

MUIZZIES MEGILLA

Jews with views



Muizenberg shul features again in 4 newspapers about our historic plaque - here is one of those articles from the False Bay Echo. LOOK OUT FOR THE NEWEST ONE IN THIS WEEK'S JEWISH REPORT.



■ The Muizenberg Synagogue as it stands today. It was designed by Herbert Black and William Fagg and completed in 1926.



■ DA federal chairperson Helen Zille at the unveiling of a blue plaque at the Muizenberg Synagogue. With her are deputy chairman of the Muizenberg Historical Conservation Society Glenn Babb, chairman Chris Taylor and Rabbi Ryan Newfield of the Muizenberg Shul.



■ Helen Zille at the unveiling of a blue plaque at Rokeby, one of four Sir Herbert Baker-designed houses in Atlantic Road.

Another nod to Muizenberg's rich heritage

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The Muizenberg Historical Conservation Society has commemorated the contributions made by both the town's Jewish community and the architect, Sir Herbert Baker, with blue plaques unveiled by DA federal chairperson Helen Zille.

The society's chairman, Chris Taylor, said the influence of the Jewish community helped establish Muizenberg as a top holiday destination and developed it into the quaint seaside village it is today.

The ceremony took place on Thursday September 2, with the first of two plaques unveiled at the synagogue in Camp Road.

Construction of the synagogue with its four-column entrance and wide steps was completed at the end of 1925, and the official opening took place on January 17, 1926, said Mr Taylor.

Muizenberg was a premier holiday destination for the Jewish community, but the synagogue's once-vibrant congregation has declined in recent years as the existing membership aged. The community was without a permanent rabbi for more than 20 years but continued to function with regular Friday night and Shabbat services, run by various local rabbis and spiritual leaders, according to the *Cape Jewish Chronicle*.

However, in March last year, the Muizenberg Shul appointed Ryan Newfield as the new rabbi.

Rabbi Newfield commended the society for keeping the history of the Jewish community alive.

He said that since his move to Muizenberg in March last year, he had learned a lot about the history of the Jews in Muizenberg.

He ran a five-part YouTube series, *Remembering Muizenberg*, last year and said it was incredible how many people across the world had fond memories of time spent in Muizenberg.

"The influence of the Jewish community in



PICTURE: HILTON TEPPER COLLECTION/FUCKER

■ The Muizenberg pavilion in the 1950s.

Muizenberg was remarkable, and in 1925, 17 of the 25 hotels in Muizenberg were Jewish owned. I want to thank our predecessors who built Muizenberg to what it is today," he said.

Ms Zille said she was honoured to do the unveiling as the atrocities of the Holocaust had brought her family to South Africa.

She referred to a speech by Dr Mervyn Rosenberg, a third-generation Muizenberger, at the 2010 *Memories of Muizenberg* exhibition, at the South African Jewish Museum, to illustrate the "splendour" of Muizenberg at the time.

Muizenberg was a choice holiday destination for Cecil John Rhodes, Sammy Marks, Sir Abe Bailey, the Oppenheims, and Sir Herbert Baker

who all had holiday cottages there.

It was a place of peace where the men would stroll and discuss business and the women would sit on the beach dressed in the high fashions of the time. Children played at the water's edge, fishing and sailing toy boats on the vlei, Ms Zille said.

The poet Rudyard Kipling also visited regularly and wrote a poem, *The Flowers*, about it. The mystery writer, Agatha Christie, visited the beach in 1922, surfing in her green wool bathing suit while Irish playwright and author George Bernard Shaw was photographed surfing at Muizenberg in 1932, at the age of 75.

Mr Taylor said the pavilion as it stood today was the third pavilion to be built. The initial wooden pavilion was built in 1911 and was demolished in 1929 and the new pavilion with a reception hall, seating for 900

people, restaurants, and a milk bar, was built.

The promenade had been designed in such a way that, together with the pavilion and the bathing boxes, it created a wind-free beach called the Snakepit, which was a sunbathing area and the hotspot for holiday romances.

The second plaque was unveiled at Rokeby, one of four Sir Herbert Baker-designed houses in Atlantic Road.

Mr Taylor said there were at least seven prominent houses in Muizenberg designed by Sir Herbert, including Sandhills, which he built for himself in 1899. He also designed Vergenoeg, on the dunes near Sunrise Beach, as well as Blue Mountains on Beach Road, the former Tudor-Style house of Sir Ernest Oppenheimer.

**COMING SOON TO SIMON'S TOWN!
GALLERY, FRAMING & ART SUPPLIES**

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Jews with views



Times for Cape Town
From Hebcal.com



LECHAIM!

Life in South Africa

With
Ruth Carneson



I watched a video clip on social media of an anti-vaccination protest in Sea point. One placard read: No proof that masks work. No proof that vaccinations work. All fear based. No one on the protest was wearing a mask or keeping any kind of distance. Other placards read: Do Not Stand To Be Dictated To and Stay Free.

I wonder if these slogans will keep them safe?

To vax or not to vax? That is the question. To begin with I had a lot of misgivings and fears about the vaccine and it's safety. Also I am terrified of needles and very wary of what I put into my body. I avoid taking medicines if I possibly can and prefer to give my body a chance to heal naturally. On television I watched as people received their shots and shuddered at the thought of such a long needle going into my arm. It's a big deal to put a foreign substance into your body that you are not sure of.

I like to err on the side of caution. I always wear my mask and keep my distance when I am in a shared space. But I would much prefer to breath freely and smile freely and hug friends and family. It doesn't come easily to me to keep my social distance. But at the moment it feels like the safest thing to do and I will do what ever it takes to minimise getting infected or infecting others.

After many discussions, particularly with people who have a medical background, I decided that being vaccinated seemed like the sensible thing to do and after my second vaccination I felt a huge sense of relief. Too many people I know have died or ended up in hospital fighting for their lives. It is heartbreaking and frightening.

There is much talk about vaccination passports that would exclude unvaccinated people from many activities. Already unvaccinated people are excluded from international travel and many companies are insisting on their workforce being vaccinated. But what of peoples rights over their own bodies and the danger of creating even more divisions in an already divided society?

My choice is clear, to stay free of Covid 19 if I possibly can. Does this mean that I would need to keep my distance from the unvaccinated? But what if the unvaccinated includes family members or close friends? It gets complicated. How do we as a society safeguard peoples basic human rights and at the same time enforce health and safety precautions? That is the question.

October 2021

Fri 01 Oct	6:31pm	Candle lighting
Sat 02 Oct		Shabbat Mevarchim Chodesh Cheshvan
Sat 02 Oct		Parashat Bereshit
Sat 02 Oct	7:27pm	Havdalah
Wed 06 Oct		Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Thu 07 Oct		Rosh Chodesh Cheshvan
Fri 08 Oct	6:36pm	Candle lighting
Sat 09 Oct		Parashat Noach
Sat 09 Oct	7:33pm	Havdalah
Wed 13 Oct		Yom HaAliyah School Observance
Fri 15 Oct	6:41pm	Candle lighting
Sat 16 Oct		Parashat Lech-Lecha
Sat 16 Oct	7:39pm	Havdalah
Fri 22 Oct	6:47pm	Candle lighting
Sat 23 Oct		Parashat Vayera
Sat 23 Oct	7:45pm	Havdalah
Fri 29 Oct	6:53pm	Candle lighting
Sat 30 Oct		Shabbat Mevarchim Chodesh Kislev
Sat 30 Oct		Parashat Chayei Sara
Sat 30 Oct	7:52pm	Havdalah

TORAH WELCOME PARTY

Our shul have 3 Torah's that have been in Israel for repair from before original lockdown and finally they coming home soon hopefully.

It is a custom to celebrate a new Torah with dancing and celebration and although these are not new, they have been revamped and much work put into them and we so thankful to get them back that we will celebrate. Stay tuned for details when we plan to celebrate this.

Thank you to all involved in repairing in Israel, Claremont shul for loaning us one while they were fixed, Ari Ziskind for liaising with the repair team in Israel, all those who brought the Torah's to and from Israel, and all those who use our Torah's to keep up the tradition of our people .

ORCHIM - GUEST COLUMN

By
Paul West



please note: The editor is indebted to Paul West for writing 5 separate articles for this newsletter before his unexpected passing.

Here is one. We are grateful and miss him tremendously. May his memory be a blessing.

You may ask why some Christians do not support Israel, if their faith is based on the Torah, the Prophets and the Writings (Tanack)

There are genuine Christians who do not understand that their roots are actually in the faith of Abraham. (I am not talking about Gentiles. i.e. people that have no faith in the Bible)

Some of these are not supportive of Israel and the Jewish people. Some are actually anti-Semitic due to false teachings that are 1800 years old.

The first followers of Yeshua ha Notzri (Jesus) were all Jewish.

As the message spread outside of Israel, more and more Gentiles became followers of Iesous (Greek word from which Jesus originates)

In the first few centuries, Christians were severely persecuted by the Romans, as they refused to acknowledge Caesar as Lord. In 315 CE The Roman Emperor Constantine stopped the persecution. In 325 CE when Constantine tried to unify his pagan subjects with the ever-growing number of Christians, they “naturally” supported him. He brought a large number of Gentile Christian Bishops together at the Council of Nicaea. He did not allow any Jewish leaders to the Council. These Bishops were unschooled in the Hebrew Scriptures, and with no guidance from their Jewish fellow believers, soon took on beliefs with shaky foundations and anti-Semitic thinking.

Their reasoning was that as the Temple was destroyed in 70 CE and Jerusalem flattened in 135 CE, G-d must have abandoned the Jewish people, His plans for Israel and from then on was going to work through “The Church” which soon became based in Rome and became the Catholic Church.

This is called “Replacement Theology” or “Supersessionism”.

With the Protestant reformation in the 1500s, when Scripture again became the absolute foundation for any beliefs. there were some pastors who again searched the TaNaCh and started to see the Hebrew Root connections.

They saw that the promises that Hashem made to His people were forever and He would always support them when they lived according to His ways.

In recent years many Bible Schools and Seminaries have realized this error, especially since the reformation of the State of Israel, in 1948 and have now rectified the error in their curricula. This still has to permeate down to certain leaders who were schooled in anti-Semitic teachings.

Gesund recipes



This recipe is adapted from a Banana loaf recipe from “Laurel’s Kitchen” Hence the butternut equivalent to 3 bananas. I don’t have a scale !

Elaine Millan’s Vegan Savory Muffins

Ingredients - makes 12 small muffins

Butternut (equivalent to 3 Bananas)

1 tsp sugar

Juice of ½ lemon

2 tsps finely grated fresh ginger

1 Leek chopped

2 zucchini chopped into small pieces

A couple Tbs olive oil

½ cup oil (sunflower)

1½ cups flour

½ tsp each of

salt, bicarb, baking powder

½ a cup (ish) toasted sunflower and

sesame seeds

Cook butternut until soft and mash with a fork

Squeeze in juice of lemon, sugar and ginger

Add the sunflower oil and mix all together

Fry leeks and zucchini gently in olive oil until soft but not mushy

In a separate bowl sieve dry ingredients

Add to the butternut oil mixture

Add leeks and zucchini and mix in gently

Mix in seeds.

Oil muffin pan. Bake at 180 for 30 – 40 mins

Enjoy!



SIMEHA JOKES by Abe Casper

Humour: Bittere Gelechte (from Ronald Reagan's Collection)

The late US president Ronald Reagan once said:
"Freedom is never more than generation away from

extinction." We need to remember this now that freedom seems under threat. Mr Reagan also loved

collecting jokes. Particularly jokes about the Soviet Union. Here are two which have a Jewish flavour.

First Joke (Under let's say Breshnev)

An old man is sitting in a square reading a book. A policeman comes up to him. He sees the book can't be in Russian. The script is not Cyrillic.

Policeman: What's that you are reading, comrade? It isn't Russian.

Old man: No it's Hebrew. I'm learning Hebrew.

Policeman: What do you want to learn Hebrew for?

Old Man: I've applied for a visa to go to Israel. You never know, I might be one of the lucky ones.

Policeman: You! You'll never get into Israel.

Old Man: Never mind. Hebrew is the language spoken in heaven. So one day...

The Policeman: You! You'll never get into heaven.

Old Man: Never mind. I already speak Russian.

Second Joke: (Under perhaps Khrushchev)

There is a long queue in front of a bakery. About a hundred odd grey men and women.

After a while the baker emerges.

"Comrades. There isn't enough bread for everyone. So will all the Jews go home"

About twenty sad souls leave. After a while, the baker emerges again.

"Comrades, there isn't enough bread for everyone. So will all non-party members go home."

About half the grey people leave. Time passes. Once again the baker emerges.

"Sorry comrades. We still don't have enough bread. So if you aren't part of the Central Committee, please go home."

Most go. There are about ten left. The baker emerges again.

"Sorry comrades. Not enough bread. We can only cater for members of the inner sanctum."

Now there are only two men left in the queue. Out comes the baker yet again.

"Sorry comrades. There isn't any bread at all. You'll have to go home."

SEICHEL Reflections with Rabbi Ryan



The busy month of recent Jewish festivals has almost passed. We now have some breathing time to consolidate and get in a last school term, college semester, work quarter and season before the end of the regular calendar year. It is a time of doing as much as we can to close the year on a high.

In the Jewish calendar, we are only beginning. We begin the book of Genesis this month. Our annual Torah learning cycle of exploration and enlightenment begins once again.. This yearly journey invites us to ponder the meaning of life, with one year more life experience and wisdom than we had last year. I would like to share two insights about learning in general that I feel resonate with me currently.

I remember having Rabbis in my yeshiva who would say that they had been thinking about certain Talmudic questions for over 5 decades, and still did not have the solution, but that they were coming closer to understand than they started.

In my own Torah study, I have realized that often the questions are better than the answers. I feel this is true about life in general.

Human beings have explored such amazing topics and given insights into so many things, but each solution and interpretation often opens up even more questions. It seems that both the Torah and life have an unending amount of questions. I think the first lesson is to be okay with the idea that sometimes the questions are better than the answers, and that as long as you are asking the right questions, you will become more enlightened on your journey even if you never come to an exact conclusion.

The second lesson addresses a problem with our modern society, We have been told to show confidence at the expense of truth.

When we go to job interviews, we are told to turn all our weaknesses into strengths. When we don't know answers, it is looked as deficient. We are not allowed to say "I don't know". We are expected to know everything. Yet the big questions in life are too big for humans. We really don't know the key answers to the biggest questions in life. Why we here? What is a soul? What is the destiny of the earth? What is holy? Why do we suffer?

We have forgotten our humility in not knowing. I believe it is important to be able to say "I don't know". This is not only honest, but it can create a passion and desire for seeking out a little more than you know currently. It is not a deficiency if it is honest packed together with a willingness to search. It should stimulate us to want more as well as bring us down to size. I hope that this year is a Genesis of finding questions that stimulate you to be the best you!

SCHMOOZE INTERVIEWS

by Abe Casper

Monica Jacobson



Monica Jacobson attended shul regularly in the days when there was shul. She has a wonderful presence; she gives off a kind of old-world grace. She has led a full and interesting life.

Monica is an unusual name for a Jewish Person. You think of Saint Monica, the mother of Saint Augustine?

My Hebrew name is Miriam. While my mother was pregnant with me, she read a book about a Catholic nun with this name.

Did you grow up in Muizenberg?

I was born in Parow. We moved to Muizenberg when I was five. For a while we lived in a flat in Dover Rd then my father, who was a builder built the big house in Windermere Rd and we moved there. My father built many of the houses we see in Muizenberg today.

And school?

Muizenberg Junior and Muizenberg High. The high school was where the police station is now. We had excellent teachers. Wally Gordon was the principle.

What was life like in Muizenberg then?

It was wonderful. The beach, the beauty of nature. I first met the man I was to marry when I was only fourteen on Muizenberg Beach. I was very involved in the theatre. We performed at the Talmud Torah hall and at the Masque Theatre. (built by Bertie Stern, a chairman of Muizenberg Shul.) One of the plays I was in was "Gaslight" which was made into a film with Ingrid Bergman.

And varsity?

At first I wanted to do drama. Then I decided to do something that involved dealing with speech from a therapeutic angle. I chose audiology and speech pathology. For this I had to go to Wits and live in res. Before this I had studied drama at school with Esther Kaplan who taught the famous actor Anthony Sher. Esther Kaplan introduced me to the idea of speech therapy.

What was it like being in Johannesburg in res?

I made friends who remained my friends for life. I also reconnected with the man who became my husband. In fact, we married in my last year at varsity. He had a wonderful sense of humour and our children inherited it from him. I also continued with my theatrical activities. At times I had to sneak out of the residence without permission in order to perform.

You made your lives in Pretoria?

When we moved there my eldest son was already a year old. My husband opened a legal practice. I worked at the Pretoria Preparatory School as a speech therapist dealing with hearing disabilities, autism and stuttering. I did my masters on stuttering and cerebral palsy. It took a while as I had five children to raise. I finished it at thirty-five. I was at Pretoria Preparatory for thirty-two years. When I left they named the Speech Therapy building after me.

And then you moved back to Cape Town?

I continued working for another two years after my husband died. Then I moved to Cape Town. Three of my children were already here. I was seventy I had a practice in Sea Point for ten years.

And then you came back to Muizenberg.

At eighty I felt it was time to retire. My life has come full circle. I am living in a flat built by my father, opposite the house I grew up in.



SUKKOT - OVER 100 PEOPLE IN THE SUKKAH THIS YEAR - THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING AND SPECIAL THANK YOU TO FARREL AND JACLYN STRUL'S GENEROSITY FOR SPONSORING ALL MEALS THIS SUKKOT - YASHAR KOACH!



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Isa Faye Shapiro - 9 Oct - This is a fantastic time for her and the family as she has been promoted at work as a pharmacist and is engaged. She has done all of us extremely proud. With love, Michael Bagraim and family

Angela Butlion - Sept 27 - Happy bday love Colin Shapiro and family

Colin Shapiro - 27 Oct - Happy bday Colin. Keep sharing all the videos and love that you do and making all the connections between people. The world connects thanks to you. From family and friends at MHC

Saul Doctor - 10 Oct - from your first best friend. From JPMorgan to infinity and beyond!

Reuven Goldin - 14th Tishrei - Happy bday and gluck with moving!

Abe Casper - Huge Milestone bday! With lots of appreciation and love. We hope to see you soon in good health and happiness. That's always for your contributions to the Megillah and your insightful wisdom. Love all of us at MHC.

Monica Jacobson - 20 Sept - A happy bday. Be young, enjoy the nature as you do, and keep spreading smiles to all you are with. We loved having you in the Sukkah on your bday. Love us all at the shul

Happy
Bday
dedications
+

Please write a dedication
for next month to anyone
you want!

email

Muizenberg.shul@gmail.com
with "bday" as subject of
email

Community
notices

**Tikvah Food bank charity drive
from our shul below:**

ARE EMPTY URGENT

MORE THAN 360 JEWISH CAPE TOWN FAMILIES ARE DEPENDENT ON THE COMMUNITY FOR THEIR BASIC NECESSITIES & FOOD. THE FOODBANK PROVIDES FOR THOSE IN DIRE NEED.....

THE FOOD BANK.

We are appealing to the community to donate non-perishable items, toiletries or cleaning materials to the Foodbank so that we can continue to FILL UP our monthly food parcels. The items include:

NON-PERISHABLE KOSHER ITEMS
Macaroni, Spaghetti, Rice, Peanut butter, Fish Paste, Jam, Chutney, Mayonnaise, Tomato Sauce, Pasta Sauce, Soya Mince, Margarine, Eggs, Tuna, Oil, Long life Milk, Baked Beans, Peas, Sweetcorn, Chopped and peeled tomatoes, Tomato and onion mix, Tea, Coffee, Biscuits, Provita, Salticrax, Jungle Oats, Weetbix, Corn Flakes, Sugar, Black bags, Tin Foil, Cling wrap

LUNCH BOX ITEMS
Packets of chips, Mini biscuit packs, Fruit rolls, Popcorn, 250ml still water, 250ml juice box

TOILETRIES
Deodorant, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Body Lotion, Face cloths, Sanitary pads, Razors, Toilet Rolls

CLEANING MATERIALS
Washing Powder, Handy Andy, Jik, Dishwashing Liquid

JEWISH COMMUNITY SERVICES CAPE TOWN

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT NEILL 083 2651252

this is an ICAN initiative

Condolences - To Charlotte West and sons and extended family for the untimely passing of Paul West. May you all be comforted.

Condolences: wishing all the family and friends of Hazel Wolf a long life over her passing and may her memory be blessed.

Refuah Shelema - Wishing Hershelle Ginsberg a speedy and complete recovery

Bon Voyage: Andy Bolnick - wishing you safe travels and gluck with studies at Harvard

Bon Voyage: Gerald and Sharon Seftel - enjoy Vancouver with family and safe returns home

Bon Voyage: Ruth Carneson - safe travels in Spain and enjoy family time and safe travels home

Bon Voyage: Sandy Boyd - enjoy Israel and special time with the family.

Thank you - to Jean, Joan, Cecile and Andrea Rivkah for fabulous sukkah party food preparation and help. We ate like Kings and Queens!

Mazel tov - Jeremy and Marje on their upcoming wedding. From Simcha to Simcha!!! So happy for the new Kavnat couple!.

Mazel tov - Adam Shapiro for another gold in knee surfing competition. Stoked...

• Frail
• Bedridden
• Recuperation
• Medication administered
• Nappy changed
• Bed bath
• Feeding

Pop-in & Full Time Home Carer
Miriam Musamba
073 806 0245

Muizenberg Area
Certified Carer
References available on request