

A unique and informal collection of most of the world's leading economies from both the Global North and Global South, the G20 first met at heads of state and government level in 2008. This was in Pittsburgh, under the first Barack Obama administration, to iron out problems engendered by that year's global economic crisis. Since then, its remit has expanded to tackle issues like tax, the cost of capital, and climate financing. Many see it as a fairer division of global power than the moribund and paralysed United Nations.

The G20 has spawned offspring like the Business20; the Think20 (for think tanks); the Youth20; the Women20; and even the Oceans20 – not a heist movie sequel starring George Clooney. This year, the Y20 in pique didn't issue a communiqué, noting that of some 350 policy recommendations made over the years, not a single one was adopted by the G20. That's some indictment.

So, the 130-something meetings hosted in South Africa translate into a lot of frequent flier miles, and a not inconsiderable amount

Early in 2025, US President Donald Trump made it clear that he wouldn't attend the G20, in opposition to his baseless claims of "white genocide" in South Africa and some of Pretoria's foreign-relations choices, including closeness to China, Iran, Russia, and Hamas. This further strained a bilateral relationship on the skids. Trump first said he would send his "veep" JD Vance. Then about two weeks ago, Trump banned all US officials from attending. With mere days to go, he did an about-face and requested the US embassy be accredited to the



IT FELT LIKE WE WERE BUILDING A POTEMKIN VILLAGE FOR OUR FOREIGN GUESTS, MASKING OUR BROKEN, DERELICT CITY THAT HAS LONG GONE TO SEED.

summit. With South Africa due to hand over the G20 to the US as the next host in 2026, Ramaphosa refused to engage in this manner with US embassy staff. A low-key handover was due this week.

Trump mocked South Africa's inviting non-G20 leader to Johannesburg, saying it was like "a G100". Ramaphosa retorted that he'd be happy with a "G-million". One of the reasons that Ramaphosa unusually released the Leaders' Statement on the first day rather than the second day was to avoid the delegations making last-ditch changes to it. Countries like Argentina, Saudi Arabia, and the US, when it attended meetings, had endless quibbles over language, including terms related to gender, climate change, and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. In the end, the communiqué was considerably watered down, vague, and "lacked ambition", as critics charge.

Questions linger over whether South Africa will be invited to preparatory meetings in the US in 2026 or even the summit itself, given the strains in relations. The G20 operates a troika of the past, present, and future presidencies, which in this case would be SA, the US and the United Kingdom. In some quarters, there's a sense that the G20 needs to just hold its breath for the next year until the UK takes the helm. Trump is expected to hamstring the club considerably on the issues

he doesn't like. Only time will tell. Trump wants to hold the 2026 summit at one of his properties in Florida. Why not make a quick million or two?

On the bright side, I guess, at least Jozi got a minor facelift, with potholes and broken streetlights on major routes repaired quick sticks. On other roads not likely to be used by visiting delegations, not so much. The municipality even resumed building the Rea Vaya bus station outside Sandton City, a project that's gathered cobwebs for years. It felt like we were building a Potemkin village for our foreign guests, masking our broken, derelict city that has long gone to seed. Petrified of the traffic disruptions, I couldn't verify if the spanking new streetlights also operated at night. It's like putting lipstick on a pig – it remains a pig.

• Steven Gruzd is an analyst based in Johannesburg. He writes in his personal capacity.



of your taxes and mine. So many discussions – more like a whole "talk mall" rather than a "talk shop". G20 promises and pledges aren't measured from year to year, with limited oversight and follow through. The lives of ordinary people don't change. The G20 is a club and not a treaty; it has no enforcement mechanisms.

I'll admit that South Africa's G20 theme of "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability" had me concerned that Pretoria would use the G20 as a soapbox to criticise Israel. In fact, the conflict got only a short, rather anodyne mention in the Leaders' declaration: "We concur that, guided by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter in its entirety, we will work for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Ukraine, as well as ending other conflicts and wars around the globe." To be fair, war isn't a major focus of the G20.

Then there was the drama with Washington.

ELEVATE

inspired by Cape Town Kollel



TOGETHER

WE RISE

Scan Here to Donate

Join us in raising **R2.25m**
in just **4 Days!**

Every contribution counts!



DONATE @ [CHARIDY.COM/ELEVATE](https://charidy.com/elevate)

27 NOVEMBER – 01 DECEMBER

ELEVATE
KIDS inspired by Cape Town Kollel

ELEVATE
TEENS inspired by Cape Town Kollel

ELEVATE
inspired by Cape Town Kollel
Leadership and Learning

New Chassidim shul true to decades-old foundations

LEE TANKLE

Decades after the original Chassidim shul that served as a spiritual hub for the community in Yeoville, Johannesburg, closed its doors, a new chapter began this week with the opening of a new shul at the HOD Centre in Orchards.

The Chassidic community celebrated the opening of the new shul on 23 November, the culmination of an idea that started in 2021. The shul, which stands alongside the Sephardic shul at the HOD Centre, will honour traditions while providing a vibrant home for prayer, learning, and connection for generations to come.

Started in the 1930s, the original Chassidim shul was located near Ellis Park. However, as time went on, the community needed more space, and on 1 December 1963, the shul opened at a new location in Harrow Road, Yeoville, where it became a central hub for the Chabad-Lubavitch movement in South Africa.

The cornerstone was laid in 1963 by Henry Jacobson in memory of his parents, longstanding members of the Chassidic community.

Chairperson of the Torah Academy Board, Yisroel Stein, who grew up going to the Chassidim shul in Yeoville, said that during the 1970s, it served as a landing place for chabadniks who were in South Africa on *shlichut*.

"In February or March 1972, the Lipskars, Rebbe Mendel and Mashin Lipskar, arrived from France, marking the formal start of the Lubavitch-Khabar Lubavitch movement in South Africa," said Stein, "This became the centre where the *shluchim* were gathered and where the teachings of Chabad spread. The shul quickly became a hub of joy and community, changing the lives of those who came, and that was just the beginning."

As Yeoville started to deteriorate, Jewish people moved to the northern suburbs of Johannesburg, and the number of Chabad shuls around Johannesburg increased. The shul closed its doors in Yeoville in the 1990s. Its members started the Chassidim shul on the premises of Torah Academy school, where it would remain for 20 years.

"Many of us started in the Torah Academy shul, and over time, that became where most of the Chassidim families lived and that's where the community settled," said Stein.

Chassidim shul Rabbi Nesanel Schochet said that in 2006, members of the shul started a young adults *minyán*, and in 2012, a new young adult bracket of the Chassidim shul was started.

"When we started, we were in a single classroom in the Torah Academy school. It started small, and thank G-d, we are where we are today. But though size often is a

testament to confidence, size isn't the secret of our success."

He said the community had become unique in that more than 40% of its young couples were internationals. In these partnerships, one spouse often comes from abroad, from places like England, the United States, Canada, Australia, and many others, often more developed countries than South Africa is credited as being.

"Our community is built in the light of the Lubavitch Rebbe's teachings. Many of our members have been shaped by those teachings, whether through education or involvement in the community. The shul has become a true home for them, offering opportunity and a foundation for growth within a uniquely Chassidic identity," said Schochet.

These couples are drawn to the community's warmth, spirituality, purpose, and sense of brotherhood, qualities that shine even in a city with relatively few established Jewish institutions. Over the years, Schochet said, this diverse group has grown into a beautiful, tightly knit family.

"We went from being graciously hosted on shared school premises to taking an enormous leap: having our own beautiful campus with spaces for learning, children's programmes, youth accommodation, a sanctuary, and venues for events and gatherings," said Schochet.

The new premises include the main shul building, and a youth hall for boys, with one for girls on its way designed by David Alsfine from Alsfine-Angus Architects.

Hanging in the garden of the shul stands the original foundation stone and Magen David from the Yeoville shul, which works in tandem with the shul's logo of a tree of life. "It's a beautiful reminder that there's a rich history, a view of history that's still alive today," said Schochet.

Stein has vivid memories of walking to the Chassidim shul from Orchards. He remembers the palpable warmth on Shabbos and *yom tov*, how stepping inside made people feel alive, embraced, and uplifted. Even as a young child of seven or eight, the Magen David struck him as profoundly symbolic. For many, he says, their connection to the shul changed their lives. It marked the beginning of something truly beautiful that continues today, and the foundation stone and Magen David still capture that feeling.

"Our history is now part of us in a physical sense. I want to make one very beautiful point, which is part of the design of the campus, that the foundation stone and Magen David are situated above the children's playground in our campus," he said.



Moshe Sarchi, David Alsfine, Daniel Forman, Rabbi Nesanel Schochet, Sroli Gutnik, Chaim Bronstein, and Yisroel Stein outside the shul

2 UNITS LEFT

A HOLD SIGNATURE PROPERTY

Unique Investment Opportunity

IN AN URBAN CO-LIVING PROJECT LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN HAIFA OVERLOOKING THE PORT.

11 000 STUDENTS IN THE AREA

SEVEN UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

Communit Downtown

Hold has transformed this historical building in Haifa into an urban co-living space which will cater to the current lack of suitable accommodation for thousands of students and young professionals.

ONLY 2 APARTMENTS LEFT
STARTING FROM
NIS 1,760,000
excluding closing costs

- ✓ Building management
- ✓ Guaranteed rental income
- ✓ Building & tenant management
- ✓ Amenities include: gym, office workspace, beautiful rooftop venue



Co-op living, is changing how people live in Israel's cities. It's a way to own your private apartment while sharing designed spaces and services with others. It gives privacy and independence, but with a built-in community. It's smart, affordable, and growing fast in the Israeli real estate market.

Julian Nathan Managing Director



Contact
Julian Nathan

✉ julian@hold.co.il
☎ +27 87 551 0734
📞 +972 58 631 9754

Visit our website: www.hold.co.il

Pine Street Shul bids farewell to 65-year-old home

LEE TANKLE

Just days before the last Shabbat at Pine Street Shul on 29 November, before the congregation moves from the location it occupied for 65 years to its new home, members spoke of a sense of new beginnings not an ending.

"Community isn't about numbers. A successful shul isn't about how many people come to shul on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. It's not about three days a year. It's about engaging with those who show up and even those who don't, every single day of the year. It's about creating a space of community, of Torah study, and *mitzvot*."

So said Rebbetzin Temmi Hadar at the closing afternoon tea on 23 November. "Though the shul's current building is beautiful," she said, "it was built for the needs of the Jewish community of the 1960s, a vastly different community from the one today."

"What used to be the epicentre of the Jewish community, on the corner between Jewish Orange Grove and Orchards, is now nestled in the corner of our community," Temmi said.

"We have a large, grand sanctuary for the formality, pomp, and circumstances people appreciated and wanted in those days," she said, "Today, our sanctuary is often too big. Our social hall is often too small. Our children play cricket in the corridor, and sometimes our sons even come into



Rebbetzin Temmi and Zahava Hadar

the sanctuary on a bike. And our neighbours throw rubbish across the road."

Rabbi Motti Hadar said that when he and Temmi arrived at Pine Street Shul in August 2022, the shul was discussing selling the building, moving to a smaller space, or amalgamating with another community. However, they witnessed a community that was warm and has expanded over the past three years.

For him, the hardest part of this move will be keeping the warmth of the community. "Pine Street Shul is about its people," he said. "We have one week left on this beautiful, special campus. By next Sunday, we'll be out, and eight days from now, we'll be ready for the next chapter, bringing the energy and heart of Pine Street Shul into an interim space while we build its

future," the rabbi said.

Temmi said that after reviewing the shul's rapid growth over the past three years – the new programmes, children returning, and events so full they had to turn people away – it became clear that the community needed a larger, more flexible space. It needed a shul that could seat 500 people on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, yet still feel warm and inviting on a regular Shabbat.

"We needed space for mothers with babies, and for our children to play, learn, and feel like they belong in shul," she said. "Our new shul will seat 250 on a regular Shabbat, with the ability to expand to more than 500 when needed. It will have a dedicated floor for youth and teens; a moms-and-babes area; formal learning spaces; a library; a lounge; and the kind of facilities a 21st-century Jewish Joburg community needs. It will be bright, light, modern, and have excellent acoustics."

The new shul will prioritise accessibility, with a raised women's section that still accommodates anyone who needs assistance. There will be dedicated parking; outdoor grass areas for children to play; and an events space that extends outdoors.

Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein said that though for some the relocation of the shul is a sad occasion, for him, it signifies that the Jewish community in Johannesburg is only growing stronger.

"This community is on the other end. It's glowing, strengthening, improving, and the move is a sign of life, not the sign of an end. It's a sign of a brighter tomorrow," he said.

"The health and the dynamism of the South African Jewish community is directly dependent on our shuls. If our shuls are succeeding, then our community will succeed," said Goldstein, "Johannesburg doesn't have too many shuls. We have too few shuls. If you calculate the number of Jews in Johannesburg, and you calculate all the seats in all the shuls, you'll find that there are more Jews than there are seats in shuls. If there are more seats than Jews, then it's time to start closing. Until then, we have to open as many shuls as we can to reach as many Jews as we can."



Ashley Buchalter, Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein, Rabbi Motti Hadar, and Gary Cohen



Photos: Dylan Buchalter / Lens Flair

Rabbi Motti Hadar



Andy Nussbaum, Warren Cohen, Vicki Schlosberg, and Eden Cohen



Gary Cohen, shul president

Singing the praises of SA's financial market 'force of nature'

TRIBUTE

It is with deep sadness that we remember Professor Monica Singer CA(SA), who passed away on 16 November after a brave and long battle with cancer. Her life was one of great purpose, determination, and achievement. She was a true force of nature whose impact will be felt for many years to come.

Her professional legacy is well known. Monica was the founding CEO of Strate, South Africa's Central Securities Depository. In the late 1990s, when the country was still settling trades with paper and manual processes, she saw the risk, the inefficiency, and the fragility of that system and did something about it. In 1998, she built Strate from the ground up, and led the company for nearly 20 years. Monica drove the transformation of digitising clearing, settlement, and depository functions. This fundamentally modernised the South African financial market. Under her leadership, the country achieved international recognition and global top-tier rankings for the regulation of securities exchanges. What exists today as stable, neutral, trusted market infrastructure is, in many respects, the result of her vision and sheer force of will. In recognition of this work, Monica won the Jewish Achiever Business Achiever Award in the category "Unlisted Companies" in 2006, as well as the inaugural Europcar Women in Leadership Award.

Her influence extended beyond South Africa's borders. Through senior roles in AMEDA (Africa and Middle East Depositories Association); the World Forum of Central Securities Depositories; and multiple advisory bodies, Monica became a respected voice in the global conversation on financial market infrastructure. She had no hesitation in challenging poor processes, weak governance, or any hint of corruption. Her standards were high, and she expected people to live up to them.

After leaving Strate in 2017 and fulfilling her dream of living in Cape Town, Monica shifted her energy to the next evolution of financial systems, as in blockchain technology. As South Africa lead for ConsenSys and later as a Professor of Practice in the School of Accounting at the University of Johannesburg, she committed herself to understanding and educating others about blockchain technology for the accounting and auditing profession. She saw its potential to redesign trust, simplify verification, and reduce intermediated risk. Even while battling cancer, she stayed fully engaged in conversations, teaching, advocating, and pushing the industry to think further ahead.

But while her institutional achievements were significant, the personal impact she had on people was arguably more meaningful. Monica mentored widely and intensely. She pushed people hard because she genuinely believed in what they could become. Her support was never soft or vague. It was specific, demanding, and often life changing. She opened doors; insisted people study further; encouraged women to take up space in boardrooms and technical fields; and refused to accept self-imposed limitations. Many professionals today carry Monica's influence in their work and outlook.

Her personality was unmistakable. Monica was bold, outspoken, and relentless. She had little patience for excuses and even less for mediocrity. At the same time, she carried a deep spiritual curiosity with self-development being a particular interest for her. In her later years, she declared that her purpose was "to bring light in everything I do". Her energy, drive, and sheer presence filled every room she entered, inspiring those around her to do better and be better.

Her personal story is a reminder of what determination can achieve. Arriving in South Africa from Montevideo, Uruguay, in her early twenties with limited English, she completed her accounting articles by day and studied at night to qualify as a chartered accountant. She was a proud Jew with a deep love for Israel, and she supported Jewish communal life in meaningful ways, including funding the annual challah bake in Montevideo.



Monica Singer and her children, Jonty and Stef

ROB KATZ



Above all, Monica's greatest pride was her family. She loved her two children deeply, and considered them her true legacy. No professional achievement could compare to the joy and fulfilment she found in watching them grow into grounded, caring adults.

Monica lived with passion and led with purpose. She leaves behind a stronger financial system, many inspired professionals, and a family that was the centre of her world.

May her memory be for a blessing, and may her soul be bound up in the bond of eternal life.

• Rob Katz is the 2025 winner of the Investec Business Leadership Award.

ADVERTORIAL

REDHILL RECOGNISED FOR INNOVATION IN EDUCATION

Internationally awarded educator speaks about innovation, values, and the future of schooling

Fresh from receiving the GESS International Award for Outstanding Contribution to Education, Redhill School Executive Head Joseph Gerassi sat down for an in-depth conversation about innovation, educational leadership, and the responsibility schools hold in preparing young people for an uncertain world.

As a South African leading a school recognised on the world stage, why do you believe this award matters right now?

It signals that South African schools aren't simply looking outward for inspiration. We certainly learn from countries like Finland and other global leaders in education, but we aren't limited to that. Innovation is being generated here too, and it's being recognised internationally. That's reassuring for families who want to know that schools in this country are willing to adapt, reflect, and keep children at the heart of every decision.

The judges highlighted innovation and impact. In a crowded education landscape, what sets your leadership philosophy apart?

My approach is simple: purposeful change grounded in humanity. Innovation should never overwhelm childhood. It should support it. We constantly ask ourselves why we do things and whether they still serve young people in a fast-changing world. That kind of reflection keeps us honest and keeps us moving forward. I also believe that you cannot lead a school from behind a desk. Leadership means being fully engaged across all phases of school life, from the crucial foundation years to the rigorous academic stretch of the senior school.

Many families place strong emphasis on values-based education and social responsibility. How does Redhill nurture these elements?

Values are lived, not displayed. They show up in the small moments. How we treat one another, how we resolve conflict, and how we make decisions that affect young people. We focus on empathy, respect, intellectual honesty, and ethical leadership. Students learn to think critically and understand perspectives that differ from their own. They also develop self-assurance and a sense of agency. When they leave Redhill, our aim is that they feel prepared to face the world outside our gates with confidence and resilience.

Safety, belonging, and emotional well-being are priorities for parents today. What does Redhill offer in this regard?

Social and emotional well-being is as important as academics. A child who feels safe, supported, and understood will learn more deeply. We have invested in specialist staff, well-being structures, and daily routines that reduce unnecessary stress. Our diverse community adds richness too. Students see themselves reflected in the people around them, which strengthens belonging.

Redhill has become known for academic excellence. How do you maintain top results while changing so much about traditional schooling?

Innovation and excellence don't compete with each other. In fact, they enhance each other. Better sleep improves cognition. Less "busywork" results in deeper understanding. Assessments that focus on mastery lead to students who actually know the content instead of performing under pressure.

Our two pathways, the IEB (Independent Examinations Board) and the IB (International Baccalaureate), allow families to choose the route that best suits their child's strengths and future plans. Academic excellence is the natural outcome of a system that honours the whole child.

Your groundbreaking Reggio Emilia-inspired Early Learning Centre has been praised. What makes this approach so powerful?

Young children are naturally curious. Sometimes they ask so many questions, you find yourself needing a third cup of coffee before nine in the morning. That innate curiosity is exactly what learning should build on. For me, the Reggio approach respects children as thinkers. The environment becomes a co-teacher. Light, space, nature, and materials are all intentionally designed to spark imagination and problem-solving. Children explore, construct, question, and collaborate while expressing ideas in many different ways. They develop confidence and creativity, and in doing so, learn how to learn.

Redhill has launched the Redefine Education Conference, now seen as one of the most exciting platforms for future-focused thinking. Why is this important for families?

At its core, the Redefine Education Conference isn't about showcasing Redhill. It's about opening access. We bring local and international experts in neuroscience, creativity, artificial intelligence, and well-being to our campus so that educators, families, and thought-leaders across the country can benefit from the most current thinking. The reality is that education is evolving quickly. Parents deserve a school and a sector that stays ahead of that curve, not one that catches up later.

Any final thoughts?

On a personal note, to all educators – especially at this time of year – I want to say: your work matters deeply. Even on the days when it feels thankless, even when you are exhausted, your impact is real. Children notice. Families notice. The future notices. Education is long – often invisible – work, but trust me, your impact lasts for generations.



While South Africa goes on holiday in December, the SA Jewish Report will keep you up to date with news via email and WhatsApp.

To stay informed, scan to subscribe:



Prefer WhatsApp? Join a group: Go to: bit.ly/sajrwa1 or scan here



Our last print edition of the newspaper for 2025 will be on 11 December 2025 and will be back on 15 January 2026

WANTED!!!
TOP PRICES PAID



Free Evaluation & Buying on:

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

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



Collectors Investments
Dealers in Coins, Medals & Banknotes

Enquiries:

Tel: 011 880 9116 / 076 741 8801 • WhatsApp: 066 596 3215
32 Fricker Road, Illovo, Johannesburg

www.collectorsinvestments.com

Globalise Hagbah – a grassroots movement lifting Jewish pride

CLAUDIA GROSS

Being photographed doing something that is an honour gives the moment lifelong longevity. So, a new movement started at Marais Road Shul in Cape Town called Globalise Hagbah takes the honour of raising the Torah in shul to a new level.

Every Monday and Thursday morning, the Torah is lifted high in shul. This act of raising the Torah scroll after it has been read, known as *hagbah*, is one of the most visible and symbolic rituals in Jewish life. This ancient act has now taken on new life through the initiative born in the Marais Road morning minyan.

The initiative began informally. Two congregants, Hylton Arelisky and Morris Munitz, had for some time been taking photos of members during the ritual. One morning, another congregant, Rael Koping, was honoured with *hagbah*. Arelisky and Munitz photographed the moment, and sent it to him later that day.

Seeing himself holding the Torah, wrapped in his tallis and tefillin, surrounded by his community, stirred something profound in Koping. "It awakened a deep sense of connection with my Jewish heritage," he says.

That reaction became the spark for what would become Globalise Hagbah. "We realised this simple moment captured something essential," says Arelisky. "It showed Jewish identity in its purest form, a person physically connecting with Torah, visibly part of their community."

The choice of *hagbah* as the centre of the initiative was deliberate. Though seemingly modest, the ritual carries immense symbolism. The Torah is physically lifted and displayed to the congregation; its scrolls open for all to see. The lifter embodies both strength and reverence, displaying the sacred text while standing before the community.

"It's rich in the iconography of our identity," says Munitz. "Wearing a tallis, holding up the Torah, surrounded by others, it gives one a feeling of deep connection with our Jewish heritage." That imagery has become the heart of Globalise Hagbah. Each photograph captures a moment of engagement with faith and community. The pictures, taken respectfully and often anonymously, form a growing digital gallery of connection and pride.

As the movement gained momentum locally, the founders began to imagine a broader purpose. With antisemitism rising worldwide and many Jews feeling isolated or hesitant to express their identity publicly, Globalise Hagbah became more than a photographic project. It became a way to reclaim visibility and unity.

"In response to the growing isolation of diaspora Jewry and the rise in antisemitism, this project seeks to reconnect Jews worldwide with their roots through a symbolic and visually impactful act," says Arelisky. "It transcends levels of religious observance."

The project's message is simple: wherever Jews gather, the Torah is lifted, and the community looks on. That act, repeated for generations, binds Jews across continents and traditions. Globalise Hagbah turns a shared ritual act into a visual movement, one that strengthens communal pride and reminds Jews everywhere that they are part of something enduring.

The initiative's process is simple but meaningful. After a *hagbah*, the participant is photographed with the Torah. The photos are uploaded to a central collection and shared on a dedicated social media platform. To protect privacy, all images are anonymous, with no identifying details attached.

Social media management has been taken on by another member, Ariel Katzen. "Ariel has vast experience in this field," says Munitz. "With his help, we hope to reach the broader Jewish community, locally and abroad."

The online platform serves two purposes. It allows participants to see their contribution as part of a growing mosaic of global Jewish pride; and it creates a

digital record of a unique moment in Jewish life. Each photograph becomes part of a collective story.

Looking ahead, the founders hope to expand participation far beyond Cape Town. "Our mission is to have every shul across the globe participate," says Arelisky.

The goal isn't only to create a vast archive of images, but to foster a sense of shared identity. "By doing so, we aim to build unity, pride, and connection across diverse Jewish communities," says Munitz. "We would love to get Adam Sandler and Michael Rapaport to send us a picture of them doing *hagbah*. It would show that this really is a global Jewish moment."

For Munitz, *hagbah* has taken on additional meaning in recent months. He is saying kaddish for his late mother, which has taken him to different shuls on Mondays and Thursdays. At each one, he encourages new participants to join in, inviting them to perform *hagbah* and become part of the growing project.

"It's a beautiful way to honour her memory," he says. "Each time I visit a different shul, I meet someone new, and they often say yes to doing *hagbah*. It connects people in the most natural, uplifting way."

Already, interest has begun to spread. Congregations



Hagbah brings joy during weekday *shacharis* services

from other parts of South Africa have reached out to learn how to participate. Members abroad, too, have expressed enthusiasm about joining the project and sharing their own *hagbah* moments.

What makes Globalise Hagbah compelling is its blend of tradition and accessibility. Unlike many rituals that require specific learning or religious expertise, *hagbah* is a physical and communal act that speaks to anyone familiar with Jewish prayer. It requires presence, not scholarship.

For Munitz, who describes himself as more traditional than strictly observant, the experience resonated on a deeply personal level. Writing about it later, he described *hagbah* as "an ancient ritual that doesn't require a knowledge of religious Hebrew to participate. It's not a political statement or a strictly religious act. It's easily accessible, yet profoundly connected to our thousands of years of heritage."

That accessibility, he believes, makes it the perfect vehicle for reawakening connection among Jews who may feel distant from religious life.

"It met my need to affirm and connect with my Jewish identity publicly and profoundly," he wrote.

The founders also see Globalise Hagbah as a historical record. At a time when Jewish communities face increasing hostility, visibility and unity take on new importance.

The photographs aren't simply personal mementoes, they are part of a collective archive documenting how Jews, in this moment in history, respond to challenges with affirmation rather than retreat. "Future generations will look back and see how our community met these times," says Munitz. "This record is important for that reason."

Although born in the Cape Town morning minyan, the idea behind Globalise Hagbah reaches far beyond one congregation. That message was underscored recently when Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein performed *hagbah* at Ohr Somayach as part of the initiative. His participation, say the founders, felt like a moment of validation for the project's aim to unite Jews across South Africa and beyond through shared, visible pride in Torah.

Unheard aspects of Johnny Clegg voiced in new book

CLAUDIA GROSS

New research into the life and work of Johnny Clegg reveals aspects of his musical and cultural journey that have seldom been documented, drawing on previously unheard recordings, archival material, and fresh anthropological perspectives.

Scholars contributing to *Johnny Clegg: Critical Reflections on His Music and Influence* say that exploring his early sound world, his encounters with Zulu culture, and the way he confronted loss and mortality has opened up new ways of understanding an artist whose presence shaped South Africa's social landscape.

Michael Drewett, a Rhodes University sociology professor and co-editor of the collection, said that many of the contributors had long been immersed in different dimensions of Clegg's work. "There is a very strong sense of people's love for that topic."

Some of the most striking new material comes from the Hidden Years Music Archive, housed at Stellenbosch University. Sound archivist Pakama Ncume has spent years digitising and cataloguing thousands of reels, LPs, and cassettes preserved by David Marks, whose philosophy was to capture not only the music but the atmosphere of performance.

Ncume's immersion in this archive offered an intimate window into Clegg's beginnings. As she listened through recordings from the 1970s, she encountered "a white man wearing Zulu regalia and standing so close with a

black man while the system had taught us that the two do not mix". She first saw this as a child on an LP sleeve in her mother's collection, but the archive gave her access to Clegg's voice as it developed. "You could feel a man who is still finding himself," she said.

The unedited nature of the Hidden Years recordings was central to this insight. "He wanted to keep the conversations between artists and audiences, the jokes that were shared, everything," Ncume said of Marks. This approach preserved hesitation, humour, and vulnerability alongside music. It also preserved the energy of spaces where young musicians tested apartheid's boundaries.

Ncume said the early tapes revealed a shy teenager navigating unfamiliar cultural terrain while forming relationships that would shape his identity. Listening to the recordings made the cultural exchange audible. "He really meant it," she said. "It wasn't accidental that he became a white Zulu."

Her chapter in the book, co-written with her former supervisor, focuses on Clegg's live performances between 1970 and 1978. These include appearances at the National Folk Festival, the Free People's Concerts, and the Market Theatre Café. The research required extensive transcription. By tracing specific performances, they were

able to follow how Clegg grew musically, linguistically, and politically during that period.

Ncume said engaging with the archive was exciting and emotionally demanding. "It can be draining because sometimes you wonder if you are really ready to open those wounds." Yet, "If we don't open them, when will they ever heal?" For her, the work helps fill gaps in South Africa's cultural history and honours "the people who played a crucial role in shaping the South Africa we have today".



Photo: Ian Ossendyver
Johnny Clegg

Where Ncume's work focuses on early performance, anthropologist Marguerite de Villiers Coetzee offers a different lens: an exploration of how Clegg engaged with mortality, loss,

and endings. Born in 1990, Coetzee grew up hearing about the "Rainbow Nation dream". She first learned about Clegg when a teacher described "this white Zulu who when he spoke on the phone, you would not know that he wasn't a first language speaker". She found it "fascinating that someone could re-appreciate their identity".

She studied anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand, where she and Ncume were the only two students in their Zulu class. They visited places significant to Clegg's artistic development, including Jeppe Hostel. "Music was the window that made sense," Coetzee said. It helped her understand social worlds she hadn't grown up in.

Her chapter, "King of Time: A Lament for Johnny Clegg", examines how Clegg made sense of death, both

of those close to him and his own approaching mortality. She looked at how he processed the deaths of band member Dudu Ndlovu and anti-apartheid activist David Webster, and how he confronted his own cancer diagnosis. She analysed his final albums and memoir to understand how he "dealt with death to kind of learn lessons and read this loss myself".

Coetzee's archive is partly visual. She has photographed many of Clegg's performances over the years. "I might have been to something like 40 of his concerts," she said. Her photographs appear in the book to complement her reflections.

Drewett noted that one of the most compelling elements across the chapters is how each author's personal history intersects with Clegg's. Contributors discovered Clegg in different decades and under different social conditions, which shaped their approaches to the material.

His own chapter examines the cultural boycott during apartheid. Although he had previously written about censorship, he found new layers in the boycott's history. He uncovered publications he "didn't even know existed", describing the experience as "incredible".

New insights into Clegg's legacy arise not only from archival and academic work but from the memories of people who encountered him in formative ways. One audience member at the Cape Town book launch recalled watching Clegg on television during apartheid after her mother called her into the room saying, "Come and see what I am seeing." She remembered the impact of witnessing a white musician visibly crossing boundaries. She said she drew strength from seeing someone act without regard for what "could or would have or might have been".

Another person reflected on how limited the written record about Clegg has been until recently. "There's only one book to date that deals with Johnny, and that's his autobiography. Now, there are two," he said. The new scholarship fills gaps, he said, pointing out, "There's so much to be written about this man."

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Gender-based violence – a communal issue

The campaign 16 Days of Activism started on 25 November, a global drive to combat the devastating impact of gender-based violence and femicide (GBV) on women, children, and vulnerable groups. This is a cause so immediate and pressing in South Africa and within our community.

Last Friday, 21 November, women from the South African Jewish Board of Deputies participated in the "national shutdown against GBV" at Constitution Hill in Johannesburg. The gathering, which was timed to coincide with the start of the G20 in the city, was a powerful indictment of our nation's staggering GBV statistics, a visceral reminder that indifference is no longer an option. Participants reported that it was an exceptionally powerful protest alongside thousands of women – and a few men – on an issue that unites us as South Africans. It was a rare and moving moment of genuine national unity in the face of a horror that affects us all.

GBV isn't an "us and them" problem, it's an urgent and pressing issue within our community, and we cannot – and may not – be blind to it. Unfortunately, there's a deep-set stigma within the community, and issues of intimate partner violence, assault, and general unwanted touch are either under-reported, dismissed, or buried in silence. This reticence is compounded when speaking out is branded as a betrayal, *lashon hara*, or a

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

ABOVE BOARD

Karen Milner



mere airing of dirty laundry.

This taboo must be broken, and our leaders have to take the lead. They need to state clearly that GBV has no place in our shuls, schools, or institutions, and that perpetrators will not be protected. Integrity and moral example are the fundamental scaffolding of religious and community leadership, and I implore our leaders to have the courage to take on the scourge of GBV.

Thankfully, there are avenues for those who find themselves affected by GBV or unwanted touch, both inside and outside the community. I must highlight the work done by Koleinu SA, which gives support and assistance to victims. I must also highlight the exceptional work done by the Chevrah Kadisha, which also deals with cases of abuse within our community. But we cannot leave it to them alone, we must all raise awareness, address the root causes, and act collectively.

I call on all sectors of society and community, especially our communal leadership to unite in building a safer community, eradicating the causes of GBV, and taking firmer action to break the taboo for victims by holding perpetrators accountable.

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

OFFICES TO LET ST ANDREWS OFFICE PARK



Modern 258m² office suite in a quiet, secure office park near The Neighbourhood shops and with easy access to the N1. Includes a balcony and 8 parking bays. Immediate occupation available.

**Contact Stanley
083 277 1999**



MARINA SHEAR
TRUSTED ISRAEL REALTY

Marina Shear - Israel Realty can help anyone wishing to make Aliyah or purchase a property in Israel (Kids / Vacation Home / Investment).

She has assembled teams of English-speaking lawyers, mortgage brokers, builders, property managers, inspectors, and designers.

A Foothold in Israel – Your Guide to Acquiring an Apartment in Israel

Go to www.marinashear.com to contact Marina or download the 2015 Guide

Who needs Black Friday when we're simply special

Black Friday used to mean queues outside shops at 05:00. Today it's much more sophisticated. We sit at home in pyjamas hitting "refresh" on Takealot like we're trying to resuscitate the economy.

Credit cards quiver, delivery vans zig-zag across Glenhazel, and every South African becomes a part-time bargain hunter with the reflexes of a teenager on PlayStation 5, two Red Bulls in.

Watching this national frenzy unfold online, I can't help wondering: what if our own community joined in? What if, just for one glorious day, shuls, schools, the CSO, Hatzolah, and even the Chevrah Kadisha unleashed Black Friday specials the way retailers do?

The results would be spectacular... and probably chaotic.

First up, the shuls. They could run a "Buy One Aliya, Get One Free - today only!"

A spiritual offer for the honour-conscious, the uncle who hovers near the *bimah*, and the grandfather who insists he "never takes anything".

Next up, the Early-Bird Minyan Discount. The first 10 men in the door get a "eat at the kiddush first" voucher, and the smug glow of moral superiority.

And for those who take seating seriously, there's the

High Holy Day Upgrade:

Buy standard membership, get automatically upgraded to your *yom tov* seat. (Excludes the coveted back-left corner, where everyone hides.)



Then there's the Rabbi's Sermon Fast Pass - a once-in-a-lifetime, Black Friday-only ticket allowing you to skip directly to the final blessing. Ideal for anyone who "has a thing at 11" or simply reaches their sermon limit after 90 seconds.

Schools, naturally, would dive in enthusiastically.

The tuckshop announces a Mega Meal Deal: buy one toasted cheese, get a free Coke. Teachers acknowledge

the deal, but deny responsibility for the sugar storm that follows.

In the uniform shop: Buy two kippot, get the third (guaranteed to be lost immediately) free.

Parent-teacher meetings get a makeover too, with a Premium Appointment Upgrade: trade your rushed three-minute slot for a luxurious four-minute session including eye contact, nodding, and placating phrases like "Your child is doing fine."

And for one shining hour, the impossible becomes reality:

Homework Amnesty: all forgotten homework forgiven. (Terms and conditions: can be cancelled at any point, without warning, depending on teacher mood, caffeine levels, and class behaviour.)

The CSO kicks things off with the Security Support Bundle: sign up as a donor today, and receive:

- A reflective vest
- A fridge magnet
- A limited-edition sticker: "I survived the community WhatsApp group."

Hatzolah's Black Friday Special is equally irresistible. Sign up as a monthly donor, and enjoy the unspoken guarantee that although they absolutely remember your 03:00 panic call, they will never judge you for it. You also get another magnet. There are always magnets.

And then, handled with deep reverence and zero Black Friday hysteria, the Chevrah Kadisha offers the End-of-Life

INNER VOICE

Howard Feldman



Peace of Mind Package.

It includes a calmly managed phone call, gentle guidance, professionalism, a new copy of the "Jewish Guide to Death and Mourning", and three additional days on the Take Them A Meal list. Proof that even on Black Friday, dignity doesn't come cheap.

As funny as it is to imagine this, the satire highlights something real: our community is its own kind of ecosystem. And has the GDP of a small country.

Whether it's a *simcha*, a crisis, or a neighbour in need, we don't wait for Black Friday to arrive. We lift, we help, we cook, we daven, we argue, we hug, and we sign up for rosters we'll regret later. It's messy, beautiful, and it works.

So, if Black Friday ever did arrive in the communal world, the best deal wouldn't be "Two aliya's for the price of one", or a discounted kippah that your child will lose before Mincha.

The real blockbuster special, the one that would sell out before sunrise is this: Community: 100% Off. Free for life. Unlimited support, endless opinions, guaranteed chaos, and absolutely no option to change your seat.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT MACHANEH SPECIALS MONTH END SPECIALS

Offers valid till 3 December 2025 or while stocks last

KOSHER AT EVERYDAY PRICES

MANY MORE SPECIALS IN-STORE

- KOSHERWORLD PRODUCTS AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING CHECKERS STORES:**
- BLUBIRD BIRNAM
 - THE NEIGHBOURHOOD LINKSFIELD
 - 90° ON RIVONIA
 - HYDE PARK
 - LXX SANDHURST
 - THE POINT MALL SEA POINT
 - PLETTENBERG BAY MALL

24⁹⁹

DYNASTEA BUBBLE ICE TEA ROSE & BLUEBERRY 340ML

71⁹⁹

BLUE BEAR GRAPE JUICE NATURAL RED 750ML

AVAILABLE AT KW Checkers ALL STORES

253⁹⁹

BAGLIETTI MOSCATO 750ML

177⁹⁹

RIBERTINELO MOSCATO 750ML

43⁹⁹ BACCHINI COUSCOUS 500G

117⁹⁹ CAPE POINT HAKE FILLETS 800G

24⁹⁹ CAPE POINT PILCHARDS IN CHILLI SAUCE 400G

132⁹⁹ CLOVER CHEESE ASSTD 800G

21⁹⁹ CLOVER SMOOTH YOGHURT ASSTD 6'S EACH

15⁹⁹ CLOVER SUPER M LEMON CREAM 300ML

24⁹⁹ OUTCAST FOODS FALAFEL SELECTED 220G EACH

62⁹⁹ CHOC TREE HONEYCOMB 100G

26⁹⁹ KOO BEANS BUTTER BEANS IN BRINE 410G

52⁹⁹ BEACON FIZZER SELECTED 24'S EACH

FROM FREEZER TO FRESH IN MINUTES

FEIGELS FAMOUS MEALS

109⁹⁹

Beef Curry & Rice 500g

Hometown Pharmacy

For Effective Relief From Constipation

GLYCERINE SUPPOSITORIES FOR ADULTS 12'S

139⁹⁹

GLYCERINE SUPPOSITORIES FOR CHILDREN 12'S

087-803-4000 082-711-4342

HOMETOWNPHARMACY@PROPHARM.CO.ZA

129⁹⁹ FRISCO COFFEE INSTANT GUSSET REFILL ORIGINAL 750G

44⁹⁹ LAAGER TEA ROOIBOS 80'S

62⁹⁹ MAGALIES NECTAR ASSTD 1L EACH

62⁹⁹ MONTAGU MONTAGU MIX 200G

32⁹⁹ MAIZENA FLOUR 500G

58⁹⁹ POT OF GOLD Crunchy Peanut Butter 795G

32⁹⁹ SELATI SNOW SUGAR ICING 500G

24⁹⁹ PURE WIPES FACIAL DEEP CLEANSE & SENSITIVE 1'S EACH

59⁹⁹ SWARTLAND KITCHEN RUSK ASSTD 400G EACH

KosherWorld TRULY KOSHER

THESE DEALS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE AT KOSHERWORLD JHB