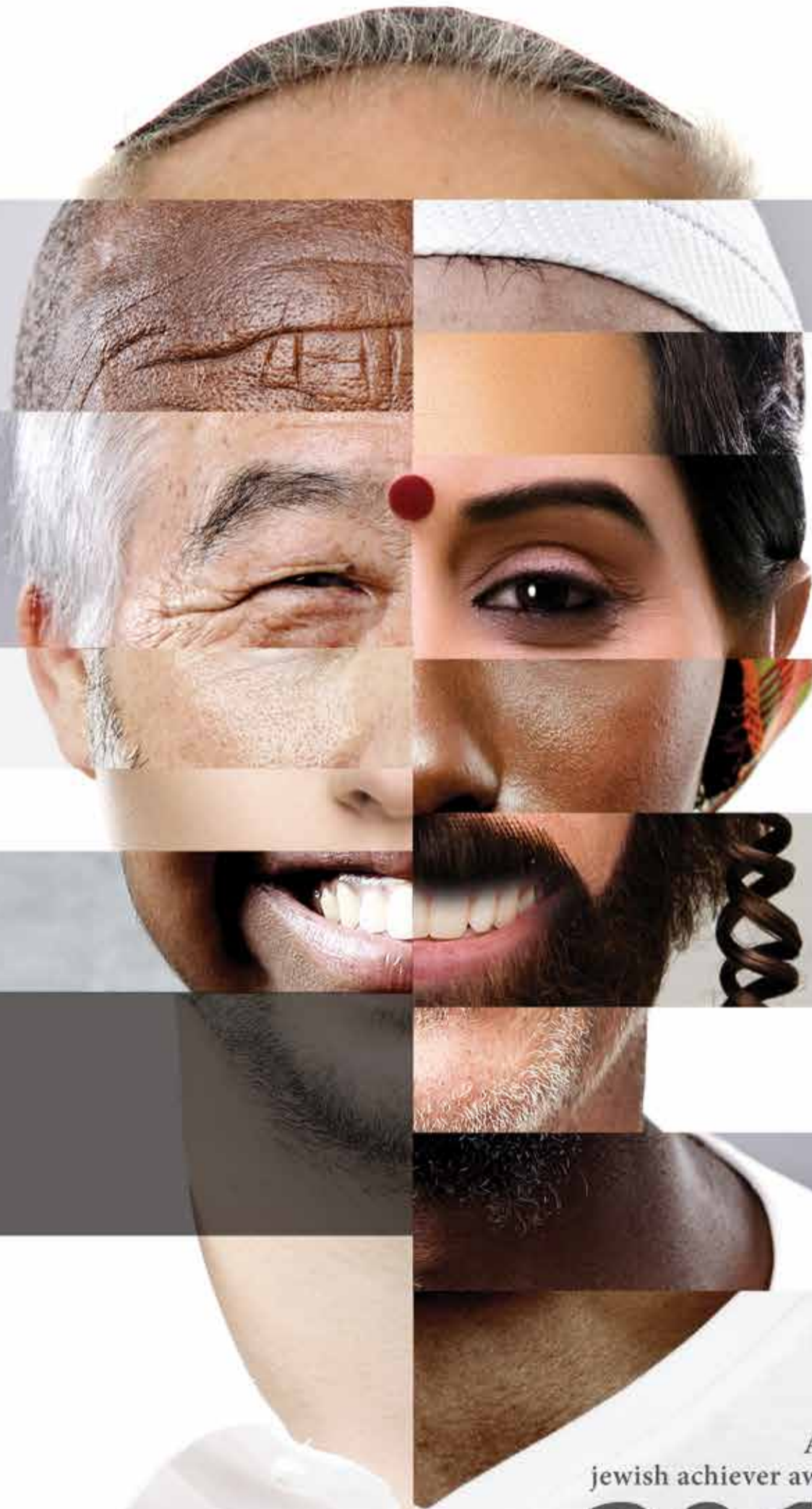


IGNITING THE SOUL OF AFRICA

Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2016



Absa
jewish achiever awards

2016



Jewish Report

ABSA

CHIVAS
LIVE WITH CHIVALRY

KIA

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THE CREATIVE COMPANY

Europcar

RICH MARK
THE BEST OF THE BEST



Mazaltov to the achievers of 2016

We salute your effort, courage and determination.
May you grow from strength, from all of us at Pick n Play.



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TRULY KOSHER

*Mazaltov to the Winners
and all Nominees*



HOWARD SACKSTEIN

CHAIRMAN: ABSA JEWISH ACHIEVER AWARDS AND SA JEWISH REPORT

This year marks 175 years of an organised Jewish community in South Africa - and what an extraordinary 175 years it has been.

Our ancestors came here as penniless refugees looking to build the “golden medina”. They escaped persecution and pogroms in Eastern Europe to become labourers, gold miners and farmers. They were smouse in the Cape and peddlers in the platteland, battling to survive. But through communal efforts, through hard work and through sweat and toil, they ensured that their children would become lawyers and doctors and professors and artists and entrepreneurs. And their children and grandchildren are sitting in this room tonight – a community inseparably bound together by a common past and jointly sharing a common destiny.

Who would have imagined 175 years ago that Joe Slovo, a Yiddishe bundist, who hailed from my little shtetl of Abel in Lithuania, would foster a revolution assisted by Goldberg, Goldreich, Wolpe and Bernstein? Who could have conceived that his wife, Ruth First, would die in a parcel bomb in Mozambique and Albie Sachs would lose an arm and later be joined on the bench of the Constitutional Court by Arthur Chaskalson and Richard Goldstone?

On the dusty roads that the smouse travelled, who would have imagined that 175 years later we would be reading Nadine Gordimer, listening to Johnny Clegg and laughing at Pieter-Dirk Uys.

While studying Talmud in little shops in towns that no one had heard of, who would have predicted that Philip Tobias would dig up the Cradle of Humankind and those among us would build empires like Bidvest, SA Breweries, Sun International, Glencore, Amdocs, Pick n Pay, OK Bazaars, Liberty and Discovery?

Who in their wildest dreams, while carrying coal in the Free State, could have dreamt that a group of penniless refugees escaping persecution would be able to tell a story of how to ignite a nation?

This is the inspirational and extraordinary story of our history. And we at the SA Jewish Report are there every week to tell stories about, and to, our community.

As we have thrived as a community, we have built institutions and welfare organisations, orphanages and security networks, ambulance services and soup kitchens; we have built schools and welfare organisations; and we have reached out to the broader community with our organisations like Operation Hunger, Ikamva Labantu and Afrika Tikkun.

Every year we gather at the Jewish Achiever Awards to tell our stories, to reflect as a community, and to hope that our stories of struggle and triumph will somehow ignite a fire in

others. At the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards 2016, we continue this tradition as we welcome 10 new winners into our fold.

All money raised at the Jewish Achiever Awards goes to support the free publication and distribution of the SA Jewish Report newspaper, the only national newspaper of our community and, may I say, the only actual newspaper of our community.

The world is changing and media is changing and yet we keep on growing as a newspaper, reaching more and more of our community through our hard copy edition, our website, our weekly newsletter and our Facebook and social media presence.

So tonight we say “thank you” to all those of you who have bought tables and sponsored awards; to those who have joined our organising committee and the Board of the SA Jewish Report newspaper; to those who gave of their time to join our four panels of judges; and to Garron Chaitowitz of Grant Thornton who audited our results. All of you are selfless and dedicated, but none more than Geoff Rothschild and Solly Kramer who have gone out of their way to assist us, way beyond any reasonable degree of expectation.

This year we are delighted to welcome Richmark as a new sponsor who join with Absa, Kia, Chivas, Europcar, and the Creative Counsel as our dear valued friends and partners. Our community recognises you, supports you and embraces you all.

Our association with Absa is deep and warm and strong. Absa are our backstop, our backers and our brothers. We have no doubt that you will continue to support Absa to reciprocate their warm and generous support to ourselves and our community. To Maria Ramos, Dave Hodnett, Craig Bond, NomkitaNqueni, Roy Ross, Banie Claasen and Mark Still, you all forever have the loyalty of our community.

A huge thanks to both our professional staff, Felicity, Jeremy, Mark, Vanessa, Britt and Roni and to our volunteers especially Dina Diamond and Jodi Kramer.

If we tell inspiring stories tonight – there is one story that should never be forgotten. This year we lost one of the founders of the SA Jewish Report newspaper, an icon of our community, and one of the most remarkable ever South Africans.

Bertie Lubner, my colleague, my friend, my mentor passed away after a life of giving. His story is the story of how each person can make a difference to the world. Tonight, in honour of Bertie we will present the Lifetime Achievement Award in his memory.

May his story and the stories told tonight, ignite the spirit of Africa.



CRAIG BOND

CHIEF EXECUTIVE: RETAIL AND BUSINESS BANKING, BARCLAYS AFRICA



RAY LEVIN

CEO OF KIA MOTORS SOUTH AFRICA

To “ignite the soul of Africa” is clearly a tough challenge, but it’s something that the annual Jewish Achiever Award nominees and winners are doing - every day.

This year’s award winners are again the cream of the crop. They are exemplary members of society who are truly devoted to making a sustainable difference in their communities and to the development and building of our country. These are individuals who not only believe in the success of their communities, but in the growth of the economy as well.

At Barclays Africa and Absa, we have developed a strategy premised on the principles of creating shared value, which we call Shared Growth. Shared Growth is our pan-African business philosophy that reaffirms our commitment to economic and social growth on the continent.

It is about having a positive impact on society while also realising business growth. Our relationship with communities such as the Jewish community and the priority we place on finding ways to positively impact such communities, is testament to this.

In short, Shared Growth speaks to joint prosperity. When we share, we grow. When we grow, we all prosper. We see our long-term sponsorship of the annual Jewish Achiever Awards as a prime example of how we are coming together with the Jewish community to create value and Shared Growth.

Across the world, passion, striving for excellence and the drive to sustainably improve the world for the better, are key desired attributes. The success of any nation is dependent on its best and brightest making significant contributions to business, entrepreneurship and the humanities.

Our business philosophy incorporates our aim to help people, customers, colleagues and the communities in which they live, achieve their ambitions in the right way. The Jewish Achiever Awards is a wonderful platform to honour members of the South African Jewish community who have done so, and thus significantly contributed to South Africa.

On behalf of Absa and Barclays Africa, I am pleased to extend our heartfelt congratulations to the 2016 Jewish Achievers. You are indeed igniting the soul of Africa in your continued excellence and stand as role models. It is through your achievements that an environment conducive to success and advancement can be created. You are extraordinary South Africans.

Absa is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Barclays Africa Group, which is listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and is one of Africa’s largest financial services groups. We offer a range of retail, business, corporate and investment banking and wealth management products and services primarily in South Africa and Namibia. We operate in 12 countries with almost 40 000 permanent employees and more than 12 million customers.

Barclays Africa’s registered head office is in Johannesburg and has majority stakes in banks in Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania (Barclays Bank Tanzania and National Bank of Commerce), Uganda and Zambia. We also have representative offices in Namibia and Nigeria.

Barclays Bank PLC has operations in Egypt and Zimbabwe which are an integral part of Barclays Africa’s African business and continue to be run by Barclays Africa operationally.

KIA Motors South Africa is honoured to sponsor the KIA Community Service Award at the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards for the third consecutive year. It is especially meaningful as Ray Levin, CEO of KIA Motors South Africa (KMSA), was the recipient of the Jewish Achiever Award for Unlisted Company of the Year in 2013, an award he shared with Ran Neu-Ner and Gil Oved from The Creative Counsel.

With loyal and unwavering support of the KIA brand from within the Jewish community, Levin considers this sponsorship as a way to show gratitude, but to also give something back to the community from a corporate perspective.

Over and above his role as CEO of KMSA, Levin is a firm believer in making a tangible difference in the lives of others, and has over the years been a staunch supporter of a number of non-profit charities in his personal capacity and through KIA’s CSI initiatives, including active support of Shout SA, the Smile Foundation, CANSA and CHOC.

In 2015, Levin participated in the inaugural South African CEO SleepOut, and is a vocal support of the Imperial i-Pledge, which endeavours to promote safe and responsible road usage among its 35 000 employees in order to encourage greater awareness of road safety and the cultivation of safer, more considerate driving habits among all South African road users.

KIA Motors South Africa is also a proud and active supporter of Imperial’s Safe Scholars Programme, and the Car Seats for Kids campaign.

Globally, the KIA brand is living up to the meaning of its name, “Rising out of Asia”, boasting one of the most awarded design teams in the world, and continued recognition for outstanding quality, most recently ranking in first position among all brands in the JD Power Initial Quality Survey - a feat that no non-premium automotive brand has been able to achieve in 27 years.

Locally, the overwhelmingly positive changes in public perception about the brand continues to challenge the existing, traditional players with an exciting alternative across a variety of vehicle segments. Continuously growing popularity has seen KIA’s national dealership footprint expand to more than 75 operations across South Africa, with coverage for the brand into Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

“We thank South Africa for its continued support of the KIA brand and its products, without which we would not have been able to show the continued market growth that we’ve been fortunate to experience,” says Levin.

“While South Africa continues to face a number of socio-economic challenges, we are a resilient and resourceful nation, and we, as KIA Motors South Africa, will continue to support the various organisations that are active agents of change in this landscape,” says Levin.

“As a South African and a businessman, it gives me great pleasure to be able to support and assist community projects that focus on the upliftment of people, that facilitate increased access to education and the eradication of poverty and homelessness.”

SIBUSISO SHANGASE

HEAD OF MARKETING: PRESTIGE BRANDS



Chivas Regal is once again proud to sponsor the 2016 Jewish Achiever Awards - the prestigious awards ceremony dedicated to excellence within the South African Jewish community.

We at Chivas have a rich heritage of luxury and unity - ideals that we share with the Jewish community. Chivas Regal, created by brothers, John and James Chivas, is the world's first luxury

whisky mastered through the delicate art of blending fine ingredients, passion, luxury and social entrepreneurial spirit.

It is in this spirit that we are proud to present the Chivas Humanitarian Award which celebrates an individual who maintains a fine balance between material wealth and spiritual fulfilment.

We would like to congratulate all the winners at this year's Jewish Achiever Awards and we look forward to the celebrations - the Chivas Regal way.

In 2014 Chivas Regal launched The Venture, a search for the most promising social entrepreneur in South Africa. The Venture is backed by a \$1 million fund for the most innovative enterprises that turn a profit and make a difference to the world. The success of the campaign was celebrated through the crowning of David Gluckman from Lumkani Fire Detection in 2015 and Jaco Gerrits of Crash Detecth this year.

In due course we will look to announce the third year of The Venture. Launching this month, The Venture will once again call on social entrepreneurs to demonstrate that their enterprise is indeed one that aims to improve our society while making a profit.

These are individuals who are redefining what "success" is and embody the spirit of "winning the right way".

We aim to apply "Chivalry" to the world of business, as we continue to in our consumers' social lives.

We look forward to sharing this with people who understand what it means to achieve excellence.

RAN NEU-NER AND GIL OVED

THE CREATIVE COUNSEL



Warren Buffet said: "Only when the tide goes out do you discover who's been swimming naked."

This quote is so apt for businesses under the current economic climate which has been tough going, threatening the future viability for many companies.

When the economy is flourishing and businesses are raking in profits, seldom do they scrutinise their costs and

structures. The present hardships are leaving companies exposed, forcing them to be introspective about their operations and pushing them to streamline processes.

This, however, is great news for entrepreneurs. As established companies downsize and cut budget, vacuums are created which entrepreneurs can take advantage of. A depressed economy promotes innovation and out-of-the-box thinking. Market share is at its cheapest, presenting numerous opportunities for the small guys.

This is what makes entrepreneurship exciting. For every problem out there is a business opportunity waiting to be launched and that presents exciting prospects for start-ups in South Africa. Entrepreneurship is a mindset, an attitude which needs to be cultivated in our children in their early development.

In today's ever-changing world, every company should see itself as a start-up and as such every individual should see themselves as an entrepreneur. Even if one is managing a small division, that should be the mindset. This is what makes entrepreneurship such a pivotal anchor of our economy which, if done right, will contribute to the success of South Africa as a super power globally.

The Creative Counsel is proud to be sponsoring the Young Jewish Entrepreneur Award once again. Entrepreneurship is something we are passionate about and we want to play our part in transformation and empowering young people to follow their dreams.

Congratulations to all the winners of the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards.

MARTIN LYDALL

CHIEF COMMERCIAL OFFICER: EUROPCAR



Europcar is proud to once again sponsor the Europcar Jewish Women in Leadership category in the Absa Jewish Achiever Awards. The award honours the remarkable contribution made by Jewish women in all spheres of South African leadership.

It recognises women who are making a difference through their vision, actions and strategy, influencing others and achieving something that contributes to a better world. Nominees for the award do not have to be

leaders in the corporate world; they could be leaders who have excelled in the community, or showed great leadership qualities that otherwise might go unrecognised.

Last year saw us awarding Paula Slier, international war correspondent, as the category winner. I would like to personally thank the panel of esteemed judges who assisted me in the process of interviewing the remarkable group of candidates who were nominated this year.

Being a finalist is an achievement in itself, as is being nominated for the award. Europcar wishes to congratulate all this year's nominees; we salute you for and recognise your

individual achievements.

We have been privileged to work for and alongside some of the most dynamic and inspirational women and have benefited greatly in witnessing first hand their unique skills and how they translate into exemplary achievement in growing people, businesses and society.

While they are every bit as tough, determined and visionary as their male counterparts, they also add the dynamic of being family-centred, deeply caring for the people that work for and with them, demonstrating an ability to focus on more altruistic and long-term goals and allowing business results to be a consequence instead of an objective. These women also have a remarkable ability to juggle careers and family responsibilities.

With the woman who founded and led Europcar, we built a business based on non-discrimination, where we could be successful and challenge the leadership position in our industry by leveraging the talent and passion of people from all races, genders and ages.

Our vision at Europcar is to be an inspirational brand that makes a positive difference to our people, to our customers and to our planet. We hope that in highlighting the achievements of these women leaders through the Europcar Jewish Women in Leadership category, we will encourage and inspire more women to assume leadership positions and make a positive difference to the world in which we live.



GAVIN VAREJES

EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, RICHMARK HOLDINGS

Richmark Holdings is an entrepreneurial company founded and dedicated to the people who made it the success that it is today. The same team of friends of close on 20 years who share a vision of humble compassion and a principle of quiet philanthropy.

We are fortunate that our success allows us to make a meaningful difference in the community. We proudly support all communities where it is needed most.

Proudly Jewish and proudly South African.

CHIVAS REGAL EXTRA:
THE NEWEST MEMBER
OF THE FAMILY



RICHER TASTE, GENEROUS SPIRIT

 **CHIVAS**
LIVE WITH CHIVALRY


CHIVAS REGAL
Extra



SOL KERZNER - THE SUN KING

BY VANESSA VALKIN

SA Jewish Report interviewed Sol Kerzner in London last month at the elegant Mayfair offices on Conduit Street he sometimes uses for meetings. It is a conveniently short distance from his Holland Park home where his neighbours are other business titans, film stars, Arab oil sheiks and the like.

But then Kerzner always had an eye for location and being in the right place at the right time. He had the vision to transform a tract of land near Rustenburg (in Bophuthatswana) into Sun City, which became the most astounding gambling and hotel resort South Africa and indeed the world had ever seen.

These days, occasional meetings are all Kerzner, 80, is busy with professionally. After the 2014 sale of Kerzner International (KI) Holdings, the company he began after moving to London in 1987, to Dubai's Investment Corporation, he was rumoured to have looked at some new opportunities, including the failed Baha Mar resort in the Bahamas. But, he says, that was all speculation.

His late son Butch took over as chief executive in 2004 while Sol remained as chairman. KI had grown into a global hotel business with the famous Atlantis and ultra-lux One&Only hotels. Kerzner had initially hoped that KI Holdings would remain in the family. The family took the business private in 2006 in a \$3,8bn buyout, but Butch died in a helicopter accident a month later while flying over some Caribbean islands to look at possible hotel sites.

Losing his son was obviously a tough blow. Afterwards Kerzner said he had to think hard about the future of the business. "It was very tough," he says. "I took six weeks off and I decided to stay on. I ran it for a few more years but I no longer felt it was a family business. At a certain point I knew I'd have to step back."

Kerzner now travels quite extensively, including to South Africa which he visits about four times a year. He stays in Cape Town at his Hout Bay residence - famous for decades of fabulous New Year's eve bashes.

His son Brandon lives in Cape Town and it's an opportunity to

spend time with his South African grandchildren. He has 10 grandchildren in total with two daughters in the US - Andrea and Beverley - and Chantal moving back to London now after some time in New York.

Kerzner will be in Ibiza on the weekend of the Jewish Achiever Awards. Otherwise, he says, he would have definitely attended. He rents a few villas on this exotic Spanish island (a hot spot for the rich and the chic to party) and tries to gather as many of his family there as he can.

Apart from his amazingly honed sense of location, Kerzner is a man who understands the importance of seizing the day. He says: "You've got to enjoy the good times as much as you can."

And he certainly has.

His start goes something like this... he was an accountant doing articles when at 29, he bought the old Astra Hotel in Durban, and after that success, was determined to "build South Africa's first really great hotel".

One of the partners at the firm he was doing an audit for backed him on developing a site in Umhlanga, and in December 1964 - the Beverly Hills Hotel opened. Kerzner was intimately involved with its layout and design. "I would send for lots of brochures from overseas but I had never been overseas myself."

In order to ensure that what he was building would measure up to the best in the world, he took a quick trip to Miami to see all the top hotels along the beach.

"I got in at lunchtime and I said to the taxi driver, 'take me to see every hotel along the strip. We went on till 02:00 at which time I bought him some deli.

"The next morning I went to the pool at the hotel I was staying at, checked it out and left Miami, confident I had seen everything there was to see and that what we had built in Umhlanga was spot on."

Then followed hotels like the famous Elangeni, the Beacon

Isle and of course landmark Sun City. Kerzner says he was obsessive about good service - a key to his success, no doubt.

He recalls one incident. "I always had my PAs analysing the customer feedback forms and I kept getting feedback from the Elangeni that room service was slow."

The team had put it down to insufficient service elevators. So Kerzner arrived secretly one night late, checked in and without anyone in management knowing, he got himself down to the operating desk where room service orders were taken by 05:30 the next morning.

"By 08:30 when the manager walked in, all room service orders were going out 10 minutes early. I said to the manager: 'Don't tell me it's a shortage of service elevators'"

After building the Sun International hotel chain and going global with other resorts, Kerzner, in 1994, bought the Paradise Island Resort in the Bahamas which was bankrupt and then redeveloped it into Atlantis which included one of the world's largest man-made aquariums and the Caribbean's largest casino.

In 2002 came the One&Only Resorts located in Mexico, Mauritius, The Maldives, South Africa, among other hot spots. And on it goes. Kerzner expanded the Atlantis brand around the world, collaborating with the world's top chefs and designers.

Kerzner has a myriad other anecdotes about his experiences building these hotels and he relates them all with a sparkle in his eye. These include how he managed to persuade Frank Sinatra to play at Sun City at the height of sanctions against South Africa; how he introduced the world's first million-dollar golf challenge at Sun City and how Michael Jackson showed up at Atlantis when he heard about the aquarium and all the amazing publicity Jackson's appearance brought.

One could listen for much longer but our time is up. Sol Kerzner, a little older and perhaps more cautious than he once was, walks out into the chilly London summer afternoon.



Afrika Tikkun
Developing Young People
from Cradle to Career



DEVELOPING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM CRADLE TO CAREER

Afrika Tikkun takes action by building development programs to enable disadvantaged young people to realise their potential.

The accomplishments of Afrika Tikkun from early on, were of great inspiration. Mandela described it as a "miracle": "I never expected organizations of this nature, which have brought hope to the disadvantaged". The founders of the organization, which included the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris and the late Bertie Lubner (of blessed memory), Herby Rosenberg, Ann Harris and Arnold Forman, continue to influence and inspire the organisation, which today continues at the helm of one of Bertie's sons Marc Lubner, CEO of Afrika Tikkun.

In Lubner's words, "Afrika Tikkun was the Jewish community's contribution towards the upliftment of previously disadvantaged communities' post 1994. We wanted to do this because we were always huge opponents of apartheid. The Rabbi spoke out, his wife demonstrated and I did too, for a very simple reason, any policy that discriminates one person against another is an unacceptable policy".

South Africa is a work in progress. Disadvantaged people of all ages struggle to overcome poverty and move beyond the inequality created by decades of injustice. Research shows that 45.5% of South Africans live in poverty, 25.2% are unemployed and 20% are living off a measly ZAR321 a month. 1 in 3 people in South African communities are directly affected by HIV/AIDS and 1.5 million children are orphans.

For the last 22 years, Afrika Tikkun has been taking action by building development programs to enable disadvantaged young people to realise their potential. We are dedicated to supporting our youth at each stage of their development, from cradle to career. Through our proven and unique cradle to career model, we support children from infancy into adulthood and employment to ensure that they become the next generation of productive South African citizens.

CRADLE TO CAREER MODEL

VISION



A future where today's young people are tomorrow's productive citizens

OUR BELIEF

We believe every young person deserves an opportunity to be the best they can be.

KEY OUTCOME

To get children ready for school.

KEY OUTCOME

A higher matric pass rate, knowledge and information on career and further learning opportunities.

KEY OUTCOME

Young people being able to navigate the labour market, accessing sustainable employment or self-employment.

KEY OUTCOME

Directing first time job seekers into appropriate jobs.



Early Childhood Development
(0 – 6 years)



Child and Youth Development
(7 – 18 years)



Youth Skills Development
(19 – 35 years)



Support Services

To partner with Afrika Tikkun or find out more about our work, contact:
Tel: + 11 325 5914 | Email: info@afrikatikkun.org | Website: www.afrikatikkun.org

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN HONOUR OF HELEN SUZMAN

THE DONALD GORDON FOUNDATION
REPRESENTED BY WENDY AND HYLTON APPELBAUM



The Lifetime Achievement Award in Honour of Helen Suzman 2016 is awarded to The Donald Gordon Foundation (DGF) for its remarkable philanthropic work - and presented to Wendy and Hylton Appelbaum on behalf of the Foundation.

Wendy, the daughter of Sir Donald Gordon, is a trustee of the DGF, established in 1971 and one of the largest private charitable foundations in Africa.

Wendy was a trustee of the Helen Suzman Foundation and is a member of the Global Philanthropists' Circle. Hylton is a trustee of the Foundation, Kagiso Trust and various other organisations including The Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.

The DGF, whose beneficence is legendary, is clear about its mandate: to fund higher education institutions with a particular (but not exclusive) focus on business education; medical education and training; cultural affairs and the performing arts; conservation and the environment; and human welfare with a particular focus on the poor and needy in the South African Jewish community.

There is insufficient space here to cover in proper detail the work of the DGF, but we begin with that aspect of the Foundation's work that is perhaps closest to the heart of the community: Jewish welfare.

The DGF has been a principal patron of Jewish welfare organisations for decades. Although the Foundation considers the welfare and educational needs of the entire Jewish community, it does, however, stress that it is secular in approach and does not support religious organisations that encourage schisms and discrimination within the community itself.

The organisation that the DGF assists are, first and foremost, the Chevrah Kadisha (the Johannesburg Jewish Helping Hand and Burial Society). In 2000, the DGF provided the funding and underwriting for Sandringham Gardens and in 2001 for Our Parents Home. In 2002 Arcadia Jewish Children's Home joined the Chevrah Group and the children were relocated to a residential property in Sandringham which the DGF funded.

The Selwyn Segal, too, was brought under the Chev's new umbrella. The DGF continues to support a broad range of organisations serving the community.

Another major project of the DGF, one that has changed the "landscape" of local tertiary education, is the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS). Founded in 2000, the University of Pretoria's GIBS has been built around its mission to significantly improve individual and organisational performance, primarily in the South African environment, through the provision of high-quality business and management education.

The GIBS ethos is rooted in a belief that business is a force for good, a force for positive change and a force for the economic development South Africa so desperately needs.

A conviction of the Institute is that business should work closely together, as well as co-operatively, with government and civil society to create a better, more equal South Africa of which we can all be proud.

The school prides itself on producing leaders who can manage cross-functional teams, who understand diversity, who appreciate the societal impact of business and who engender a sustainable approach.

The GIBS MBA is regularly ranked among the top 100 business schools globally in the prestigious Financial Times Executive MBA Rankings. GIBS is the only business school in Africa to appear in this ranking. GIBS works with more than 6 000 executives, managers and scholars every year across multiple countries.

The Donald Gordon Medical Centre (WDGMC) is the first and only private teaching hospital in South Africa. It was established

in 2002 when Wits University bought the Kenridge Hospital with a founding donation from the DGF. The institution was then renamed the Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre.

In 2005, Mediclinic Private Hospital Group became a partner with Wits University and was also awarded the management contract.

The hospital was established to create a facility in the private sector to train and retain specialists and sub-specialists in South Africa for South Africa. All training programmes are fully integrated and complementary to the existing training programmes within the Wits Faculty of Health Sciences.

Having successfully encouraged private practitioners to join its mission, the hospital's occupancy slowly developed to a 50 per cent level and in 2009 finally began making a profit.

The hospital now runs at maximum capacity and has established itself as a referral centre for complex surgery in the fields of Hepatobiliary Surgery, Colorectal Surgery, and Oncology Vascular Surgery in particular. The first private Liver Transplant Unit was established in 2004, and the centre now hosts the largest Solid Organ Transplant Programme in the country.

Wendy says: "My father didn't think about 'Development Theory' - he simply did what he believed 'was the right thing to do'. The big 'legacy institutions' bear his name, but among the first things he did, and those that remain most meaningful to him, were to support the school teachers who had taught him at KES during the war and were living on pitiful pensions.

He placed enormous store in the contribution they had made to his success, and he cared for them till the end of their days."

She adds: "It is not only my pleasure but my privilege to continue my father's legacy. He has been an incredible role model."

There is little doubt that The Donald Gordon Foundation is worthy of the highest accolades for its decades of philanthropic work benefiting both the local Jewish and greater South African communities.

CHIVAS HUMANITARIAN AWARD IN HONOUR OF CHIEF RABBI CYRIL HARRIS, Z" L

GEORGE BIZOS



Look up iconic Struggle lawyer George Bizos, SC, winner of the Chivas Humanitarian Award in Honour of Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris Z" L, and you'll discover that he is a prominent human rights lawyer, was part of the defence team at the Rivonia Trial, and was a close friend of President Nelson Mandela's.

You might even find out that Bizos, 87, was the son of Antonios Bizos, mayor of the small village of Vasilitsi, on the Peloponnese, and that in May 1941, at the age of 13, George and his father helped seven New Zealand soldiers to escape Nazi-occupied Greece to Crete. The escape did not go well and they were adrift for three days until saved by the crew of a British destroyer.

As a refugee, Bizos was sent to South Africa. But he did not immediately go to school because he could not speak English or Afrikaans. However, by 1948 Bizos had managed to gain entry into the law faculty at Wits University.

At the Rivonia Trial in 1963-64 he was part of the team that defended Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki and Walter Sisulu. The defendants were sentenced to life imprisonment, but spared the death penalty.

Bizos has been a senior member of the Johannesburg Bar since 1978. He is a member of the National Council of Lawyers for Human Rights, which he helped found in 1979. He is Senior Counsel at the Legal Resources Centre in Johannesburg. In 1990 he became a member of the ANC's Legal and Constitutional Committee, and at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa), he served as adviser to the negotiating teams and participated in drawing up the Interim Constitution.

Bizos was involved in the drafting of legislation, and especially the Truth and Reconciliation Bill and amendments to the Criminal Procedures Act, to bring it into line with Chapter 3 of the Constitution, guaranteeing fundamental human rights to all citizens.

All this history is widely known yet many do not know about Bizos' relationship with the Jewish community. Asked how he felt about being given the Cyril Harris Humanitarian Award, Bizos replied:

"Let me give you some background showing why this award means so very much to me. I am a refugee from the Nazi occupation of Greece. My father and I were brought to South Africa from Egypt in August 1941 and I did not go to school for more than three years because I could not speak English.

"I was working in a shop in Jeppe. My father and I were photographed by the Sunday Times and a customer asked me if I was the boy in the photograph. I said, 'Yes.' She asked: 'What school do you go to?' I told her that I didn't go to school.

"She was furious and told the owner of the shop that her name was Cecilia Feinstein. She was a teacher. It was a Friday afternoon and early on Monday she would come and fetch me and take me to her school. She did that.

"So I passed standard 6 and 7 at Malvern Junior High School with Miss Feinstein as my teacher. She then got engaged to

be married and told me that she had made arrangements with Miss Frida Greenberg, the senior English teacher at the predominantly Jewish Athlone High School. I was well-treated there and special attention helped me to matriculate.

"My father wanted me to become a doctor but my matric marks were not good enough. But I was told by the registrar of the Wits Medical School, also a Jewish woman, to enrol. I could study in the arts faculty and if I did well enough, I could be accepted into Medical School.

"I took her advice. I was accepted at Wits in 1948. In May 1948 the National Party won the election. A student body consisting of many returned soldiers formed under the leadership of Philip Tobias, Harold Wolpe, Joe Slovo, Sydney Brenner (the Nobel Prize-winner), Godfrey Getz, and many others of Jewish origin. Protests took place.

"I too became involved in protesting against government policies. Prime Minister DF Malan was asked by a member of his party in Parliament to explain what was going on at the university. The Prime Minister said that it was a small group of leftists who were responsible. He assured those present that this small group would be dealt with.

"So the next day I made a speech in the Great Hall about equal treatment for our black fellow students and said that if this made me a leftist, I was proud to be one.

"Later, I was articled to Ruben Kahanovitz, an attorney (Kahanovitz's mother made great perogin). And I was admitted to a prestigious law group led by Isie Maisels. I was recruited to the Legal Resources Centre by Arthur Chaskalson.

"There is a Greek expression: 'That which is obvious needs no explanation'. But I have given you one anyway. The rest is history."

CONGRATULATIONS.

From Liberty to
**The Donald Gordon
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Founded on a shared passion for changing lives and making a difference, Liberty congratulates the Donald Gordon Foundation on receiving the renowned **Helen Suzman Lifetime Achievement Award.**





BERTIE LUBNER - A MENSCH WHO BELIEVED IN DEEDS, NOT WORDS

BY JEREMY GORDIN AND DAVID SAKS



Terms like “Living Legend” and “National Treasure” tend to be applied a little indiscriminately nowadays. But when it comes to the late Bertie Lubner, however, the appropriateness of both expressions is surely beyond dispute.

Encapsulating his life’s achievements into a single sentence is no doubt impossible, but the SA Jewish Board of Deputies made an honourable attempt at this when presenting Lubner with the Eric Samson Mendel Kaplan Communal Service Award at its national conference last November.

The formal citation on that occasion reads in part: “Whether in the business, philanthropic, educational, Zionist or Jewish communal fields, you have made immeasurable contributions to advancing the wellbeing of your fellow Jews and fellow citizens”.

Further on, Lubner is lauded for his commitment to social upliftment and public service, through which he had “helped to better the lives of countless of your fellow citizens and brought enormous credit to the Jewish community”.

Paying tribute to Lubner following his passing on April 18 this year, SAJBD National Chairman Jeff Katz characterised him as having been “an outstandingly successful businessman who devoted just as much, if not more, passion and effort to serving his community, country and beloved State of Israel”. Writing in the SA Jewish Report, he commented that the word “enough” did not appear to be in Lubner’s vocabulary:

“Despite all he had achieved - even listing the highlights here would take up too much space - Bertie was always looking to do more. This was as true in his final months, when his health was failing, as it was in his younger, more robust days.”

That Bertie Lubner to the very end was indeed still striving to make a positive difference is confirmed by his son Marc:

“My dad, the recipient of the Order of Meritorious Service for his work to promote our beloved South Africa, truly loved this country. Right up until his final day he was still holding meetings from his hospital bed motivating a movement to promote positive public sentiment for a better South Africa.

“His love for children, all children, saw his personal engagement in dozens and dozens of projects across the globe; but always with a sense of realism and a responsibility for how a meaningful difference could be made. He always looked after those whose situations prevented them from taking care of their situation, but always with a sense of fairness.”

Of Lubner’s many philanthropic initiatives, perhaps the most significant was his founding, together with the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, of Tikkun (now Afrika Tikkun), a Jewish-headed reconstruction and development programme to assist communities previously disadvantaged by apartheid.

The first South African Jewish organisation in modern times specifically set up to address poverty in the greater society, Afrika Tikkun today has branches in Australia, the UK and the US. Its long-serving CEO Marc Lubner has likewise achieved international recognition for his efforts, including being twice recipient of the Young President Global Achiever for Philanthropy Award, and past winner of the Jewish Achiever Philanthropic Award.

Parallel to his work on behalf of the greater South Africa, Bertie Lubner was intrinsically involved in local Jewish and Zionist affairs. He was a founder and president of the SA Associates of Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, as well as of the Israel Chamber of Commerce.

He subsequently received both an honorary doctorate and a Lifetime Achiever’s Award from Ben-Gurion University. For over a quarter of a century, he served on the National Executive Committee and Gauteng Council of the SAJBD, and was made a Life Vice-President of the latter in 2000. In 1998, he was a co-founder of the SA Jewish Report.

On one of the occasions when he was being presented with an award, Lubner commented: “One should never expect to be rewarded for doing the right things. The reward in one’s own soul is far greater.”

For his part, Marc Lubner remembers his father as someone driven by the love and compassion he felt for other people, regardless of race or creed:

“The love my dad had for people was genuine. He looked into the very heart of fellow men and women always in search of that something inside them that was good and invariably he found that goodness. He built his business and his charitable organisations around that ethos and that is why he was so successful.”

For Jeff Katz, Bertie Lubner had by his example inspired all those who worked with him: “We will miss him greatly, but can take at least some comfort from the thought that the legacy he left will benefit us, our country, and the people of Israel for generations to come.”



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MARLENE BETHLEHEM



Some 10 days after meeting Marlene Bethlehem, I scoured my notes for her age. I couldn't find it. The point is not that I am a slipshod reporter, it's that, once you have experienced Bethlehem in person, her age becomes utterly irrelevant.

Bethlehem's vivacity is truly remarkable - and over the last five decades a preponderant part of it has gone the way of the South African and international Jewish communities.

Bethlehem was also one of this country's leading sportswomen and participated in three Maccabiahs (1957, 1961 and 1985), played (as Marlene Gerson) on the international tennis circuit from 1959 - '62, reached the quarter-finals of the Wimbledon ladies' doubles with Australian Eve Duldig in 1961, and in 1962 won the All England Plate at Wimbledon. At the Dutch Open in 1962, she and Sandra Price won the ladies' doubles final.

Whatever fuels her, Bethlehem's life has been that of a sportsperson, wife and mother, a person who has involved herself in local politics, and above all a "serial communal worker".

Bethlehem is married (53 years and not counting!) to Brian, an anaesthetist, with whom she has had three children, Louise, Lael, and Keith. Bethlehem also notes, smiling, that she has six grandchildren.

Following Wimbledon, Bethlehem didn't dump the tennis. She was a professional coach from 1964 - '85 and in 1974, during apartheid, was the official coach to the first-ever black

South African women's tennis team. Last year, she and her daughter, Lael, won their fifth consecutive ladies' doubles club championships at the Parkview Lawn Tennis Club.

And it goes on. Bethlehem is a past chairman and is a life vice-president of the Jewish Women's Benevolent Society. She is a past chairman and is a life vice-president of Jewish Community Services.

She was the past national chairman (1995 - '99, the first woman since its inception in 1903) and president (1999 - 2003) of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies, still sits on the national SAJBD board, and chairs the country communities' portfolio.

She was a monitor at the country's first democratic elections and accompanied the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris to deliver his famous address at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) hearings.

Her commitment to the community has been acknowledged in awards from the Edenvale Jewish Community, the Hebrew Order of David, a medal for meritorious service from the Union of Jewish Women, and an award from WIZO.

We're not done yet. In 2004, then President Thabo Mbeki appointed Bethlehem deputy chairman of the Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural and Linguistic Communities (CRL). She did this work from 2004 - '08 and was reappointed a CRL member in 2009.

From 2008 - '16 Bethlehem served as vice-president of the prestigious Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture (MFJC) based in New York City and founded in 1965 by Nahum Goldmann with reparation funds from the then West German government.

The mandate of the Foundation is the reconstruction of international Jewish cultural life following the Shoah. As a representative of the MFJC, Bethlehem visited Jerusalem, Istanbul, Moscow, Warsaw, Montevideo and Mexico. Then, just this year, she was elected president of the MFJC - an enormous honour for South African Jewry.

Bethlehem, as a result of her work with the international Jewish restitution organisation, where she worked among others with Edgar Bronfman Snr, chaired the local committee overseeing the disbursement of the Swiss Banks' Humanitarian Fund for Needy Holocaust Survivors in 1999. She has been vice-chairman of the SA Holocaust and Genocide Centre for six years.

But, going back to 2006 for a moment, Bethlehem was appointed by the SAJBD and the government to be an election observer at the Palestinian elections in East Jerusalem. And, in 2015 Bethlehem was appointed chairman of the Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre.

Her most poignant memory? Given her experiences, that's a tough question for Bethlehem to answer. She seems torn between witnessing Bronfman Snr. negotiate with recalcitrant Swiss bankers and accompanying Rabbi Harris to his TRC presentation. But in the end, she settles for having dealt with Nelson Mandela while SAJBD chair. He presented her a plate, inscribed, "To Marlene Bethlehem, a fine lady, who has deserved our admiration and respect."

"I was privileged beyond belief to have an association with him."

THE RICHMARK ART, SPORT, SCIENCE & CULTURE AWARD

SHAUN TOMSON



There's an elderly Jewish fellow who looks at the athletes getting ready to run the Olympics' 100m final on his TV set and says to his friend: "You don't see too many nice Jewish boys in the starting blocks there, do you?"

Shaun Tomson, who has been listed as one of the 25 most influential surfers of

the century and as one of the 10 greatest surfers of all time, chuckles at that story.

"Yes," he says, "it's pretty apposite. You look around while you're surfing - and you don't see too many Jewish boys on the top of 25-foot waves. Actually being Jewish and being a surfer is a bit of an oxymoron, isn't it?"

This is why, in a way, says Tomson, he's so touched at having been awarded the Jewish Report Art, Sport, Science & Culture Award, that's why it's "so wonderful" to receive it.

"It's very nice for me to be given a community award because, in a way, while I was part of the community, I spent a lot of my life not being a part of it. When I used to travel around the world and it was a Jewish holiday, I'd look around, say, for somewhere where I could join a seder at Pesach. Which was fine, but the people I was involved with, and competing with,

and so on, they thought I was from another planet..."

Tomson, now 61 and living in Santa Barbara, California ("great lifestyle, beautiful waves, surfing business") was born in Durban. As a Jewish athlete, he was inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1995.

He learned to surf in the beachbreaks in and around Durban. He went to Clifton Preparatory, Carmel College and the University of Natal, where he received a Bachelor of Commerce degree majoring in business finance. Later he graduated from Northeastern University with a Master of Science in Leadership with a focus on social change.

Tomson dominated amateur surfing competition in South Africa and began going to Hawaii in the late 1960s, courtesy of a barmitzvah present from his father. On one of these trips 14-year-old Tomson witnessed at first hand the so-called "Biggest Wave Ever Ridden" by Californian Greg Noll at Mākaha in 1969.

In 1975, Wikipedia tells us, Tomson was an integral part of the "Free Ride" generation. Along with many other famous surfers, he rode the infamous waves along Oahu's legendary North Shore with "a style, aggression, and raw courage".

Surfers like Tomson "changed the face of surfing and were the first to really apply themselves as serious professional surfers. With his good looks, eloquence, and undeniable athleticism, Tomson served by default as the face and voice of this movement and he is still viewed as the prototype blueprint for today's pro surfer, with legions of fans throughout the world."

In 1977, Tomson won the highly coveted IPS World Championship - he would retire from professional surfing at

the end of 1989.

In 2006, Tomson and his wife, Carla, were pulverised by a terrible tragedy. Their son Mathew died on April 24 while playing the "choking game". Mathew, 15, a pupil at Clifton College in Durban, was found hanging by his school tie at his home. He was found by his mother. Tomson had been in Santa Barbara at the time.

"Hold your children tight and hold them tighter again. Love them with everything you have, every minute of every second of every day. Listen to them and learn from them and teach them the right way, and from us, teach them they are not invincible," said Tomson at the time.

"You won't believe how many kids around the world die from making a bad choice, from a prank to getting into a car with a friend who has been drinking. This is just one of the things I discuss with audiences through the US."

Tomson is currently an inspirational speaker for some of the world's largest companies and talks about the influence of positive values on success in life and business based on his own experiences of overcoming seemingly insurmountable challenges, in and out of the surf.

An attitude of commitment and positivity is the basis for his empowering business philosophy based on his "Surfer's Code - 12 Simple Lessons for Riding Through Life".

He has spoken internationally and talked to audiences of 3 000, has shared the stage with well-known personalities, including Sir Richard Branson and Malcolm Gladwell, and inspired corporations such as General Motors, Cisco, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Toys R Us, Sasol, and Disney.



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THE CREATIVE COUNSEL YOUNG JEWISH ENTREPRENEURS AWARD

DAN STILLERMAN AND DARREN LANG EXCEL ACADEMY



The duo of Dan Stillerman, 29, and Darren Lang, 27, have seen the proverbial gap in the market and they are plugging it for all they are worth - they are teaching the bean counters how to use their counting machines so that not a single bean escapes attention and to have fun while they're doing it.

Stillerman (King David Linksfield), BSc Hons Actuarial Science, qualified actuary, FASSA, FFA, and Lang (Yeshiva College), BCom (ACC), CTA, Hons CA (SA), CFA Level 1 and 2, have a little business called the Excel Academy, the aim of which is to increase productivity and success through fun and experiential Excel Workshops.

For those who don't know, Microsoft Excel is a spreadsheet developed by Microsoft for Windows, Mac OS X, Android and iOS. It features calculation, graphing tools, pivot tables, and a macro programming language called Visual Basic for Applications. And it's the accounting computer programme de rigueur for anyone dealing with finance and financial analysis.

The Academy is clearly very effective: the duo has service agreements as the exclusive preferred provider with Discovery, Investec, and the South African Institute of Chartered

Accountants' Thuthuka Bursary Fund.

They also estimate that they have helped approximately 2 000 people at companies such as Vodacom, FNB, Momentum, Liberty, Coronation, Glencore, Abland, Bidvest Bank, Deloitte & VAT IT.

The duo is also in the process of securing other service agreements with a number of large corporations and in recruiting and training up Excel ACEs, Excel Academy Certified Experts. The Excel ACEs will be certified to facilitate workshops using the duo's material and methodology.

The Academy has also developed online video workshops which can be accessed on any device, anytime, anywhere. These will be rolled out to the current corporate client base and, in time, to the public through digital advertising.

Stillerman says he's proudly Jewish, proudly South African, a proud entrepreneur and proud of the business he has built and continues to build.

Lang says: "My father always speaks about business and taught us to be commercial. He took me, from a very young age, and still takes me, overseas with him on business trips. I sat in [his] meetings and fantasised about leading my own business."

Looks as though Stillerman has every reason to be proud and Lang is making his fantasies into reality.

DAYNE ADRIAN LEVINRAD THE GRIND COFFEE COMPANY



Dayne Levinrad is the coffee man! To be more specific, he is the Coffee in a Cone man (local and international), and he also runs The Grind Coffee Company in Johannesburg, and the Draught Coffee Company.

The 29-year-old who attended King David Victory Park, specialises in selling artisanal coffee and has created what he calls - and most

agree - the world's most instagrammable coffee (#coffeeinacone) that has gone 'viral' with more than 20 million hits globally on social media.

It also has mainstream coffee franchises approaching him to take part in the #coffeeinacone explosion. #coffeeinacone is set to be distributed in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and the Australasian territories.

Although nearly one million images with the #coffeeinacone hashtag have been "liked" on Instagram and although the idea seems "simple" - serve coffee in an ice cream cone lined with chocolate - the science behind Levinrad's creation was not.

Simply pouring coffee into a chocolate-lined wafer cone didn't work because "the wafer was too thin". So he bought his own machine and started rolling wafer cones, using different flours, but the chocolate still melted...

In the end, Levinrad used four different types of chocolate compounds to coat the cone, each hardened by varying percentages of cacao content. "Now we've got the whole thing under patent," Levinrad says, "but it's a very arduous process." Coffee drinkers have 10 minutes to drink the coffee before the four layers melt.

But the success of the product owes as much to Levinrad's grasp of social media as to science. He created the #coffeeinacone hashtag and used the cone as a way to create an Instagrammable product. "When people come in they take a selfie and tag #coffeeinacone," he says.

Levinrad also employed someone to take care of a WhatsApp line dedicated to taking orders for take-outs and deliveries of the product. Levinrad's marketing strategy caught the eye of Aviv Weil of Creative Shop Facebook, Africa. Soon Levinrad had a creative marketing and advertising ecosystem on the go using the Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger platforms.

Give the fellow a cup of coffee! Or maybe a cone?

GREG BLEND AND GRANT FRIEDMAN STANDOUT PROPERTY GROUP



Both Greg Blend and Grant Friedman are 27; Blend went to King David Linksfield, Friedman went to King David Victory Park; Blend has a BCom Hons Finance from Wits; Friedman has BCom from Wits and a H Dip Tax; Blend is single, Friedman is married; Blend likes travelling, sport, and reading, Friedman likes travelling, sport, and reading;

Blend says to-may-toes, Friedman says to-mah-toes; but there's absolutely no reason to call the whole thing off.

No reason - because their company, Johannesburg's StandOut Properties - which specialises in property investment, management, development and redevelopment (commercial, industrial, residential and retail properties) - is going like the proverbial Boeing.

StandOut, founded in 2013, manages their buildings in-house. By being hands-on for all aspects of property management, Blend and Friedman feel they are able to extract the most value from investments as well as offer tenants a high level of professionalism and attention. StandOut is also able to partner with larger tenants in co-owning their premises.

The two men feel their greatest achievement was reaching 50 000m² of GLA (gross leasable area) under their ownership and management in only three years.

They are also very proud that StandOut was mentioned in a presentation by Johannesburg former Mayor Parks Tau as the residential developers to watch at the 2016 South African Property Owners Association Conference.

Blend and Friedman believe their portfolio will expand. Given high interest rates and low economic growth, they feel that distressed sellers may dispose of assets from which they could extract value. StandOut is currently working with their development team to build 450 apartments over the next two years at properties they currently own.

Unlike other businesses, which invest in inventory or provide services, StandOut is investing in land and buildings. Its investment methodology reflects Blend and Friedman's optimism in the future of the country. They know that politically and economically the country is going through very difficult times but they are hopeful that with "better leadership" things will improve.

THE CREATIVE COUNSEL YOUNG JEWISH ENTREPRENEURS AWARD

RYAN CANIN *DOCFOX*



If you were born before 1994, as some of us were, you will doubtless have discovered that many of those born after that date speak a language which, though purportedly English, seems as foreign as ancient Greek.

For example, you probably know what "Fica-ing" a document is? South Africa has implemented a law that is designed to combat money "laundering", which is the

abuse of financial systems in order to hide and/or disguise the proceeds of crime.

This law is known as the Financial Intelligence Centre Act, 38 of 2001, abbreviated to "FICA". To make sure that your ID book/card and various other documents are genuine, you need to have them "Fica-ed".

So far, so good. But do you know what the following sentence (which includes two split infinitives!) means? "DocFox is a webapp which allows financial services providers to rapidly FICA their clients. It allows them to remotely onboard clients through the DocFox online dash-board or API. DocFox eliminates drop-off, combats fraud & ensures compliance," says Canin.

It means that a certain application (DocFox) makes it possible for financial services providers (banks, brokers, etc) "to Fica" clients' documents by computer (clients don't have to go there in person) using the DocFox application. DocFox is safe and also mostly eliminates clients giving up the process. Got it?

The app's obvious advantages are that it takes the user into the digital world, it ensures compliance for the user, reduces expenses (no endless reams of documents), and it reduces risk.

Well, Canin is the DocFox man. Canin, 26, an electrical engineer, has invented an app that is being used in South Africa for remote fica-ing and, while it is taking off locally, he is busy going through the necessary legal and patent processes to see whether it'll fly in the US.

Canin believes the country "is going through an uncertain time at the moment; I think there are many challenges at the moment but I believe that the local elections will bring with it some movement in a good direction. I also think there are incredible opportunities in this country that can be taken advantage of.

"I have seen that opportunities can be accessed by simply being open to them and thus I believe that success is based on being open-minded and having unreasonable ambition," he says.

Greek or Geek, Canin is going to make it work.

HADLEY SHAPIRO *MEDI RESPONSE*



Hadley Shapiro is actually a very young person - he's 24 - and yet he has chosen to make his way in one of the most difficult and thankless kind of businesses to be found: running a pre-hospital emergency service in South Africa. And by all accounts, the business is thriving.

Starting with limited capital and resources and finding it difficult in the early days to raise finance for equipment and vehicles, Shapiro has sculpted an innovative, dynamic first-response medical company.

The main objectives of Medi Response are to supply top-quality, well-trained medical staff, who fight to save lives - the company offers a customised solution for all pre-hospital needs. Medi Response offers event safety management, emergency medical response and ambulance services, TEMS (Tactical Emergency Medical Support) - and also advanced life support paramedics and doctors and specialists on request.

The company had its genesis in 2009 when the night manager of a guest house had to attend to a visiting guest from the UK who had slipped and badly injured himself at 02:00.

The government ambulance service was on strike at the time and private ambulance services were under immense pressure. The patient could not be moved lest his spine be further injured. But it was extremely cold and it was therefore possible that the patient's condition would deteriorate further.

Having to keep the patient safe and comfortable while negotiating to get an ambulance to the place as quickly as possible, provided the impetus that drove Shapiro and the co-founder of Medi Response, a paramedic, to found the company.

Medi Response has four different departments, each with a respective manager who operates as autonomously as possible. Shapiro sees to it that staff have continuous motivation and support and are encouraged to further their education within their fields of expertise.

Shapiro concedes that balancing his work, family and community is not always easy, especially as one of his parents is a stage four cancer patient requiring a great deal of support - but Shapiro believes "it is very important to honour one's commitments and not forget one's family and loved ones".

He counts his father, Reuben, as one of his mentors and uses one of his father's sayings - "Hard work, not wishful thinking, breeds success" - as one of the pillars of his own philosophy.

DARYL BARTKUNSKY *STUDENT BRANDS*



Daryl Gilad Bartkunsy is a born-to-be-entrepreneur who grew up listening to business discussions around the dinner table and by the age of 13 knew he wanted to be an entrepreneur. Now he has his eye on the youth - "Africa's most important consumer and asset..."

Bartkunsy is the co-founder and current managing director of Student Brands, a youth marketing and strategy agency that is a leading channel through which brands can reach South Africa's youth.

After King David, Bartkunsy went to do a B Com at the University of Johannesburg. But "within two months at UJ, I started Student Brands," he says.

"I'm always paying attention to my surroundings: Who do I have access to? What are my skills, what markets do I understand, and how can this be monetised? At UJ, that answer was simple - we had unlimited access to students. So, what do students care about, and which brands want access to them?"

At barmitzvah age, he decided he'd have a shot at importing Donald Trump's bottled water, Ice. It took the young businessman four weeks to track down the right representative at Trump Industries and to begin negotiating distribution rights.

"They agreed in principle and I began securing an import licence. And then they told me that a minimum order was 100 000 bottles. I was 13. I did not have the capital to buy that amount of stock outright."

It was a hard lesson for the young Bartkunsy to learn, but it was good experience and he "still has that import licence".

At UJ, establishing Student Brands, he and his co-founder started a website, filling it with tutorials, blogs, free ways to advertise one's own businesses and services, chat forums and for a short while second-hand textbooks. Things that didn't work were ditched, and slowly they built up a community.

Says Bartkunsy: "We now have big name clients for whom we hand out flyers, drive activations, and handle promotions. We use students on campus who are trusted by their peers, and we're active across a number of universities. I'm also able to focus on growing the business because we've hired a sales director and an operations manager."

Bartkunsy's goals are not solely about "monetising" though - they also include enabling youth to start their own businesses, to find fulfilling careers, and to facilitate a culture of innovation.

THE CREATIVE COUNSEL YOUNG JEWISH ENTREPRENEURS AWARD

WINNER

GREG BLEND AND GRANT FRIEDMAN STANDOUT PROPERTY GROUP



The duo of Greg Blend and Grant Friedman are worthy winners of this year's Creative Counsel Young Entrepreneurs award.

Blend and Friedman are both 27; Blend went to King David Linksfield, Friedman to King David Victory Park; Blend has a B Com. Hons in finance from Wits; Friedman has B Com from Wits and a H Dip Tax.

Blend is single while Friedman is married. Both like travelling, sport, and reading. Their company, Johannesburg's StandOut Properties, which specialises in property investment, management, development and redevelopment (commercial, industrial, residential and retail properties), is going like the proverbial Boeing.

Unlike many other property owners, StandOut, founded in 2013, manages its buildings in-house. "By being hands-on for all aspects of property management, we are able to extract the most value from our investments as well as offer tenants a high level of professionalism and attention," they say.

StandOut is also able to partner with larger tenants in co-owning their premises. These tenants would rather invest their cash into their business and rely on StandOut's expertise to source the right premises and raise the required funding.

The two men feel their greatest achievement was reaching 50 000m² of GLA (gross leasable area) under their ownership and management in only three years. They're also very proud that StandOut was mentioned in a presentation by Johannesburg Mayor Parks Tau as the residential developers to watch at the 2016 South African Property Owners Association Conference.

Blend and Friedman believe their portfolio will expand. Given high interest rates and low economic growth, they feel that distressed sellers may dispose of assets from which they (Blend and Friedman) could extract value. StandOut is currently working with its development team to build 450 apartments

over the next two years at properties it currently owns.

The two men say things have gone well for them, one of their only disappointments being when one of their investments was to a parastatal tenant, who defaulted on a lease for 180 residential units. StandOut needed to evict the tenant and re-let the premises.

Their management philosophy is that they believe that a strong culture fit is key when hiring new staff. "Our staff members are empowered to make decisions on their own and are provided consistent training from the directors. We try to pass our love for our properties to the staff as well as provide a happy work environment. We pride ourselves on promoting from within and have successfully grown junior staff into more senior positions."

Unlike other businesses, which invest in inventory or provide services, StandOut is investing in land and buildings. Its investment methodology reflects Blend and Friedman's optimism in the future of the country. They know that politically and economically the country is going through very difficult times but they are hopeful that with "better leadership" things will improve.

"Currently we do not have any children so it is fairly easy for us to focus on work and still have enough time for other commitments. We do work long hours, but our partners, families and friends are extremely supportive of us," say the two.

What about the future of South Africa? "A stable, non-corrupt government would help ease uncertainty and allow for more international investment and a stronger currency. Tourism is not exploited enough as South Africa has so much to offer and this could be a much greater contributor to GDP and job creation than it currently is. Access to high quality, affordable education should be the most important focus point for South Africa."

★★★★ THE MASTERS OF DESTINY ★★★★★

AN ODE TO THE ENTREPRENEUR

ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL BUT SOME **THIRST FOR MORE**,
THESE ARE **THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SEE THE WORLD** FOR MORE THAN WHAT IT IS;

THEY SEE WHAT IT CAN BECOME,
THEY ARE RESTLESS, UNRELENTING AND **PASSIONATE**
AND EVERYONE LIVES AS THE MASTER OF HIS OR HER OWN DESTINY.

HERE'S TO THOSE WHO **NEVER GIVE UP**,
THE ONES WHO EAT REJECTION FOR BREAKFAST,
THE ONES WHO SPEND THEIR DAYS FIGHTING
FOR WHAT THEY BELIEVE IN,
KNOWING THAT NOTHING WORTHWHILE EVER FOLLOWS THE STATUS QUO.

STANDING AT **THE HELM OF THEIR FUTURE** AND OURS,
THEY TEND TO THEIR VISION DAY AND NIGHT,
RESTORING IT EVERY TIME IT'S TRAMPLED ON,
TO THEIR EYES THE WORLD IS A BLANK CANVAS WAITING TO BE COLOURED WITH OPPORTUNITY,
AND TO THEIR EARS THE MUSIC OF **A MILLION NO'S UNLOCK THAT SINGLE**, TREASURED 'YES'.

THESE ARE **THE ENTREPRENEURS**, THE EVERY-DAY HEROES
THOSE WHO LIGHT THE WAY FOR THE REST OF US,
THEY CHALLENGE THE WAY WE THINK, REINVENT OUR WORLD AND **CHANGE HISTORY...**
THEIR SPIRIT MAKES THEM UNIQUE, POWERFUL AND IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE!

AND TO THEM WE SAY **THANK YOU FOR MOVING US** BEYOND WHERE WE ARE TODAY,
THE CREATIVE COUNSEL SALUTES YOU, FOR YOU ARE

★★★★ **The Masters of Destiny** ★★★★★



JEWISH ORGANISATIONS AT FOREFRONT OF OUTREACH IN SOUTH AFRICA

BY SUZANNE BELLING

Afrika Tikkun, arguably the largest Jewish outreach project in this country, was founded by the late Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris, zt"l, and Bertie Lubner z"l in the 1990s.

The organisation grew exponentially to include volunteers and a large staff, still retaining its Jewish flavour, but attracting workers from all walks of life. President Nelson Mandela was Afrika Tikkun's chief patron.

In his booklet, "Jewish Obligation to the Non-Jew", Rabbi Harris wrote that faith in the essential unity of humankind, as creatures of one G-d and as descendants of one common ancestor, "provides the foundation for the proper development of inter-community relationships. Recognising the moral imperatives governing human affairs, men and women of goodwill can face up to the challenge of our time and make the caring society a reality."

Afrika Tikkun has implemented development programmes to redress the inequalities of apartheid and reaches over 20 000 beneficiaries yearly, serving 77 000 meals every month in five communities.

Afrika Tikkun has three core programmes, each focused on the specific developmental and age-appropriate needs of children and youth:

- Early childhood development services for two to six years;
- Child and youth development, providing sports, arts and culture, learning and homework support, life-skills, career guidance and related interventions;
- Youth skills development and placement provides career guidance, job readiness training, entrepreneurial training, job placement and bursaries for further learning.

The core programmes are augmented by support services.

The Union of Jewish Women has been renowned for its outreach projects for 85 years.

Crèches in impoverished areas, including the Kensington Crèche which the Cape Town branch started over 70 years ago, are assisted with play equipment, early childhood development programmes and meals.

Port Elizabeth recently donated eco-friendly toilets to a crèche to replace its buckets. Needy schools get books; granny- and

child-headed households receive food and clothing; and numerous feeding schemes and soup kitchens run throughout the year.

Rural KZN schoolchildren visiting the Durban Holocaust Centre are given sandwiches on arrival. Empowerment projects such as Johannesburg's sewing school for unemployed women, have helped many obtain employment.

"Comfort packs" containing toiletries and new underwear are provided for rape survivors, and comfort rooms have been set up in police stations. Soup is provided to hospice patients and winter woollies, beanies and blankets are donated throughout winter.

Solar-powered lamps have been distributed in informal settlements on both Mandela Day and Mitzvah Day. The elderly are bused in from various homes for the aged, treated to lunches and teas and provided with "goodie bags".

Mandela Day 2016 saw 6 000 underprivileged people receiving toothbrushes and toothpaste as part of UJW's national "Catch a Cavity" campaign.

The UJW also provides bursaries for women post-graduates, regardless of race, colour or creed.

The United Sisterhood is internationally known for its active participation in welfare, education and community work in South Africa.

From humble beginnings in 1933, it has taken great strides in providing for the welfare of the underprivileged.

The Sisterhood tackles issues afflicting those of all ages, but, in particular, is concerned with children and the aged.

Its aims:

- To create an environment within which the Progressive Jewish woman can enhance her spiritual and religious duties by contributing to the society in which she lives.
- To provide food and clothing for destitute and underprivileged children and senior citizens of all races, colours and creeds.
- To provide assistance for both Jewish and non-Jewish families who have fallen on hard times.

- To assist in the promotion of education for underprivileged children and youths at schools, colleges and universities.
- To participate in the caring of the aged among all population groups.
- To visit and provide edibles, provisions and stimulation for the institutionalised, sick and incapacitated.
- To assist in alleviating the plight of those with HIV/Aids.
- To provide educational information on breast cancer to all women.

ORT has been instrumental in training and educating people across the globe since its inception in 1880 in St Petersburg, Russia. In South Africa, ORT SA was established in 1936 as a fundraising arm for World ORT.

ORT SA's outreach goes beyond school to include a programme for post-matriculants who have failed maths and science, in order for them to rewrite these matric subjects.

In skills development the organisation has trained thousands of beneficiaries to become employable and self-sufficient through work-readiness programmes. It also provided support, mentoring and training in capacity building in impoverished communities in South Africa and Namibia.

ORT's Skills and Enterprise Development Academy offers business skills and mentorship to unemployed youth and small business owners.

ORT SA is embarking on an exciting new journey with the establishment of the ORT SA Academy following the construction and renovations at ORT House.

The new ORT South Africa Academy is committed to driving STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) programmes to promote coding, robotics and 21st century skills among young people. These skills are necessary in order to make people employable in today's world.

ORT SA is also dedicated to promoting young and talented minds to become entrepreneurs and start their own businesses.

ORT SA's vision of "Educating for Life" drives the mission of making people employable and creating employment opportunities.



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EUROPCAR JEWISH WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

DIONNE ELLERINE HIRSCHOWITZ ELLERINE BROTHERS



Dionne Ellerine Hirschowitz, 49, BCom, LLB, graduate of King David Linksfield, and mother of three, runs one of the largest, privately-owned businesses in South Africa, Ellerine Brothers, as well as the associated Eric Ellerine Trust, and has been appointed to a number of boards in South Africa and the UK.

Hirschowitz, who lived in London for 11 years working at Stenham Property, notes her father moved during his life “from

abject poverty to being a very successful businessman” and so she understands clearly the hard work involved in being successful in business.

The core business activities of Ellerine Brothers and associated companies are equity investments, property investments and management, and private equity investments.

“My father founded the initial family businesses. Since returning to South Africa in 2006, I have worked hard to initiate and develop additional business ventures,” she says.

Hirschowitz stresses that she could not have achieved what she has done without the help

of her father, Eric, whom she cites as a major role model. She notes, for example, that one of her most important challenges was to handle well the transition of control and management from her father to herself.

“This is a well-known challenge in any second generation business - and many others have floundered where I have succeeded - but I have succeeded only because my father and I worked together to deal with this issue and all others.”

She has also worked hard to raise awareness of the role of women (particularly Jewish women) in the workplace and to mentor them via her role as chairman of the Young Presidents’ Organisation, Pan-Africa.

Regarding charitable work, she notes: “We feel a huge burden of responsibility to use a portion of our profit to improve and support charitable and socially responsible causes, of which Jewish care organisations are a major focus.”

Ellerine Brothers, via Ellwain, an associated company, earlier this year listed the JSE building and 24 central properties into a REIT company on the AltX (an alternative public equity exchange for small and medium-sized companies of the JSE). And Hirschowitz is looking forward to the Eric Ellerine Trust’s largest investment to date - an investment in Poland, with EchoPolska Properties, which will be listing on September 12.

JUDGE SHARISE WEINER JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT



High court judges in South Africa are not to be trifled with. Not only do they fulfill a vital role but, in an increasingly contentious democracy, judges are probably our greatest bulwark against the erosion of the Rule of Law.

Judge Sharise Weiner, Judge of the High Court in Gauteng, graduated from Athlone Girls High School, completed her BA LLB, and is one of only two Jewish females to have been appointed a judge. She was appointed in 2011. Having been called to the Bar in 1978, Judge Weiner, 62, practised at the Johannesburg Bar, specialising in commercial law, competition law and matrimonial and family law. She took silk (became a senior counsel) in October 1995, acting periodically as a high court judge.

Judge Weiner took part in the first advocacy training workshop given in 1996 with the assistance of trainers from Gray’s Inn and has been deeply involved in advocacy training ever since. It is fair to say, according to the Advocate, that “her enthusiasm and her drive and skill as a trainer have been instrumental in ensuring that the training programmes offered [locally] are on a par with those offered in any other part of the world”. She was chair of the Advocacy Training Institute, South Africa, from 2000-2010, and is well-known as a trail blazer for female advocates

Judge Weiner is also the co-founder and convenor of “Warm the World”, an NPO that places baskets of wool and needles in waiting rooms where people knit a few rows of a square. The next client simply carries on. The organisation then collects the brightly-coloured finished squares, sews them together as blankets, and distributes to those in need.

This is not all. Besides establishing the pro bono office at the high court for legal representation for indigent people, Judge Weiner has been nominated for the position of Public Protector.

DEBBIE RAKUSIN DEBBIE RAKUSIN DANCE STUDIO



The \$64 000 question is: What major show or event is there in South Africa that Debbie Rakusin has not choreographed, produced or organised?

Rakusin, 58, mother of two, grandmother to three, has choreographed more dance shows, videos, commercials, events and musicals than most people have

changed their hosiery, while at the same time touring with her own dance company, Vusa Dance Company, locally and overseas.

The list of her accomplishments is long and impressive, from choreographing the closing ceremony of the Rugby World Cup in 1995, Nelson Mandela’s farewell function to the Presidency in 1999 as well as the official Millennium function at Robben Island in the same year, Madiba’s 85th birthday celebration in 2003, the South African Music Awards (SAMA) in 2003, to Discovery Awards evenings in 2007, the Fifa 2010 Congress opening performance, and the Chevrah Kadisha Pillars event in 2015. This is without mentioning the musicals Ipi Tombi and Little Shop of Horrors, among others.

Rakusin has pioneered and grown dancers from grassroots levels, enabling them to perform on global platforms and to share their skills throughout their communities. She says her ethos is based on honesty, professionalism and integrity. She has undoubtedly contributed tremendously to the canvas of the South African dance, arts and entertainment - and to everyone’s happiness quotient.

Rakusin puts it clearly: “I do not sit behind a desk in an office but rather use my body, mind and talent to harness and create beauty. It is a special thing to love what you do and to be able to express one’s self fully through work.

“I bring an idea creatively to life, creating the concept through music, song, dance (choreography is dance writing), theatre, culminating in a performance. I design shows for corporate events, theatrical productions, TV shows, TV commercials, musicals, and field shows.”

Rakusin adds: “My focus is also to create dreams and opportunities, nurture and empower, grow and develop leaders, so that they in turn can be role models for the nation.”

She sometimes quips that she ought to found the DRDP (Debbie Rakusin Dance Party) and run for president.

moving **Annabel's** way

moving **Debbie's** way

moving **Dionne's** way

moving **Helen's** way

moving **Kim's** way

moving **Liza's** way

moving **Monique's** way

moving **Nicci's** way

moving **Rochel's** way

moving **Shalya's** way

moving **Sharise's** way

Mazeltov to the nominees for *The Europcar Jewish Women in Leadership Award* at the 2016 ABSA Jewish Achiever Awards! Europcar honours the inspiring contribution that these remarkable women have made to South African society through exceptional leadership in their businesses and communities.

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EUROPCAR JEWISH WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

ANNABEL LINDER CONTRIBUTION TO THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY



Entertainer Annabel Linder once remarked that her original family name (in Lithuania) was Kirschenstein. "Can you imagine," she asked, "having a stage name like Annabel Kirschenstein?"

Well, for the average English-speaker, Kirschenstein might not trip off the tongue like Linder, but once such a person had seen actress, comedienne and singer Linder (or Kirschenstein) in a show or a play or on TV, s/he would be so wowed by

Linder's performance - as thousands of South Africans have been over the last four decades - that s/he wouldn't really care what Annabel's surname was!

Born in Durban to Orthodox Jewish parents, Linder has been nominated 12 times for various awards given for excellence in theatre, TV and radio, and she has won five of them.

She has won two DALRO (SA's Dramatic, Artistic and Literary Rights Organisation) awards - one for "Torch Song Trilogy" (stage) and one for "Chicago" (musical theatre). She won the Tonight award for "Heroes" on TV, the Naledi award for "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" (stage),

and the Vita award for "Rose" - her portrayal of an 80-year-old Holocaust survivor.

She was also nominated for a Vita for her performance in "Driving Miss Daisy" opposite John Kani and her 10th nomination for a Naledi for her performance in "From Door to Door" in 2006.

Many also remember Linder for her appearances in "Sewende Laan" in which she played an eccentric ballroom dancing teacher in 10 episodes of the popular show.

In 2010, she appeared in the soapie "Binnelanders" on M-Net. She and her husband Sam Sklair, appear on Radio Today every Saturday doing an hour of music and chat called "Annie and Sam Showtime".

Linder has appeared in a number of movies: Kite, starring Samuel L Jackson; in the very popular TV series, Strike Back; in the feature movie, Nothing for Mahala; and in Konfetti.

In 2015 Linder was cast in "Those who can't," a Quizzical Pictures' TV comedy series created by Alan Committie and Tom Eaton, featuring a staff-room full of small-minded, bitter and generally inept high school teachers.

Linder has remarked that age "should never be a reason not to be productive". She's living proof of the truth of this assertion.

HELEN FRASER

NASHUA CHILDREN'S CHARITY FOUNDATION



Helen Fraser's CV is characteristically brief and to the point. She's clearly not interested in blowing her own trumpet. This is because she is a remarkably single-minded and modest 62-year-old who has devoted herself for close to 30 years to charity work and especially to the Nashua Children's Charity Foundation (NCCF).

This organisation supports almost 15 000 underprivileged children on a daily basis. Fraser founded the NCCF under the aegis of Nashua and is still the operations director, working an average of 14 hours a day and on most weekends. She communicates directly with all the homes, plans events, fundraisers, meets sponsors, prepares budgets and controls expenses. The day-to-day running of the foundation falls totally on her shoulders.

The NCCF assists the 15 000 children cared for by 72 children's orphanages, special needs schools, day-care centres, crèches, out-reach centres, soup kitchens and safe houses.

It provides groceries, cleaning materials, toiletries, school uniforms, stationery, educational equipment and building renovations. Sponsored outings also are very special events for indigent and orphaned children. Providing 600 000 meals a month to children who would not otherwise receive daily nourishment is, probably needless to say, no small matter.

Yet this dedicated Wynberg Girls' High School graduate, when asked who her mentors are, remarks quietly: "The children that we assist are my mentors as they have so little and still offer a huge smile and a hug for the receipt of bare necessities. It always amazes me that most of them are so happy, yet truly have nothing, and this is what encourages me to continue doing what I do and more.

"Showing people the joy of a child," adds Fraser, "is the greatest motivation and is enormously rewarding. My words can't express gratitude but the smile of a child can."

But Fraser is no sentimentalist. When she set up the NCCF, she stipulated three conditions: first, that its focus be entirely on children; second, that it be a properly registered organisation; and third that the charity be run as a "sustainable living foundation". In other words, the NCCF doesn't believe in handing over cheques to organizations and then walking away thinking the problem is solved. On the contrary, it's in for the long haul. As is its boss.

SHALYA HIRSCHSON

UVEMVANE PROJECT



There are people who have chosen a path in their life or profession that is deeply courageous. Dr Shalya Hirschson, 39, appears to be one of them.

A way of demonstrating this is to use an example that Hirschson herself uses: "Let me introduce you to Kabelo. She is three years old and she has cancer. Kabelo's mother can't take time off work to stay with her in the

hospital ward where she receives her chemotherapy. This mommy also has little money for transport and can seldom spend time with her little girl.

Kabelo and the other children in the ward with her are on drips and they undergo various painful procedures to treat their cancers... Like most of the children and teens in the ward, Kabelo spends her days sitting on her bed, facing the uncertainty of how the cancer will develop or even worse, facing death alone. "[Children like Kabelo] endure the pain and trauma of their illnesses and treatments with their voices silenced by fear and the fact that nobody wants to talk about what happens in this place."

The Uvemvane Project, which is Hirschson's brainchild, works with children like Kabelo, who have been broken down by life-threatening illness, abuse, HIV/Aids, abandonment, orphanhood, poverty and crime.

The members of Uvemvane help such children give voice to their pain by creatively exploring and understanding their trauma-saturated stories, and thus build resilience and coping skills.

The name "Uvemvane" is derived from the Zulu word for the butterfly. "Through therapy," says Hirschson, "we are able to pollinate the lives of others with knowledge, skills and creativity, enabling them to open their wings and... explore the world around them with a sense of confidence, purpose and hope."

Uvemvane is currently based in the paediatric oncology ward at Charlotte Maxeke Hospital in Johannesburg and in early 2017 will implement the same services at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital. Uvemvane provides training to psychologists, teachers, childcare workers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and medical staff on the use of creative expressive arts.

Hirschson, who has a doctorate in educational psychology, serves as head of therapeutic services, manages the project and is also responsible for all fundraising. Courageous indeed.

EUROPCAR JEWISH WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

ROCHEL GOLDMAN WOW - WOMEN OF THE WORLD



In his best-selling book on the Lubavitcher Rebbe (2014), Rabbi Joseph Telushkin recounts the following anecdote:

The amount of time [a certain rabbi] spent with [potential candidates for conversion] was considerable, and all this came in addition to his pulpit responsibilities, his teaching schedule, his organisational commitments, and his family responsibilities. He sought out a meeting with the Rebbe to discuss this problem:

"Ich bin meed, I'm tired," he told the Rebbe, and he explained just how overwhelming his commitments were. The Rebbe answered: "Ich bin oichet meed. Is vos?" - "I'm also tired. So what?"

Clearly, Rochel Goldman has paid close attention to the teachings and example of the Rebbe. A small example: Anyone, male or female, who's been a committed parent to, let's say, four children - has an inkling of what this means in terms of time and energy. Well, Goldman, 63, has 11 children and "more than" (that's how she puts it!) 30 grandchildren.

Goldman, who grew up and was educated in Cleveland, Ohio, and furthered her education at

seminaries in New York and France obtaining a teaching degree, has been the rebbetzen of the Sydenham-Highlands North Hebrew Congregation since 1986. She has given countless classes - from Yiddish, to parenting and challah-baking and still enthusiastically makes time to lead and direct the organisation she founded: Women of the World (WoW).

WoW has three major goals: to be instigators and supporters of educational programmes in South Africa; to nurture the nurturers (wives and mothers); and to promote a positive South Africa. WoW raises funds through various functions, dinners and Chinese auctions to support Jewish day schools and schools in Soweto.

WoW has adopted Moletsane High School and Pace College, providing bursaries, establishing libraries and introducing new technology. Additionally, WoW supports literacy and maths programmes for rural communities, working with Infundo Likusalethu (Education is our Future) in North West and KwaZulu-Natal provinces.

To further the agenda of a positive future for the country, the group has arranged talks by speakers such as Graca Machel, Wendy Luhabe, Maria Ramos and many others. The Nurturers, explains Goldman, have been nurtured with morning breakfasts for 15 years, fostering an ethos of generosity among the Jewish community.

Goldman says it is undoubtedly the Lubavitcher Rebbe who is her mentor. This is abundantly clear from the work she does.



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Mazal Tov to the nominees and winners of this years' Jewish Achiever Awards

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EUROPCAR JEWISH WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

LIZA ESSERS THE GOODMAN GALLERY



Liza Essers who hails from Durban, had her allotted two minutes of fame in 2012 when her gallery, the Goodman Gallery, featured a painting, *The Spear*, by Brett Murray, in which President Jacob Zuma was satirically depicted, revealing somewhat more than he might want to do in public.

The painting became the centre of a media storm and was then vandalised on May 22, 2012. Essers received an order from the High Court with President Zuma as the first applicant and the ANC as the second applicant to remove the painting from the gallery, but she stood firm.

Still, if one asked Essers about that now notorious painting, she'd likely shrug and point out that she has more important concerns. As she puts it: "The Goodman Gallery has played a vital role in forging change through artistic production and dialogue, shaping contemporary art within and beyond the continent.

"Under my directorship, 26 new prominent artists, established and emerging, from various parts of the African continent and beyond, have joined Goodman Gallery. I have introduced numerous pivotal curatorial initiatives and partnerships and I have promoted a global outlook for the gallery."

Essers acquired the famous gallery in 2008 from Linda Givon, who founded it 50 years ago. Since then, the gallery has expanded significantly "initiating unconventional interventions both within and outside of the traditional gallery space," as Essers puts it.

The gallery represents internationally acclaimed artists who have changed the landscape of contemporary art such as William Kentridge and David Goldblatt.

From 2003 - 2008, Essers worked at Lisa Nicole Films, co-executive producing the SA film, *Tsotsi* (2005), the first African film to win an Academy Award (Best Foreign Language Picture, 2006). She also co-produced *Ghost Sun* and *Surviving Evil*, and initiated a documentary series on contemporary South African art, the first being William Kentridge and Marlene Dumas in conversation.

After graduating with a B Com in economics, Essers started out as a consultant for the professional services company Accenture, and also worked in private equity.

She notes, however, that her greatest achievement is "obviously" being a mother to her little boy, David, four.

KIM FACLIER GOINDUSTRY DOVEBID

Kim Faclier says that she celebrates each day with optimism, enthusiasm and passion. Given her track record and what she chooses to deal with every day, she certainly needs more than a normal dose of enthusiasm...

Born 49 years ago, Faclier matriculated from Camps Bay High School in Cape Town and immediately earned herself a diploma in oral hygiene from the University of Stellenbosch. But, while at school, she doesn't seem to have been much of a couch potato. No sir!

Besides being *Victrix Ludorum* every year she was at high school, she played squash at provincial, national and international level, represented South Africa at the Maccabi Games (squash), was ranked among the top 50 squash players in the world and was the SA under-21 squash champion at the age of 14. And while she was at university, learning to find plaque in peoples' mouths, it seems she was thinking about a lot more than sites of infection. Yes, sir!

For Faclier has had much experience and won so many awards in the real estate market that it's difficult to keep track. At the moment she is Managing Director- Property of a specialist (mainly online) real estate services company, GoIndustry DoveBid South Africa, one of nine Liquidity Services market places, listed on the NASDAQ:LQDT - a market place for companies, from small to Fortune 1000 corporations, on which to sell capital assets and real estate.

Previously Faclier was managing director of Binswanger South Africa, founder and director of Saville Row Auctions & Sotheby's Commercial Properties, a commercial broker at the Alliance Group, South Africa, and a director at Pam Golding International. And so the list goes on.

In 2011 Faclier won the 5 Star Women Property Network Award; in 2012 the Property Category Award for SA's Most Influential Women in Business and Government; in 2013, she was invited to judge the property industry's World Auction Championship in the US. And in 2015, as MD, Property, of GoIndustry DoveBid, Faclier won the "Fast Growth Award" at SA's Annual National Business Awards.

Faclier is part of the Young Presidents' Organisation as well as the National Auctioneers Association USA, SA Shopping Centre Association, Estate Agents Board SA, the SA Property

Owners Association - and this list goes on as well.

Faclier says her leadership revolves around three words: People, Passion and Purpose. Together with her high dose of daily enthusiasm, they certainly seem to work for her.



EUROPCAR JEWISH WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

NICCI RAZ SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION



"Everybody knows..." as Leonard Cohen famously sang... Everybody knows that the propaganda war against Israel has gone digital, as have most aspects of marketing, communication and public relations. In fact, it is common cause, as the lawyers say, that they all went digital some years ago.

This is precisely why 35-year-old, mother-of-three Nicci Raz was the right person to move into the driver's seat, as national director, of the SA Zionist Federation in October last year.

Raz is passionate about Zionist education and the promotion of aliyah and of course about the constant battle to reduce anti-Israel sentiment in local political, religious and cultural communities.

But above all Raz is deeply zealous, hardworking and energetic - she is a perfectionist, and she states clearly that "failure is not in my vocabulary", when it comes to driving digital strategies in the area of non-profit organisations and in particular in driving the SAZF towards its goals.

Raz matriculated from Yeshiva College, Johannesburg, graduated with a B Com (economics and law) from the University of South Africa and started her career as a marketing and client liaison manager at a data management company. In 2008 she joined ORT SA, the globally-recognised non-profit organisation specialising in education, training and job creation.

Interestingly, given the provenance of most South African Jews, ORT was founded in Tsarist Russia in 1880, its name created from the Russian words, Obshestvo Remeslenofo Zemledelcheskofo Truda, "The Society for Trades and Agricultural Labour".

Raz was especially active in growing the ORT JET programme that focuses on assisting Jewish business owners and remained on the ORT national executive committee until recently.

In 2014, Raz joined the marketing team at Paycorp, where she was responsible for brand management, digital marketing strategy as well as internal marketing and communications. In 2015, she was elected vice-chairman of the SAZF and completed a diploma in social entrepreneurship at the Gordon Institute for Business Science.

MONIQUE RISSEN-HARRISBERG THE VOICE CLINIC

The minute we open our mouths, people analyse us and form opinions about us - true, yes?

Well, Monique Rissen-Harrisberg understood this from very early on. So, at the tender age of 23, she founded and became the CEO of The Voice Clinic, a business that has specialised since 1988 in voice, communication, public speaking, and stress management training. And, as such, has changed the lives of thousands, if not millions, of South Africans, especially those who have needed to present themselves and/or their companies and businesses confidently and with aplomb.

Rissen-Harrisberg, having matriculated from Herzlia in Cape Town, had a diploma and licentiate in speech and drama teaching from Trinity College of London by 1985 and then rounded off these qualifications with honours in drama and English from UCT in 1987. Without further ado, she founded The Voice Clinic.

In those days, in South Africa, there weren't too many places, if any, offering voice training - which translates into dynamic speech, confidence and therefore personal and professional empowerment.

So Rissen-Harrisberg's bank manager and the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) told her she was being "ridiculous". Oh well, she thought, I'll do it myself - and using her credit card (she had a R400 budget plan) and cheap copying facilities, she did just that. By the end of her first month in operation, she had 16 clients.

"It was pretty 'interesting', she says. "Most business people thought then that all they needed was MS Dos training and financial courses. It was assumed that everyone knew how to speak. But we know that's not the case at all."

The rest is history. The now national and international Voice Clinic conducts programmes for blue chip companies, government, media companies, business, and the public at large.

"A unique part of our training was, 28 years ago, the focus on stillness, breathing and relaxation," says Rissen-Harrisberg, "now generally hailed and celebrated as 'mindfulness'!"

Rissen-Harrisberg, author of *Make Yourself Heard - How to Talk, Act and Dress Your Way to Success*, looks back with pride at The Voice Clinic's many achievements, ranging from being involved in training at the SABC in the early 2000s when Zwelakhe Sisulu was at the helm to training 500 SAA pilots in the use of their PA systems.

But her greatest achievement, she believes, was creating an "industry" in South Africa at a time when none like it existed - and she's probably correct.



EUROPCAR JEWISH WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

WINNER



JUDGE SHARISE WEINER
JUDGE OF THE HIGH COURT

"We saw this with the Nkandla issue," Weiner said. "If a report goes to the president and remedial action is suggested, that is the action that the president should take."

Then, on August 18, it was reported: only five candidates of the 14 interviewed, had been shortlisted to become the country's new Public Protector. Madonsela's current deputy Kevin Malunga and respected Struggle veteran Willie Hofmeyr did not make the cut. But Justice Siraj Desai, Professor Bongani Majola, Muvhango Lukhaimane, Busisiwe Mkhwebane - and Judge Weiner - did get the nod.

Weiner might not, in the end, get the job. On the other hand, she might. Either way, it is a mark of her leadership abilities and achievements that she made it to the short list.

High court justices, such as Weiner, not only fulfil a vital role as judges but, in an increasingly contentious democracy, they are probably our greatest bulwark against the erosion of the Rule of Law.

Weiner, 62, graduated from Athlone Girls High School, completed her BA LL B, and is one of only two Jewish females to have been appointed a justice - she was appointed in 2011.

Having been called to the Bar in 1978, Judge Weiner practised at the Johannesburg Bar, specialising in commercial law, competition law and matrimonial and family law. She took silk in October 1995, acting periodically as a high court judge.

Judge Weiner took part in the first advocacy training workshop given in 1996 with the assistance of trainers from Gray's Inn and has been deeply involved in advocacy training ever since.

It is fair to say, according to the Advocate, that "her enthusiasm and her drive and skill as a trainer have been instrumental in ensuring that the training programmes offered [locally] are on a par with those offered in any other part of the world".

She was chairman of the Advocacy Training Institute, South Africa, from 2000-2010, and is well known as a trailblazer for female advocates

Judge Weiner is also the co-founder and convener of "Warm the World", an NPO that places baskets of wool and needles in waiting-rooms where people knit a few rows of a square. The next client simply carries on. The organisation then collects the brightly-coloured finished squares, sews them together as blankets, and distributes them to those in need.

Judge Sharise Weiner is indeed a worthy winner of the Europcar Jewish Women in Leadership Award.

During the days when the Jewish Report Achievers' supplement was being written, the newspapers were full of reports about the search for a new Public Protector for South Africa.

This was not surprising. After all, Thuli Madonsela, the present incumbent whose term of office is due to end in October, has played a pivotal role in many of the momentous events in recent South African history, even at one point apparently going up against President Jacob G Zuma, over the issue of the cost for his homestead at Nkandla.

The search process, carried out in parliament, had been a slightly fraught matter, with the interviews of all potential candidates being crammed into one day. In addition, the questions asked by a multi-party parliamentary committee were often intrusive and difficult - in short, it was extremely difficult to have been one of the potential candidates for the office of PP.

But one candidate came through apparently unscathed. This was Judge Sharise Weiner. It was reported, for example, that Weiner "held her own during a gruelling question-and-answer session while being interviewed as a candidate ..."

Economic Freedom Fighter (EFF) Deputy Leader Floyd Shivambu, who formed part of the selection committee panel, asked Judge Weiner about her role during the struggle against apartheid during her years as a student in the 1970s.

"I started off as one of the founding members of Lawyers for Human Rights in South Africa. I was part of what was the precursor to the Wits Law Council in those days for dealing with oppressed people," she replied.

"I was also involved in many cases of getting young blacks off [out of trouble] who were holding 'Free Mandela' coffee mugs," she said.

Weiner went on to add that she was one of the protesters against the apartheid system during her university years. Shivambu then asked Weiner to whom she believed the public protector should report if the president were in violation of the Constitution.



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The Power to Surprise



WHIRLWIND WENDY APPELBAUM, MASTER OF MANY TRADES

BY MOIRA SCHNEIDER



"Quite frankly, this is an award that my father should have!" says Wendy Appelbaum of the Helen Suzman Lifetime Achievement Award she is receiving on behalf of the Donald Gordon Foundation.

She nevertheless acknowledges the role that she and husband Hylton have played in running the Foundation for 30 years, continuing Gordon's legacy.

Established in 1971, it is one of the oldest and largest private foundations in the country, making Gordon a man ahead of his time in this respect. "This is something that my father really believed in," she says.

"He had been really successful and he was totally convinced that he had a responsibility to share what he had. I absolutely agree with him and I think it's a privilege to be able to be in a position where you can give back and where you can make a difference in as many people's lives as possible.

"For me it's a no-brainer - if you grow up like that, you kind of eat, sleep and think about other people and situations and how you can make a difference. It's quite an interesting way of bringing your children up - I hope that I've passed it on to my children."

Nicholas, 29, a surgeon, and Matthew, 27, a banker, both live in London and are clearly the "apple" of their mother's eye. "They certainly haven't made their own money to be able to do that," she says, "but they are unbelievably caring kids and they give back in whatever way they can.

"Nicholas isn't the type of guy who's gone into medicine for the money - his passion and calling is to help."

At the age of 18, Matthew underwent a bone marrow transplant and spent nine months at the Constantiaberg Mediclinic. "I can barely walk into that unit," says Wendy, "But

Matthew Appelbaum... after he got better, they'd phone him to say they had a kid who was very depressed and could he come and talk to him.

"He would go in and talk about the transplant - the bad stuff and the good stuff - and he literally would enthuse them. If they call him, he phones kids - he's amazing."

It is particularly apposite that Wendy should be receiving an award named for Helen Suzman, as the two were personal friends. "She was my hero and absolutely my role model," she says.

"I knew her from a very young age and admired her spunkiness," says the ebullient businesswoman who is no slouch herself in this regard. Aside from always spending New Year's Eve together, Wendy remembers Helen's late afternoon calls summoning her: "Darling, where are you? Come and have a whisky!"

"I think Helen also gave me quite a lot of the courage to do some of the stuff that I do. I learnt about being a social activist from her."

Wendy became a household name when she took on Auction Alliance in 2012. "I love a good fight," she laughs. "It's so much easier to fight with somebody who's not your family!"

On a more serious note, she says she has "a loathing of anything that's not absolutely above board and honest and there was no way that I was going to be bullied by this guy". She followed this up last year by funding the successful legal challenge by farmworkers and other low-income workers who were being financially crippled by emolument attachment orders.

What's next on the consumer advocacy agenda for the feisty Wendy? "There's so much work to be done in this country," she says passionately.

"I think education is a proper shame, it's a disgrace. We've structured a very interesting blended model for high-quality, low-cost private education in Stellenbosch involving government, the private sector and the university," says

Wendy, a founding investor in Spark Schools, the public/private partnership.

"The (200 previously disadvantaged, farmworkers') kids are literally two years ahead of their counterparts.

"I get involved with everything!" she exclaims. "I'm one of those people. Sometimes I think maybe I can't say 'No'."

Wendy notes that she and Hylton took the Donald Gordon Foundation from being a charitable foundation to "a completely different level", one that strategises giving in the direction of maximum impact, "putting a philanthropic spin on it".

All grant-making has a South African focus. The Wits Donald Gordon Medical Centre, for example, has as its mission the training and retention of world-class super-specialists - such as transplant surgeons - in this country.

"We also train through Africa - we hope that they'll take the skills back to their own countries," she says. "It's keeping healthcare ahead of the game and we are internationally competitive."

The Foundation is a big funder of Jewish charities too, Wendy adds. "If we don't look after ourselves, no-one else will."

Nine years ago Wendy and her family settled in Stellenbosch on the 225-acre wine estate DeMorgenzon. Far from being bored at the slower pace of life, she says she is much less distracted and far more productive.

Her DeMorgenzon Chardonnay Reserve 2015 was last month named the world's best, an accolade she agrees is "completely unheard of" for a relative newcomer to the wine industry.

Describing herself as "highly energetic", Wendy says she is in her office "from early morning till late at night. I'm one of those people that cannot sit still.

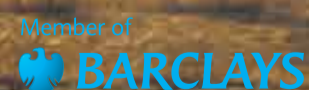
"I'm very hands-on with all the farming here," she adds somewhat unnecessarily. One would not have expected anything less.

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ABSA ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

BARRY TAITZ BLUE CELLULAR



When you read about how Barry Taitz, the Blue Cellular founder and CEO, has built a business - you might start thinking that his name should rather be "David" - after the fellow who took on a giant called Goliath.

And this "David" also has a never-say-die attitude. In 2013, when he was 38, Taitz, a Herzlia School and Cape Peninsula Technikon graduate, completed the New York Marathon; in 2010, the Berlin Marathon; and in 2009, he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. In short, Taitz is a battler.

This is clear from his business achievements as well. In 2003, Blue

Cellular started with R50 000; in 2016 it is set to be the largest independent prepaid starter pack distributor in the land.

This year, Taitz won the Vodacom CEO Award for the top overall prepaid distributor. In 2013 and 2016 he was appointed as a strategic partner of MTN and Cell C, respectively.

The point about Taitz, who grew up without a father, is that he has had to fend for himself and has, as the saying goes, pulled himself up by his own bootstraps. Blue Cellular distributes prepaid cellular starter packs for the mobile operators to the informal market and sells prepaid airtime on behalf of the mobile operators.

Taitz says: "I lead from the front and ensure that I have all the knowledge about my products. My distributors, sales agents and staff are all treated as equal partners in the business. I make sure that I give the most competitive deal in the market." Blue Cellular has five fulltime employees, six sub-distributors, and 750 commission-only sales agents.

Reflecting on winning the Vodacom Wholesaler of the Year award in 2016, he says: "To achieve this was David taking on Goliath, as I showed more growth than companies that had been dealing with Vodacom for 15 years longer than I had.

"Vodacom gave me this award because Blue Cellular had achieved more than 100 per cent growth in a saturated market."

Indeed: David won.

LYNN MICHELLE JOFFE CREATRIX



Lynn Michelle Joffe runs Creatrix, a storytelling company that specialises in writing, producing and activating multicultural and multilingual edutainment campaigns for blue chip South African brands. These include Absa, Telkom, Anglo American, Standard Bank, Vodacom, Unilever, Tiger Brands, and many more.

Joffe is a busy wordsmith. She has written thousands of hours of radio scripts for mass and emerging markets, which have been translated into 10 South African languages,

creating campaigns that educate and entertain and have run for years on various radio stations.

Joffe, 57, who has a BA (cum laude) in English, psychology and communications, has created, written, produced and directed countless performances and productions from children's audio stories to risqué cabarets.

She has published a multimedia children's picture book and audio CD "The Tale of Stingray Charles" which is in its second print run and seven more stories are in the pipeline. A read-along, sing-along book, "Ruby and the Powerpals", was created and produced for Eskom to teach children about electricity and is available in print and online. Joffe is completing an audio series of African children's stories that will be broadcast in Ghana and Kenya for a Unilever brand.

Creatrix has pioneered branded radio content in South Africa. Joffe and her staff work synergistically with big brands, agencies, broadcasters and media houses to take the campaign from brief to broadcast, empowering young South African women to become the best writers, producers, translators and marketers that they can be. And, with the addition of a children's storytelling company, Adlib, Joffe is breaking new ground in the area of Early Childhood Development, showing how music and the heard word is the key in inspiring young children to develop imagination, creativity and literacy.

Joffe is also Kundalini yoga teacher, a scuba diver, and a jazz singer and guitarist. She says that if one can't get your work done within business hours, then you're doing something wrong. "I teach yoga, am writing a novel, and have been learning jazz guitar for many years. I make time for my marriage, community activity and am committed to empowering children in the field of literacy and imagination. I put aside hours for these activities and treat them with the same respect as I do the business."

DARYL BARTKUNSKY STUDENT BRANDS



Daryl Gilad Bartkunsky is a born-to-be-entrepreneur who grew up listening to business discussions around the dinner table and by the age of 13 knew he wanted to be an entrepreneur. Now he has his eye on the youth - "Africa's most important consumer and asset..."

Bartkunsky is the co-founder and current managing director of Student Brands, a youth marketing and strategy agency that is a leading channel through which brands can reach South Africa's youth.

After King David, Bartkunsky went to do a B Com at the University of Johannesburg. But "within two months at UJ, I started Student Brands," he says.

"I'm always paying attention to my surroundings: Who do I have access to? What are my skills, what markets do I understand, and how can this be monetised? At UJ, that answer was simple - we had unlimited access to students. So, what do students care about, and which brands want access to them?"

At bar mitzvah age, he decided he'd have a shot at importing Donald Trump's bottled water, Ice. It took the young businessman four weeks to track down the right representative at Trump Industries and to begin negotiating distribution rights.

"They agreed in principle and I began securing an import license. And then they told me that a minimum order was 100 000 bottles. I was 13. I did not have the capital to buy that amount of stock outright."

It was a hard lesson for the young Bartkunsky to learn, but it was good experience and he "still has that import licence".

At UJ, establishing Student Brands, he and his co-founder started a website, filling it with tutorials, blogs, free ways to advertise one's own businesses and services, chat forums and for a short while second-hand textbooks. Things that didn't work were ditched, and slowly they built up a community.

Says Bartkunsky: "We now have big name clients for whom we hand out flyers, drive activations, and handle promotions. We use students on campus who are trusted by their peers, and we're active across a number of universities. I'm also able to focus on growing the business because we've hired a sales director and an operations manager."

Bartkunsky's goals are not solely about "monetising" though - they also include enabling youth to start their own businesses, to find fulfilling careers, and to facilitate a culture of innovation.

ABSA ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

LORI MILNER BEYOND THE DRESS



Lori Samantha Milner is an author, speaker and trainer, but besides being all of those, she is a consummate entrepreneur - for she has used her talents to create a special programme for modern corporate women. Called Beyond the Dress, it teaches women to develop personal branding, leadership presence, better time management, confidence, and networking and presentation skills.

Milner adds value to her training and development courses by facilitating a connection between employers and female employees; creating a platform for women to connect and share; and trying

to provide an "entrepreneurial" mindset in the people she trains.

Milner, 34, a graduate of Crawford College, Johannesburg, and holder of an honours in marketing communications from the University of Johannesburg, is also the author (with Nadia Bilchik) of "Own Your Space: The Toolkit for the Working Woman", a veritable mentor

in every South African woman's handbag, in which among other things she (and Bilchik) include interviews with some of South Africa's leading women, from CEOs to high court justices.

Milner says she lives by the saying "network most when you need it least" - be a "go-giver" not a "go-getter". She also believes that if you "empower women, you empower business".

Not that it's all easy. Milner lays equal emphasis on her charges learning to "always do more than you are being paid for", to understand well the financial numbers of the business one is in, to ask questions, to prepare fully for everything, and always to challenge oneself - "if something scares you, you are on the right track".

On the subject of how she balances work, family and community, she is more interested in "integration" rather than "balance".

She believes the best way to create such integration in one's life is to have absolute clarity of purpose; to let go of perfection (her mantra is "Done is better than perfect"); learning how to say "No"; planning "Me" time, sleep time and rest time; keeping the to-do list abbreviated and realistic; and, above all, by "being present" at all times, whatever the task.

She also believes in the mantras: don't judge and listen...listen well.

She has gone beyond the dress indeed.

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ABSA ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

ANTHONY WALD APRICITY CAPITAL



Anthony Wald, 48, is the owner and brains behind Apricity Capital which provides a fair, cheap, transparent financing method for all the folk in the emerging markets sector - a much-needed, viable alternative to loan sharks and microlenders.

Wald, who went to King David Victory Park and has a BA (Hons) in law, politics, and human resources management from Wits and UJ, and who spent a decade in the "financing" field, was inspired to find a smarter, safer and cheaper method for people to finance purchases.

Currently, consumers who need credit find themselves in a no-win situation. They can't get cheap funding from banks at normal credit card rates because they don't qualify, so are forced to go to retailers who can charge up to three to four times the original cost of the goods over the length of the contract.

And if consumers fall into arrears on, for instance, furniture purchases, the furniture companies not only repossess the goods but also mostly get a judgment for the full outstanding amount. Thus the consumers find they have lost their goods and still owe three times the value of the original purchases.

Wald is proud of having created what he describes as "a viable solution to a massive social and financial issue in this country (the effects of the microlending crisis)" and then having implemented that solution in five locations to prove it "resonates".

Wald is revved up about his new financing method - and says Apricity will be opening its first store in a joint venture with Bakgatla Ba Kgafela Investment Holdings (BBKIH) in the Moruleng Mall. Besides this, within the next three years, Apricity's financial method will also be available through all major retailers selling furniture and white goods to the relevant "market".

Wald says South Africa is "where it's at" - and is deeply passionate about this. "I spend all my time in the townships and emerging market 'coal face'. The reality in the emerging markets in South Africa is absolutely amazing - and not what we read in the newspapers.

"I love my customers and I love the township and I'm safer at work in the townships from Soweto to Dobsonville than I am in my home in Houghton. So, in a nutshell, I'm very bullish about this country."

LARRY GRIESHEIMER KWENDA MARKETING



Larry Griesheimer, 46, has a B Compt - a Bachelor of Accounting Science, a specialised undergraduate degree centred on accounting science, and an OPM from Harvard, the Owner/President Management Programme, which assists top executives from all over the world "to assess [their] strengths and weaknesses, identify and exploit emerging opportunities, and transform companies and careers".

Griesheimer's degrees offer a clue to how focused and adept he is. He certainly needs to be because he is in charge of an array of media, marketing and music companies that operate in South Africa, Africa, Europe and the US. Actually there are so many companies that it's difficult to keep track. But to take a few examples...

Kwenda Marketing markets the country's airports and publishes corporate magazines. Its notable clients are the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA) and Eskom, whose internal magazines Kwenda publishes. Interestingly, the company markets in Chinese, one of the very few local companies able to do this.

Gresham Licensing specialises in music licensing, ensuring that companies, ranging from Cell C and Stuttafords to Planet Fitness comply with Section 9 of the Copyright Act. It is the only local company that specialises in this very complex field.

The cherry (or dudvevan, as they say in Hebrew) on the top, seems to be Macgavren Guild Media. This company sells radio spots on major radio stations throughout the US. Its notable clients are all major national advertisers and it boasts 98 per cent coverage of the US market.

Griesheimer's group represents the largest independent radio representation firm in the US, offering more than 1 000 radio stations in 330 markets including Canada and Puerto Rico. It has 98 per cent coverage across the US.

The group specialises in the Hispanic market and can deliver nearly one-third of total US Hispanic population, the fastest-growing segment in the nation, with both mature and emerging Hispanic markets.

Griesheimer says he and all his 100-plus employees take pride in what they do and in the fact that the world's greatest brands - Nike, Adidas, Aspen, McDonald's, Levi's, Guess, Nine West, and Microsoft - use their services.

KIM FACLIER GOINDUSTRY DOVEBID



Kim Faclier says that she celebrates each day with optimism, enthusiasm and passion. Given her track record and what she chooses to deal with every day, she certainly needs more than a normal dose of enthusiasm...

Born 49 years ago, Faclier matriculated from Camps Bay High School in Cape Town and immediately earned herself a diploma in oral hygiene from the

University of Stellenbosch. But, while at school, she doesn't seem to have been much of a couch potato. No sir!

Besides being Victrix Ludorum every year she was at high school, she played squash at provincial, national and international level, represented South Africa at the Maccabi Games (squash), was ranked among the top 50 squash players in the world and was the SA under-21 squash champion at the age of 14. And while she was at university, learning to find plaque in peoples' mouths, it seems she was thinking about a lot more than sites of infection. Yes, sir!

For Faclier has had much experience and won so many awards in the real estate market that it's difficult to keep track. At the moment she is Managing Director- Property of a specialist (mainly online) real estate services company, GoIndustry DoveBid South Africa, one of nine Liquidity Services market places, listed on the NASDAQ:LQDT - a market place for companies, from small to Fortune 1000 corporations, on which to sell capital assets and real estate.

Previously Faclier was managing director of Binswanger South Africa, founder and director of Saville Row Auctions & Sotheby's Commercial Properties, a commercial broker at the Alliance Group, South Africa, and a director at Pam Golding International. And so the list goes on.

In 2011 Faclier won the 5 Star Women Property Network Award; in 2012 the Property Category Award for SA's Most Influential Women in Business and Government; in 2013, she was invited to judge the property industry's World Auction Championship in the US. And in 2015, as MD, Property, of GoIndustry DoveBid, Faclier won the "Fast Growth Award" at SA's Annual National Business Awards.

Faclier is part of the Young Presidents' Organisation as well as the National Auctioneers Association USA, SA Shopping Centre Association, Estate Agents Board SA, the SA Property Owners Association - and this list goes on as well.

Faclier says her leadership revolves around three words: People, Passion and Purpose. Together with her high dose of daily enthusiasm, they certainly seem to work for her.



ABSA ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

TANYA JOSELOWSKY *THE POP*



If you were asked what the letters “CBA” represented, what might you reply? “Commonwealth Bank of Australia” or perhaps “Corporate Business Automation” (a South African company)? What you probably wouldn’t guess is “Certified Balloon Artist”.

Yes, there is such a certification to be earned (Israel, among others, runs examinations) and, what’s more, there’re all sorts of balloon conventions to attend, from the World Balloon Convention in the US to Balloonland in Israel.

Tanya Joselowsky is the balloon queen of South Africa – she has a CBA and her balloon creations are truly remarkable – and she runs The Pop, which she

describes as “a one pop shop specialising in customised balloon décor, event planning and party design.”

“We add The Pop to parties,” says Joselowsky, “corporate events, promotional launches, store displays, exhibition stands, sporting events, theme parties, bar- and batmitzvahs, weddings, christenings, adult and children’s birthday parties, baby showers, and bachelorette parties. In short, people choose the celebration and we transform it into a visual extravaganza.”

The Pop creates extraordinary balloon creations that have never previously been seen in South Africa. In addition, The Pop supplies chair covers, tablecloths, stretch draping, special lighting and dance floors - all of which use balloons to make them special.

Joselowsky today employs a team of eight, each of whom has received specialised training in balloon art.

Joselowsky started The Pop after completing an addiction rehab programme. Being creative and starting the business, says Joselowsky, gave her an area of serenity, sobriety and structure.

As a result, she has been “clean” for 10 years and is proud of having built a profitable enterprise that brings joy to people and helps develop the staff she employs. She is particularly proud that The Pop donates balloon sculptures to sick and terminally ill children at the Charlotte Maxeke Hospital.

Joselowsky feels passionate about community involvement and says that no matter how busy she is, she will always find an hour or more for a worthwhile community endeavour.

Since 2004 she has been a volunteer dispatcher for Hatzolah Medical Rescue and was recently honoured with an award for performing the most volunteer shifts in 2015/16. Shabbat is a very special family day, she says, “that allows me to down tools and enjoy the most important blessings in my life”.



“OUR LIVES BEGIN
TO END THE DAY WE
BECOME SILENT
ABOUT THE THINGS
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ABSA ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

WINNER

BARRY TAITZ BLUE CELLULAR



When you read about how Barry Taitz, the Blue Cellular founder and CEO, has built a business - you might start thinking that his name should rather be "David" - after the fellow who took on a giant called Goliath.

And this "David" also has a never-say-die attitude. In 2013, when he was 38, Taitz, a Herzlia School and Cape Peninsula Technikon graduate, completed the New York Marathon; in 2010, the Berlin Marathon; and in 2009, he climbed Mount Kilimanjaro.

He also lists as personal achievements that in 1994, he was selected to go to Israel on a one-year Youth Leadership Programme on a full scholarship; that in 1997, 2009 and 2013, he was selected to play Maccabi rugby for South Africa.

In short, Taitz is a battler.

This is clear from his business achievements as well. In 1988, he was sales manager of the year at Simba, where he was then employed. In 1999 and 2000, he was top salesman at Simba.

In 2003, Blue Cellular started with R50 000; this year it is set to be the largest independent prepaid starter pack distributor in the country and is the only prepaid distributor that holds strategic agreements with all three networks. He has driven his business relentlessly onwards.

In 2011, Blue Cellular signed an agreement with Cell C Direct. In 2012, Taitz was MTN's new prepaid dealer of the year. In 2012, he signed a direct agreement with Vodacom. In 2014, he was made a partner of Vodacom's national wholesale division.

This year, Taitz won the Vodacom CEO's Award for the top overall prepaid distributor (an award given to a company that has shown the most growth over a year period). This year he also won the Vodacom award for top Prepaid Distributor in the Polokwane region. In 2013 and 2016 he was appointed as a strategic partner of MTN and Cell C, respectively.

The point about Taitz, who grew up without a father, is that he has had to fend for himself and has, as the saying goes, pulled himself up by his own bootstraps.

Blue Cellular distributes prepaid cellular starter packs for the mobile operators to the informal

market and sells prepaid airtime on behalf of the mobile operators.

Taitz, who is married and now lives in Johannesburg, says: "I lead from the front and ensure that I have all the knowledge about my products. My distributors, sales agents and staff are all treated as equal partners in the business. I make sure that I give the most competitive deal in the market."

Blue Cellular has five fulltime employees, six sub-distributors, and 750 commission-only sales agents. Taitz says: "I head-hunted the most qualified and knowledgeable people in the industry. We had worked together previously. I took people that had the same vision as I do."

As for the future, he says: "I see double-digit growth year-on-year and I hope to list my company on the JSE in the next year or two." He adds: "The economy is going to be under a lot of pressure, so for an entrepreneur that has vision and the foresight to invest and see opportunities, the future of this country is great."

He also suggests that what South Africa needs is an immediate change of president; marketing campaigns that highlight the country's beauty and, he says, he would drastically increase the salaries of public officials so as to reduce corruption.

Taitz's personal business philosophy is very straightforward: Be honest and transparent; pay suppliers early; lead from the front; show integrity and respect; never give up; and take one day at a time. He also ensures that he manages his diary effectively; takes as many family holidays as he possibly can; starts the day early; and prioritises his time.

Reflecting on winning the Vodacom Wholesaler of the Year award in 2016, he says: "To achieve this was David taking on Goliath, as I showed more growth than companies that had been dealing with Vodacom for 15 years longer than I had."

"Vodacom gave me this award because Blue Cellular had achieved more than 100 per cent growth in a saturated market."

This "David" is indeed a winner.

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BUSINESSES BUILDING SOUTH AFRICA'S PEOPLE

BY STEVEN GRUZD

South African firms have a distinguished history of corporate social investment (CSI). They have long recognised the important role they have in not only satisfying their shareholders, but also improving the lives of their stakeholders - their employees, customers and the broader community in which they operate. And some companies with Jewish CEOs and senior management are undertaking innovative and impactful initiatives in the CSI space.

Ruth Lewin, head of Corporate Sustainability at Discovery, says that the business makes it easy to undertake CSI. "Traditionally, for many companies, CSI is on the periphery, it's about compliance," she says. Discovery's core purpose is making people healthy and enhancing and protecting their lives. "We live this purpose at Discovery every day, and it infuses all that we do," Lewin says.

Discovery's visionary leadership has developed two main CSI vehicles (quite apart from its marketing and brand-building activities). The Discovery Fund, in operation since 1999, invests in community health projects. It uses R30 million annually for long-term funding for some 40 organisations, such as the Witkoppen Clinic in Diepsloot.

It works closely with the Department of Health and provincial governments to support primary health facilities where they are needed the most. This fund also supports rural healthcare, such as a project to provide care on farms around Hoedspruit in Limpopo.

The Discovery Foundation, launched in 2006, invests in training medical specialists in the public health sector, in desperately short supply. More than 300 specialist and sub-specialist doctors have been trained in the last decade. The

Foundation is committed to continue support until at least 2026, investing R150 million.

Lewin says Discovery's CEO Adrian Gore really encourages staff to volunteer their time to community projects, to listen and learn real people's needs. "He believes so much in people's ability to make this country better. His employees are seen as a force for social good. He is very optimistic and nothing holds him back - and we're all inspired by his achievements. We're excited to be a part of his organisation, having a substantial impact on society."

Blue Label Telecoms, managed jointly by brothers Mark and Brett Levy, is also strategic and value-driven in its CSI endeavours, focusing sharply on youth and education. It wants to make a direct impact on entrepreneurial skills in young people.

In partnership with the NGO Boys & Girls Clubs of South Africa, they support aftercare facilities for children of school-going age. Attendees receive meals, a safe environment to do their homework (school reports need to be submitted) and exposure to extramurals including sport, music, art, drama and technology.

At the moment, they cater for about 1 000 children combined in Pimville and Protea Glen in Soweto, with two new centres due to open in Hillbrow and Bertrams in January 2017.

"These will be our potential customers and employees of tomorrow," explains Ingrid Hindley, Blue Label's Group Human Resources Manager. She says this long-term investment prepares these young people for either higher education or learnerships with the company, or as agents to sell their

products. "In essence, we are growing our own." They recently hired their first alumnus of the scheme into their technical department.

Blue Label's other CSI beneficiaries do work related to the needs of these children, including Education Africa that handles the music component, the Reach for a Dream Foundation, and Women and Men Against Child Abuse.

Michael Campbell, Blue Label's head of Investor and Media Relations, notes how the CSI space is rapidly evolving and that initiatives need to be strongly aligned with the core business.

"The 'spray and pray' approach of the past is over. CSI is much more strategic, focused and considered," he says. Both Campbell and Hindley remarked that the joint CEOs are extremely generous, hard-working and enthusiastic, and these values infuse the company and those supported by its CSI.

Tapping into corporate CSI budgets, En-novate exposes South African entrepreneurs to international best practice, capital-raising opportunities and cutting-edge innovation through trips to destinations like Israel and Silicon Valley.

En-novate director Natan Pollack firmly believes that entrepreneurialism is culturally engrained in the Jewish community. "There is an altruistic push from Jewish businesspeople to foster small start-ups in South Africa, growing the economic pie and giving entrepreneurs global exposure. Jewish executives also give so freely of their time as mentors to fledgling businesses."

Jewish-run businesses are certainly doing their bit to build a better South Africa.

Absa Enterprise and Supply Chain Development

Small and medium enterprises are productive drivers of inclusive economic growth and development in South Africa. While funding and skills development are key to helping SMEs succeed in starting and running their businesses, giving them access to markets, information and non-financial support is also crucial. Absa's Enterprise and Supply Chain Development approach aims to create and promote entrepreneurship to ultimately contribute towards job creation and the sustainability of small and medium-sized businesses.

In supporting SME development, Absa focuses on three pillars:



1. Access to finance
2. Advisory Services to Corporate clients, and
3. Business development support, including access to markets, business and financial management skills

To this end Absa has:

8 Enterprise Development (ED) Centres across South Africa, which act as hubs for small-business owners where they can receive training, access to computers and boardrooms, and benefit from networking opportunities.

R250m Set aside for Enterprise Development fund to assist those SMEs that would not qualify for loans through the bank's traditional lending channels.

30 000 SMEs supported through training, seminars and workshops in 2015.

To this end Absa has:

43 000 procurement-ready SMEs registered on the portal

6000 corporate buyers actively engaging the SMEs

R2bn worth of tenders advertised monthly by the corporate buyers

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ABSA UNLISTED COMPANY AWARD

JODY FARBER

WARNER MUSIC GROUP



Jody Farber is lucky enough to have been able to successfully combine her two passions - finance and music - in her working life.

She learned about the importance of education as well as Jewish culture growing up in a family where her father was both an academic and a teacher. Farber knew that she wanted to get a professional qualification and was always interested in business and finance, so she chose to study to become a chartered accountant.

At the same time, Farber felt passionately about music; she had started playing the piano aged five and studied music theory and history.

Now she is financial director of Warner Music South Africa (WMSA), the newest affiliate of Warner Music Group (WGM), the global music company that includes well-known record labels such as Atlantic, Parlophone and Warner Bros. Records, as well as Warner/Chappell Music, one of the world's leading music publishers.

WMSA was established as a standalone company in 2013. It is based in Johannesburg and its territorial footprint covers southern Africa.

In its first three years of operation, WMSA has focused on establishing its brand, capitalising on WGM's international repertoire, while growing revenue and market share.

The company has also begun investing in South African music and has signed a number of talented artists including ASH, Dr. Bone, Josh Kempen and Locnville.

WMSA also manages WGM's digital relationships with global digital music services, such as iTunes and Deezer, across Africa, as well as supporting local digital services in countries from Angola to Zambia.

In every decision she makes in the business, Farber applies not only her financial expertise, but also her artistic knowledge and passion. This approach helps drive the company's agenda, ensuring that financial decisions support WMSA's creative strategy and approach to artist development.

Farber's participation in various decision-making forums, including the Recording Industry of South Africa (RISA) and the South African Music Performance Rights Association (SAMPRA), provide her with additional sector-wide knowledge and influence over industry decisions. And, as a successful woman in a traditionally male-dominated industry, she is helping raise the profile of her company and is earning the respect of her peers.

GREG GINSBERG

THE HEAVEN GROUP



Even sweets - candy, the stuff that tastes so heavenly - if it's reaching us via a business, need to have someone not just counting the calories but also computing the rands and cents, and sometimes the sterling pounds as well.

That person, when it comes to The Heaven Group (Sweets from Heaven, Brittans Sweets and Cosmic Candy), is Greg Ginsberg, 44, a chartered accountant.

Ginsberg is the financial director of the Heaven Group, founded in 1988 by Laurie Davidoff. The Heaven Group (60 company-owned and 45 franchised stores) operates in more than 100 outlets throughout southern Africa and the UK. Nedbank Capital Private Equity used to hold a significant minority interest in The Heaven Group, which Davidoff and Ginsberg bought back.

From its infancy, the group has required a great deal of persistence, patience and self-belief, through an initial successful public listing on the JSE in 1996, then a delisting in late 2002. Thereafter, Ginsberg, who joined the group in 2000, and Davidoff, set about consolidating, re-energising and growing the business.

Ginsberg, whose personal philosophy is "to work hard, to lead by example and never accept mediocrity", says the "successful management acquisition following delisting from the JSE and the successful establishment of an exciting UK retail business", has been his greatest business achievement.

The Heaven Group is committed to enhancing the lives of previously disadvantaged and, says Ginsberg, there is the constant need for business to innovate - resulting in new opportunities and new jobs. There is also always the need to balance work, family and community needs. This is the most difficult, Ginsberg says.

"Family often loses out but one has to remain focused on the ultimate goal in life and not lose one's way by being too distracted. Success in your family often lends to success in business but not, alas, vice versa." Yet his major mentor is his wife!

When Ginsberg gets the chance, he also enjoys cycling, gym and religious studies. As for what he thinks the country needs, he says, uncompromisingly: "Our leaders need to look more outwards and less inwards and lead by example. Less talk and more action - let's see a commitment to rolling up sleeves and getting dirty. Stop fighting each other and fight for the people TOGETHER!"

ABSA UNLISTED COMPANY AWARD

DIONNE ELLERINE HIRSCHOWITZ ELLERINE BROTHERS



Dionne Ellerine Hirschowitz, 49, BCom, LLB, graduate of King David Linksfield, and mother of three, runs one of the largest, privately-owned businesses in South Africa, Ellerine Brothers, as well as the associated Eric Ellerine Trust, and has been appointed to a number of boards in South Africa and the UK.

Hirschowitz, who lived in London for 11 years working at Stenham Property, notes her father moved during his life "from abject poverty to being a very successful businessman" and so she understands clearly the hard work involved in being successful in business.

The core business activities of Ellerine Brothers and associated companies are equity investments, property investments and management, and private equity investments.

"My father founded the initial family businesses. Since returning to South Africa in 2006, I have worked hard to initiate and develop additional business ventures," she says.

Hirschowitz stresses that she could not have achieved what she has done without the help of her father, Eric, whom she cites as a major role model. She notes, for example, that one of her most important challenges was to handle well the transition of control and management from her father to herself.

"This is a well-known challenge in any second generation business - and many others have floundered where I have succeeded - but I have succeeded only because my father and I worked together to deal with this issue and all others."

She has also worked hard to raise awareness of the role of women (particularly Jewish women) in the workplace and to mentor them via her role as chairman of the Young Presidents' Organisation, Pan-Africa.

Regarding charitable work, she notes: "We feel a huge burden of responsibility to use a portion of our profit to improve and support charitable and socially responsible causes, of which Jewish care organisations are a major focus."

Ellerine Brothers, via Ellwain, an associated company, earlier this year listed the JSE building and 24 central properties into a REIT company on the AltX (an alternative public equity exchange for small and medium-sized companies of the JSE). And Hirschowitz is looking forward to the Eric Ellerine Trust's largest investment to date - an investment in Poland, with EchoPolska Properties, which will be listing on September 12.

ARTHUR GOLDSTUCK WORLD WIDE WORX



A little known fact about Arthur Goldstuck, the technology research guru, is that he once worked for Playboy magazine - the local version that kicked off in 1994. But Goldstuck was not a centrefold star - he covered new technology for the magazine.

In short, Goldstuck, 57, who heads the World Wide Worx (WWW) research organisation, which is a leading market researcher into how technological change is affecting business and society, has been pursuing his interest and passion for a long, long time.

WWW is South Africa's leading independent technology research and strategy organisation and focuses on technology in business strategy. It offers a range of research and strategic services, surveys, benchmarks and reports intended to provide both industry intelligence and strategic insight into the hi-tech economy.

Goldstuck believes that understanding change is the key to managing change, and an essential tool for directing business strategy. While technology is both a key platform for change and a key driver of change, it is an understanding of the role of technology that is the enabler of change, Goldstuck says.

Goldstuck is himself an award-winning writer, analyst and technology commentator, providing understanding of technology issues to local and international media. In 2013, the Institute of IT Professionals of South Africa presented him with the Distinguished Service in ICT Award, and made him an Honorary Fellow of the Institute.

As a journalist, Goldstuck was news editor of the Weekly Mail (now the Mail & Guardian), SA correspondent for Billboard, and a freelance feature writer for the Times of London, among other publications, such as Playboy SA.

He publishes the online consumer technology magazine Gadget.co.za, and is author of 19 (mostly very funny) books, ranging from The Rabbit in the Thorn Tree (1990) and Money Talks But Mine Just Says Goodbye (1997) to Tech-Savvy Parenting (2014). His weekly gadgets column is the most widely syndicated technology column in South Africa. He also writes a weekly trends column for Business Times in the Sunday Times, South Africa's largest-circulation newspaper.

In 2014, the Minister of Communications appointed him to the National Broadband Advisory Council, on which he served until the end of 2015. He is an international judge in the GSMA Global Mobile Awards in Barcelona and has judged the Vodacom Journalist of the Year Awards since 2011.

ABSA UNLISTED COMPANY AWARD

WINNER

DIONNE ELLERINE HIRSCHOWITZ ELLERINE BROTHERS



Dionne Ellerine Hirschowitz, 49, is mother of three, and also happens to run one of the largest, privately-owned businesses in South Africa, namely Ellerine Brothers, as well as the associated Eric Ellerine Trust. She has also been appointed to a number of boards in South Africa and in the UK.

Hirschowitz, who has a B Com, LL B degree and is a graduate of King David Linksfield, lived in London for 11 years working at Stenham Property. She notes that her father moved during his lifetime "from abject poverty to being a very successful businessman" and so she understands clearly the hard work involved in being successful in business.

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generation business - and many others have floundered where I have succeeded - but I have succeeded only because my father and I worked together to deal with this issue and all others."

She has also worked hard to raise awareness of the role of women (particularly Jewish women) in the workplace and to mentor them via her role as chairman of the Young Presidents' Organisation, Pan-Africa.

Friends say that Hirschowitz is a highly-driven businesswoman. They say she is always fashion forward and is an avid collector and appreciator of art. She adores travelling to new places but particularly loves the African bush. She is a remarkable mother to the three children that she and her husband, Marc, have.

Regarding charitable work, Hirschowitz notes that "we feel a huge burden of responsibility to use a portion of our profit to improve and support charitable and socially responsible causes, of which Jewish care organisations are a major focus".

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Franchising is a viable option for entrepreneurs in tough economic times



Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) face a myriad of challenges: funding, cash flow and access to markets, to name a few. Given too that the South African economy is facing its own challenges, these small businesses are operating in a stressful climate.

Conversely, the franchise industry is weathering the storms well. A 2015 survey published by the Franchise Association of South Africa (FASA), shows that the franchise industry now contributes 12,5% to South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP). In the same study, 72% of franchisees reported an optimistic outlook about the future in the face of economic pressure. Franchising is a proven, superior business model that offers a viable, reputable formula for entrepreneurs looking to start a new business and wishing to avoid some of the pitfalls a new enterprise may face.

That doesn't, however, make a franchise immune to many of the trials facing small businesses. In fact, one fifth of franchisees experience challenges in managing costs for their businesses. This is especially true for startups.

Absa, a member of Barclays, has more than 20 years' experience in the franchising industry. A dedicated team of specialists operates across a number of business categories, namely grocery retail, restaurants, quick-service restaurants, entertainment and leisure, automotive and fuel, among others. This sound knowledge of the industry enables the bank to offer creative products and solutions to meet the franchisee's needs throughout every stage of the franchising lifecycle. For example, recognising that information is vital to lowering barriers, Absa hosts monthly breakfast seminars in partnership with FASA. Potential franchisees can learn more about the industry and engage with franchisors and industry players.

Funding for revamps and expansion is another way in which Absa assists the 44% franchises that have been in business for more than ten years. Leading working capital solutions also enable franchisees to focus on running and growing their businesses. Starting up or running a franchise business doesn't have to be a daunting task. Absa has the support and the right range of market-leading operational, lending and investment products to help franchisees prosper.

For more information, contact Absa Franchising: Tel +27 (0)11 350 8000, email franchise@absa.co.za or visit absa.co.za

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CAPE GATE HELPS IGNITE THE SOUL OF SOUTH AFRICA IN SONG

BY WAYNE SUSSMAN

In early 2007, the then Israeli Ambassador to South Africa, Ilan Baruch, sent a burly man with tousled ginger hair to call on Mendel Kaplan. Baruch wanted the man to convince Kaplan to import a play from Tel Aviv's Carmeri Theatre. Kaplan was not too interested in the play but he had heard of Miagi (Music is a Great Investment) and knew that the man, Robert Brooks, was associated with it. They were soon talking about music.

Kaplan was then busy finishing a multi-purpose hall at Morris Isaacson School in Soweto. He wanted to know if a wing could be added for the teaching of music. The architect, Monty Sack, was brought in, and he advised Kaplan and Isaac Joffe that it would not be that much more expensive to build a music centre on the same property, next to the hall. (Sadly, all three of these men, Kaplan, Joffe, and Sack, have since passed away.)

And so Cape Gate Miagi Centre for Music (CMCM) was built on the site of the historic Morris Isaacson High School, the school at the centre of the 1976 Soweto Uprising.

In 2008, Kaplan had just arrived back from a business trip and went straight to Soweto for the sod-turning event. Joffe was waiting for him and looking after the violinist virtuoso, Maxim Vengerov. They were not the only people at the event.

UNICEF representatives, trying to muscle in on the success of the event, were getting all the learners to pose for photos. This



irritated Kaplan; he took out his frustration by acting as if he had never heard of Vengerov. Vengerov was taken aback that a man so well-versed in music did not know who he was. The building was finally inaugurated in May 2011.

The Cape Gate Miagi Centre for Music has come a long way since the doors opened. It now has a principal in Chris Bishop, who has been able to develop the curriculum and attract great educators to the centre. Bishop says: "We are able to see the development of our students both as musicians and members of the CMCM and members of the wider community."

There are about 100 students at the centre, each receiving practical, theory, choir and ensemble tuition and who are provided with an instrument for the duration of their studies. Fourteen teachers teach piano, guitar, violin, viola, cello, drum kit, djembe, trumpet and pennywhistle.

Each student receives an individual 30-minute lesson weekly as well as an hour of ensemble tuition. The centre also teaches about 170 students at six local crèches and primary schools. The teachers use CMCM-created syllabi for djembe, pennywhistle and early childhood development studies, taught alongside Unisa classical and theory courses and Trinity rock & pop syllabi.

An Arco project, in partnership with Birmingham Conservatoire, provides 24 senior students with additional tuition via the Internet in a media room. The CMCM hosts community concerts series known as "The Soweto Arts Explosion".

The centre is backed by the Department of Arts and Culture, the National Lotteries Commission (NLC), the Kaplan Kushlick Foundation, Rupert Foundation and Stonehage. Project-related donors are the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Austrian Embassy.

Cape Gate and the Kaplan and Kushlick families care deeply about the CMCM's continued success. Joffe once remarked in the early days that as long as there was noise coming out of a room, he would know that the CMCM was on the right track.

At the end-of-year concert in 2013, Joffe said that not only was noise coming from the rooms, but the students were now playing beautiful music. His job, he said, was done and he could retire as a board member.



So how does one quantify or qualify the CMCM's success? I think back to the day I snuck into one of the rooms and found young Kgaugelo Kodisang holding her violin between her chin and shoulder, hard at work, practising her chords. Her teacher for the week was Louise Landsdown, a master of the violin and viola, from the Birmingham Conservatoire.

Later, Kodisang told me that she wanted to take advantage of her opportunity at the CMCM, then play in a Miagi ensemble or orchestra, then go to Birmingham Conservatoire, and then teach violin to the future Morris Isaacson High School pupils over Skype...

Wayne Sussman is a board member of the Cape Gate Miagi Centre for Music (CMCM)

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The Advantage of Knowing





IN THE ARTS, SOUTH AFRICAN JEWS BOX WAY ABOVE THEIR WEIGHT

BY JEREMY GORDIN

Two young men in brown shorts glide seamlessly through the air. They twist and turn and perform gestures with their bodies that don't seem possible. They wow an international audience and panel of dance judges, as they tell a tale with their bodies of a journey, replete with difficult goodbyes and important learning curves.

They are Muzi Shili and Oscar Buthelezi. The piece they perform is called *The Road*, which wins the coveted Kurt Jooss Prize for Choreography hosted by the city of Essen in Germany, earlier this year.

Shili and Buthelezi are products of South African dance company Moving Into Dance Mophatong (MIDM), where the training is of such a high standard that this level of international success in dance has become quite commonplace.

The Road is the second generation of dance developed under the guiding force of Sylvia Glasser, who started South Africa's oldest, biggest and most important dance company, MIDM, from her garage in Victory Park, in 1978 - when it was not only frowned upon but actually illegal for black and white dancers to share a stage.

The resonance between Jewish practitioners and success and development in South African arts has almost become a cliché. For a reason.

Martin Schönberg changed the profile of international dance as a teenage wunderkind principal dancer for several European companies. He went on to create Ballet Theatre Afrikan, a dance company in Johannesburg, which flourished for close to two decades, giving balletic possibility to contemporary dance, and launched the careers of Yolandi Olckers, Kitty Phetla,

Thoriso Magongwa, Andile Ndlovu and Camille Bracher, to name just a few.

But choreography in South Africa steered by Jewish energy has also enjoyed controversy as currently Berlin-based Robyn Orlin and currently Lille-based Steven Cohen can attest to.

These artists had the chutzpah to take established dance trends and turn them inside out, infuriating some, offending others, but by and large making people think about the discipline differently.

Fine art has been another sphere of creativity that enjoys an enormous Jewish presence. During the 1970s and 1980s, Linda Givon and Natalie Liknaitzky unequivocally set the stage for contemporary art in South Africa to develop - giving critical platforms and professionalism to the career of a vast gamut of painters, sculptors, printmakers and photographers, including William Kentridge.

Indeed, Givon's Goodman Gallery, this year celebrates 50 years and continues, under the steerage of another Jewish curator, Liza Essers, to be the country's foremost gallery.

Veteran photographer David Goldblatt was one of the guiding forces in the establishment of the Market Theatre Photo Laboratory, which offers photographers skills, critical feedback and a knee-up into the world of making beautiful images.

And Jewish photographers in their own capacity, of the ilk of Gideon Mendel, David Lurie, Paul Weinberg, Jodi Bieber and Mikhael Subotzky, dominate the photography world from a gallery-based, journalistic and issues-based perspective, changing perceptions of the world one frame at a time. And thinking of photographic frames, look no further than the

inventive, wise and magnificent work of filmmakers Barry Berk, Steven Markovitz and Harriet Gavshon.

Barney Simon, co-founder of the Market Theatre in Johannesburg in 1976, which remains one of South Africa's most important repositories of the trajectory of excellence in theatre, from protest to experimental theatre, was also Jewish.

Over the 40 years of the theatre's existence, Jewish directors, performers and designers, such as Malcolm Purkey, Alan Swerdlow, Nadya Cohen, Robert Colman, Lisa Melman and Gina Shmukler have been privileged to call the space their professional home.

Daphne Kuhn has run Theatre on the Square in Sandton for 20 years. She has made it possible for a wide range of Jewish performers, from Annabel Linder to Shelley Meskin, Lara Lipschitz to Vicky Friedman to air their voices and moves. The new generation of theatre producers includes Orly Shapiro, cofounder of Maboneng's Pop Arts Theatre, experimental theatre's go-to place.

Music too, from jazz under the hand of Dan Patlansky, Rus Nerwich and Sam Sklair, to rock led by Johnny Clegg - and his son, Jesse - to composition by Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph and Phillip Miller has been enriched by Jews.

This year's Standard Bank Young Artist for music is astonishing young violinist Avigail Bushakevitz. Not to forget the inimitable musical theatre giant Bryan Schimmel who plays the piano and conducts like a dream. Or the fabulous moves of David Kramer and his red veldskoene.

And the list goes on: Think of any arts discipline and arguably it will be Jewish energy that lends it momentum.



Chat to us about cricket lessons.



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*Swiss Re Individual Risk Market New Business Volumes Survey

ABSA LISTED COMPANY AWARD

ANTON OSSIP

DISCOVERY INSURE



Forty-two-year-old Anton Ossip is in the insurance business; he runs Discovery Insure - which some irreverent people might think is a passionless pursuit - but Ossip is a man with a mission. He puts it simply: "I run an insurance company focused on insuring individuals. But our real activity is to improve the way people drive and, by doing so, save lives."

To begin with, Ossip was no slouch academically. He graduated from King David Victory Park with four distinctions and then graduated from Wits with a B Econ Sc cum laude, becoming a member of the Institute of Actuaries, London UK and a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries.

Ossip says: "Our difference at Discovery Insure is that we encourage and reward good driving. We do that through the use of telematics technology that is able to measure driving 'style'.

"Our clients are rewarded monthly for good driving - this is globally unique. Our aim is to improve the way South Africans drive and reduce the carnage on our roads; 15 000 people die annually on South African roads."

Ossip has rapidly worked his way up through his field, starting at Commercial Union in 1996; joining Alexander Forbes in 1998; becoming CEO of Alexander Forbes Personal Services in 2003, group operations head in 2009, and MD of Forbes Financial Services in 2010; and then moving to Discovery Insure in 2011.

Ossip says the highlight of his career has been at Discovery, being part of a team that has taken the business from launch as a real start-up business that now employs more than 500 people and looks after more than 140 000 vehicles in a part of an industry (user-based insurance) that larger insurers have tried and failed.

When Ossip isn't working he reads, runs and travels and spends time with his wife, Daniella, and sons Jamie (13), Aaron, (11), and Samuel, (8).

Ossip is bullish about the years ahead. He thinks South Africa continues to show resilience. "I am an optimist by nature and would like to think that the majority of South Africans who are here, are committed to making South Africa work. We will have challenges, but I guess there isn't a place in the world that doesn't face these.

"Our strength is our ability to work through issues and overcome these."

MICHAEL METZ

KAP BEDDING



Mike Metz, 59, is the person who makes sure many of us have a good night's rest. Starting with a small family business, he built one of the country's largest bedding brands; and now Metz is the divisional CEO of KAP's integrated bedding division which manufactures foam, mattress ticking, springs, and assembles mattresses.

JSE-listed KAP is a group of manufacturing concerns, consisting mainly of companies acquired since 2004, as well as the industrial assets of Steinhoff Africa. It thus ranks as one of southern Africa's leading mid-cap (if you'll pardon the pun) industrial businesses.

Its three major brands are Restonic which manufactures bedding components (inner springs, pocket springs, timber bases, plastic components, bonded insulation), mattresses and bases; Vitafoam which is responsible for flexible polyurethane foam and expanded polyethylene production; and DesleeMattex which produces knitted and woven jacquard fabrics (mattress ticking).

Metz was appointed chief of KAP's bedding division after the acquisition of his family business, Restonic, by KAP Industrial in January 2015. Metz studied furniture design at Wits Technikon, but being an entrepreneur at heart, he entered the furniture manufacturing sector in 1980 when he bought a small bedding factory.

Metz Bedding was established in 1981 followed by the opening of Metz Transport and Metz Industrial Holdings in 1982. By 1989, the company focused on bedding and this led to the divestment of Metz Furniture, after which Michael was instrumental in establishing Basemakers and Bedding Component Manufacturers.

He started Budget Bedding in 1985. In 1999, he established International Wire Convertors and Buffalo Freight Systems. In 2002, Buffalo Textiles went into operation.

James Michener once wrote: "The master in the art of living makes little distinction between his work and his play, his labour and his leisure, his mind and his body, his information and his recreation, his love and his religion. He hardly knows which is which. He simply pursues his vision of excellence at whatever he does, leaving others to decide whether he is working or playing. To him he's always doing both."

That pretty much sums up Metz's attitude to his life. His work is his play and his leisure is his labour, so to speak - though he'd add that none of those would be worth much without his close-knit family and his Jewish values.

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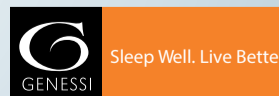
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ABSA LISTED COMPANY AWARD

WINNER

MICHAEL METZ

KAP BEDDING



James Michener once wrote: "The master in the art of living makes little distinction between his work and his play, his labour and his leisure, his mind and his body, his information and his recreation, his love and his religion.

"He hardly knows which is which. He simply pursues his vision of excellence at whatever he does, leaving others to decide whether he is working or playing. To him he's always doing both."

That pretty much seems to sum up Michael Metz's attitude to his life. His work is his play and his leisure is his labour, so to speak - though he'd add that none of those would be worth much without his close-knit family and his Jewish values.

Metz, 59, is the person who makes sure that many of you have a good night's sleep - starting with a small family business, he built one of the country's largest bedding brands. And now Metz is the divisional CEO of KAP's integrated bedding division which manufactures foam, mattress ticking, springs and assembles mattresses.

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Metz is a straight-forward, straight-talking individual who doesn't over-complicate issues. Asked how he deals with finding a "balance" between work, family and community, he says: "I'm blessed to have my family behind me and have my son at my side in the business. Unfortunately work is all I know. We do our best to support the community at all times..."

Asked whether he has a mentor or role model, he replies: "My dad, Norman Metz."

And asked what significance the Jewish Achiever Awards hold for him, personally and professionally, he gives it some thought and finally says: "Being the simple person that I am, awards really don't mean much. My biggest award is that we have built a business that supports 1 500 families daily."



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THE ROLE OF JEWISH BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA

BY PHILIP KRAWITZ

When I first met Jacob Zuma in KwaZulu-Natal before he became president, he asked me what the Jewish population was... "around a million I suppose?" he enquired. Considering that at our peak of around 125 000, we were less than 2,5 per cent of the white population and around 0,5 per cent of the total population, we indeed punch much above our weight.

The early pioneers

Way back in the mid-19th century, **Jonas Bergtheil** started accumulating land in the Cape Colony. He soon acquired nearly 200 000 acres and is probably the forerunner of Jewish prominence in the real estate industry.

According to Sarah Gertrude Millin in her role as a social historian, Jews started out as peddlers going "across the veld with a pack of goods on their backs". However, a few months later they reappeared! "This time with a Cape cart and horse... often they opened a shop."

Many came with knowledge of tailoring, textiles, cabinet making and shoe making. There were also Jewish blacksmiths, pitch dealers, lime burners, lumbermen, gardeners and dairymen.

Port Elizabeth became an important centre of the wool trade in which Jewish merchants, notably the **Mosenthal brothers** played a leading role. From bases in Cape Town and Port Elizabeth they set up a chain of trading stations in the interior of the Cape, usually manned by Jewish immigrants whom they had brought out from Germany.

The Mosenthals helped to stabilise the rural economy by providing long-term credit to storekeepers and, through them, to farmers. Before the advent of commercial banking, the firm's notes were widely accepted in the development of banking and the financing of diamond and gold mining.

In the 1840s, **Aaron** and **Daniel Depass**, brothers from Britain, developed shipping, fishing and coastal trading enterprises in the Southwestern Cape. They also had interests in the newly discovered diamond fields in South-West Africa, and Daniel was one of the pioneers of the sugar industry in Natal.

Barney Barnato, possibly the first Jewish tycoon in South Africa, partnered with Cecil John Rhodes to found De Beers Consolidated Mines. They controlled the production and marketing of diamonds with a model that has endured to this day. On the discovery of gold in the 1880s, they did much to develop gold mines based on the wealth and skill they had acquired in diamond mining.

The legendary **Samuel Marks** and his partner **Isaac Lewis** established a number of industries in the Pretoria area. It covered production of dynamite for the mines, a distillery and even aglassworks. The steel plant which they established in Vereeniging was the forerunner of the state-controlled Iscor.

20th century leaders

The 20th century saw the rise of myriad Jewish leaders in the fields of commerce and industry. **Sir Ernest Oppenheimer** was born in Germany. He began his working life at 17 with a diamond brokerage in London and was sent to South Africa by his employer in 1902 at the age of 22.

In 1927 he managed to wrest control of De Beers from Cecil John Rhodes and consolidated the company's global monopoly over the world diamond industry. As an adult he converted to Anglicanism. He was succeeded by his son, Harry, who went on to head up the Anglo American Corporation.

Despite his father's conversion, Harry had both a brit-milah and a barmitzvah in the Kimberley Synagogue. Harry converted to Christianity when he married his wife. Despite their conversion, the Oppenheimers were often targeted as Jewish stereotypes.

In 1904 **Issy Schlesinger** founded the African Life Assurance Association. In 1949 he passed his empire to his son, John, who went on to become one of the doyens of the entertainment industry in South Africa.

The real visionary of the insurance industry was **Donald Gordon**, who started Liberty Life in the 1950s. By the time he retired as chairman of Liberty Life in 1999, the company was valued at over R40 billion and was the largest listed life assurance company in South Africa.

Donny was also the visionary behind the development of Sandton City, one of the world's most successful shopping centres.

The late **Mendel Kaplan** became recognised throughout the world as a great business leader, a great philanthropist and a great Jew. He transformed Cape Gate, founded by his father, Isaac, "from a modest business selling products like wrought iron and garden benches into a vast conglomerate producing its own steel". Cape Gate became one of the largest privately-owned companies in South Africa. Mendel financed numerous philanthropic projects in South Africa, Israel and in Jewish communities around the world.

Eric Samson spent most of his life in the steel business operating from his base in Johannesburg. He joined his father's fencing and wiring business, Pan Africa Staalhandel in 1958 and became MD of the business in 1965 after it merged

with competitor, S Machanick and Co. Macsteel came about.

Eric and his wife, Sheila, set up the Eric and Sheila Samson Foundation which has seen the family recognised as leaders in the field of philanthropy.

In KwaZulu-Natal the Gundelfinger, Beare, Moshal, Gevisser and Frame families became legendary for their contributions to the South African economy. The Gundelfingers, who specialised in general importation, ironmongery and wholesale and retail trading were strong advocates of encouraging local "infant industries" through tariff protection. **Karl Gundelfinger** was president of the Natal Chamber of industries and later president of the South African Chamber of Commerce.

Aaron Beare joined a small family furniture factory in 1925. Beare Brothers were one of the pioneers of higher-purchase trading. The Aaron Beare Foundation is one of the largest charitable foundations in the country.

Aaron's son, Jonathan, has become a financial giant by investing in numerous companies run by young people, and his involvement in everything from property to the hotel industry, has seen him establish his own independent fortune.

Philip Frame became a legend in the textile industry after launching his manufacturing operation in Durban in 1928. By 1960 the Frame organisation had become a series of listed major industrial companies operating mills, factories and sales offices throughout South Africa.

Now to the Cape. In the early 1900s, **Ellis Silverman** emigrated from Latvia to Cape Town. A tinsmith, he began working in Saldanha Bay in a factory making the tin cans used to preserve rock lobster.

In 1905 he partnered with a local boat owner, James Kasner, to establish the Saldanha Bay Canning Company.

Robert Silverman, born Robert "Milliner", was adopted by his uncle, Ellis Silverman, at the age of six.

When he returned to South Africa after the war, he built a fishmeal factory which became the basis for the growth of the Saldanha Bay Canning Company.

Today, Saldanha Bay Pilchards racks up sales of over 30 million cans per annum.

In the early 1990s Robert set an example in corporate responsibility by creating a scheme to assist all first-time homeowners in his company to buy their own homes. They established a clinic for their employees, where their employees and their children receive primary healthcare.

Jewish business leaders in the Western Cape became synonymous with the retail industry. Although originally founded by Max Sonnenberg in 1931, the late **David Susman** was responsible for building Woolworths into the model company that it is today.

Woolworths' "Good Business Journey" has earned it recognition as one of South Africa's most admired companies.

Morris Mauerberger started off selling door-to-door in Sea Point. When Gus Ackerman needed funds to start a business, he went to Morrie whose own business had prospered and had developed as shippers and traders of stature.

Morrie agreed to finance stock to the extent of £1 250, but also wanted 10 per cent of sales from the new stores. Morrie also funded Sam Kirsch and Leon Segal who opened stores of their own.

The three Mauerberger-funded men went into partnership to launch South Africa's first chain store group - "Ackermans".

Greatermans was created to be "greater than Ackermans". After opening 89 Checkers stores within the Greatermans Group, **Raymond Ackerman** was fired at the age of 35 for his revolutionary ideas, especially the concept of price cutting.

Jack Golden had started a business called Pick 'n Pay and was happy to sell his three-store chain. Raymond Ackerman was "the father of South African consumerism" and his concept of "The Consumer is Queen" resonated with women.

Today Pick n Pay operates some 1 200 stores in South Africa, with more than 100 in the rest of Africa. Their turnover exceeds R70 billion and they employ more than 70 000 people.

Another doyen of the Cape retail scene was **Stanley Lewis**. Jewish traders were known as "Shinis". When four of them got together, they decided to name the group after the four Shinis, and so it became Foschini!

Sydney Press joined the Edgars Group as a temporary employee when Edgars moved to Cape Town in 1935. In 1946 Edgars went public following a period of strong growth under Sydney's leadership. By 1990 the company's turnover had reached R2 billion. Unfortunately, in the latter years, the group has performed poorly under new owners, but still remains a force to be reckoned with.

Another major retail chain, Truworths, is currently headed up by **Michael Mark**, who has set new standards of excellence in the retail arena.

In the banking sphere, **Bernard Kantor** and **Stephen Koseff**, created Investec, which has established itself as the leading

South African bank catering for high net worth individuals. They have expanded internationally and are universally recognised for the excellence of their innovative banking and financing products.

Another bank with a Jewish founder and an ongoing Jewish flavour is Sasfin, headed up by **Roland Sassoon** and his heir-apparent son, Michael.

In property, look at the incredible performance of **Gerald Leissner**, who heads up Apex.

Think of the healthcare industry and consider the incredible achievements of **Adrian Gore** in building Discovery into the market leader in its field.

Although his major endeavours emanated from his Swaziland ventures, one cannot ignore the huge impact of **Natie Kirsh**, one of the richest men in the world. His empire spans many countries.

The influence of top business leaders like Brian Joffe, Adrian Gore, Stephen Koseff, Colin Coleman and others on the government of the day should not be underestimated.

Indeed, in everything from stockbroking to farming to winemaking to retailing, insurance, banking, clothing manufacture or real estate, the Jewish community of South Africa has made an incredible contribution.

Organised commerce

Jewish business leaders play major roles in leading organisations like the Chambers of Commerce and Chambers of Industry. **Mike Getz** was a leading light in the Chamber of Industries. Leaders like **Lassie Salber**, **Hymie Wolffe** and **Robbie Stern** all headed up the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce.

Repairing the world

One can never underestimate the role played by **Eliot Osrin**, who served on the boards of many companies. Thanks to Eliot, many top Jewish businessmen were encouraged to set up charitable trusts which today are the lifeblood of Cape Town's Jewish community.

Raymond Ackerman founded the Raymond Ackerman Academy of Entrepreneurial Development and **Donny Gordon** founded the Gordon International Business School (GIBS) at Wits.

The **Samsons** have funded numerous schools and Eric's ongoing involvement as a trustee of the Nelson Mandela Fund sees him and his family playing a leading role in the field of philanthropy.

Charitable trusts and foundations such as The Jakamar Trust, the Donny Gordon Foundation, The Mauerberger Foundation and The Eric and Sheila Samson Foundation give evidence of the extent to which Jewish business leaders set an incredible example of ongoing philanthropy.

My story

A little about the Cape Union Mart story. My late grandfather, **Philip Krawitz**, founded P Krawitz and Company in Johannesburg in 1933. He moved to Cape Town in the 1940s and decided to rename his company "The Mart".

The Registrar of Companies felt it was too generic, so he then suggested "The Union Mart", acknowledging the Union of South Africa. When that, too, was rejected, he added the prefix, "Cape", and so the "Cape Union Mart" was born.

My grandfather's failing health forced my dad to leave his job at the OK Bazaars where Miller and Cohen had given him some excellent training. Unfortunately the war broke out and my dad, Arthur, was conscripted into the army. When he was demobbed in 1945 he returned to a literally bankrupt business.

Together my father and mother struggled to get the business back on its feet. Everything my parents had went into sustaining the business.

In 1970, while I was in my final year at UCT, my dad suffered a heart attack and I became a university dropout to run the business. My dad was terrified of my ambition and nearly suffered another heart attack when I suggested that we open a second store in Parow.

Along the way we had bought a uniform company which was doing really well and we then purchased the Hepworths manufacturing operation with its 22 workers, to provide us with a regular supply of traffic, fire and security clothing.

Our factory now employs some 230 people and produces more than 500 000 hi-tech garments per annum. The group employs more than 3 000 people and we have just opened our 200th store.

In summary

Jewish business leaders have made an incredible contribution to the economy. They have created hundreds of thousands of jobs and are generally known for their high standards of corporate responsibility.

This is an abbreviated version of an address Krawitz delivered at the Gardens Synagogue's 175th anniversary celebration.

When we say
'good luck, we hope
you win an award,'
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is 'we would love to
sell your home!'
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SIYAKHA EDUCATION TRUST: SUPPORTING TOMORROW'S LEADERS, TODAY

BY JEREMY GORDIN

Resilient Property Income Fund, Fortress Income Fund Limited and Lodestone REIT Limited are a group of listed companies that own shopping centres and developments in South Africa.

Their shopping centres are mainly non-metropolitan ones. Where they are situated is important because what many people do not know is that the group has a combined community and education investment division called the Siyakha ("To build") Education Trust.

Its passion, says Jeff Zidel, co-founder of Resilient, is to support and empower the youth by means of sustainable educational initiatives in rural South Africa.

In 2015, for example, Siyakha put R100 million into its educational work.

Traditionally, Siyakha invested in primary, secondary and special needs schools in the nine provinces, building and equipping schools with computer, physical and life science classes, interactive white boards, basic maintenance, and refurbishment projects.

The Trust also invested in upgrading and equipping nutritional feeding scheme classes, vocational study units, hospitality classes, toilet facilities, classroom furniture and purchasing brail textbooks. In addition, educators came with the equipment to train educators. Local contractors did the work during the various stages of the projects.

However, the Trust wanted to increase its reach - and it invested in building Siyakha Learning Labs in some of its malls. These free Learning Labs have become educational havens where people of all kinds come to study and attend courses, get training, use the Internet, and have access to educational supplements - gratis.

There are currently three Learning Labs across the country: inside Tubatse Crossing in Burgersfort (Limpopo), which opened in December 2014; inside Galleria Mall in Amanzimtoti (KwaZulu-Natal) which opened in April 2015; and the new addition inside Jubilee Mall, Hammanskraal (Gauteng), which opened in April this year.

To date Siyakha has more than 10 000 registered users at the Tubatse Crossing Learning Lab, 6 000 at the Galleria Mall Learning Lab and 5 000 at the Jubilee Mall Learning Lab.

The youngest user is under 10 and the oldest user over 60. The average age of the learners at the Learning Labs is 25 to 45 years. Many of these users have not completed secondary or tertiary education and are using the Lab facilities to advance themselves.

At the reception desk, the new user registers with his or her thumbprint and gets free access to the equipment inside the Lab. They also get a Wi-Fi code allowing them free Wi-Fi throughout the Lab.



There is a common area where the user finds computer hives. These computer areas are for research, study, assignment writing and conducting business. The Study Bar is a long table where users can use their own devices such as laptops, tablets, iPads and cell phones for various study and research means.

There are three features called Quick-Fix pillars, equipped with



three iPads per feature and designed to offer the user a quick solution to Internet access. The Think Tank is the main feature of the Lab; this upgraded classroom is where the user gets free, controlled training.

There is a library where the user can access grade 8-12 study guides in all subjects. Each of the computers is pre-loaded with a Perls Reading Programme and a curriculum support software called Mathemagics. These two programmes are self-help systems.

There are currently three classes presented at the Learning Lab from Mondays to Thursdays, during the morning and afternoon. One-on-one tutoring happens on Fridays and Saturday classes are reserved for schools that come for curriculum support training.

Courses offered include Welcome to English, which helps people improve English reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students go over grammar, practise public speaking, and more.

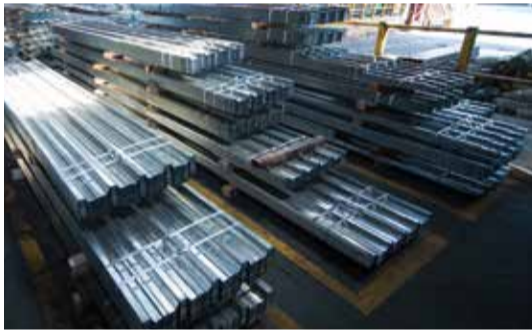
Welcome to Computers is the Labs' most popular course, teaching students about how a computer works as well as how to use office software, the Internet and e-mail. Then there is the Leadership Academy which focuses on the job world.

Students learn how to manage time, handle stress, work in a team, practise interviewing and being interviewed, create CVs, and come up with business concepts. Each student gets a branded A5 notebook and black pen. On completion of the courses, users receive a certificate of attendance and the local newspaper publishes their achievements with each completed course. Hundreds of users have attended training and completed the courses.

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