

Keren Telfed

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Yeshijahu Rosalsky ...................................... Monte & Rose Freedman on their 60th anniversary
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Basil & Joyce Geller ...................................... Ruth Omsky on her birthday
David & Hilary Kaplan ...................................... Lynn Lochoff – in appreciation
Archie & Blanche Isaacson ...................................... Keren Telfed - on their 58th anniversary
Bloomberg and Heim families ...................................... Pat Breiter on her 60th birthday
Jack & Ruth Trappler ...................................... Pat Breiter on her 60th birthday
Yosef Flaum ...................................... Keren Telfed – for the needy in our community
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Danny & Janine Gelley ...................................... Michele & Sidney Shapiro on their grandson’s birth
Hertzel & Lola Katz ...................................... Stello & Francine Robinson – chag sameach
Martin & Michele Wolff ...................................... Alex Tolkin on his 60th birthday
Joe & Jose Grossman ...................................... Archie & Helene Kahn on their golden anniversary
Fonda Dubb ...................................... Gloria & Norman Segal on their golden wedding
Jillian Milliner ...................................... Irene Katz on her 95th birthday
Sam & Harriet Levin ...................................... Jeff Milstein on his 80th birthday
Sam & Harriet Levin ...................................... Hone Rosenberg on his 80th birthday
Leah Lotzof ...................................... Hilda Silbert on her 80th birthday
Isaac & Gloria Rootstain ...................................... Sylvia Silver on her 90th birthday
Joe & Jose Grossman ................................... Isa & Myra Szewach on their golden anniversary
Orkie Chesed ...................................... Nettie Friedland on her 97th birthday
Hertzel & Lola Katz ...................................... Yehuda Bilu on becoming Yakir Tel Aviv
Fonda Dubb ...................................... Hilda Silbert on her 80th birthday
Les & Ethlee Dembo ...................................... Tedzia Perel on a special birthday

Les & Ethlee Dembo; Carl Alpert; David & Sarah Meyer; Manny & Rayla Shimoni; Mike & Frankie Jaffe; Alex & Ruth Lewis; Dennis & Becky Noll; Bernard & Dot Lipschitz; Esther, Judy & Orna Berger; Bilha Donna & Arye Bromberg; Arthur & Rita Schiff; Harry & Eva Brand; Stephen & Thelma Miller; Yeta Govezensky; Hymie Goldblatt; Nahum & Esther Finkelstein; Janina Vulfson; Barbara Diamond; Shaul & Yehudit Bar Levav; Jonathan & Paula Friedland; Maurice & Babette Kaplan; Avshalom & Lily Thau; Paul & Millie Rosenblatt; Theo & Brenda Kaplan ...................................... Gilbert & Valerie Herbert celebrate their golden wedding anniversary.

Breakfast Club ...................................... Shachar Ziv – in appreciation
David Kaplan ...................................... Lynette Sacks – in appreciation
David Kaplan & Martin Wolff ...................................... Brian Gaddie – in appreciation
Julius & Fay Weinstein ...................................... Reg & Eve Donner on their wedding anniversary
Orkie Chesed & family ...................................... Monte Freedman on his 85th birthday
Julius Weinstein; Molly Rabkin; Freda Haimovitz, Lily Milstein; Sonia Sacks, Mollie Skudowitz; Ralph Lanesman; Felicia Cohen; P.E. Reunion Committee; Marcus Mandel, Harold & Jeff Rabkin.  Keren Telfed

Jack & Esme Rabin.  Hone Rosenberg on his 80th birthday
Issy & Janie Lotz.  Arnold & Sylvia Sacks on their grandson’s Bar mitzvah

Jack & Ruth Trappler; Julius & Fay Weinstein; Sidney & Michele Shapiro; Jack & Esme Rubin; Joe & Neva Gishen; Okkie & Rae Rabinowitz; Isaac & Gloria Rootshtain; Skudowitz & Bransky Families; Hertzel & Lola Katz; Jack & Esme Rabin; Gaby & Freda Haimovitz.  Jeff Milstein on his 80th birthday

Jack & Mavis Wolff.  Stephen Kalmek – in appreciation & gratitude
Ben & Rachel Levert.  Saul & Charlene Jacobs on the birth of their son
Archie & Blanche Isaacson.  Jack & Rachel Luck on their 64th anniversary
Okkie & Rae Rabinowitz.  Diane Sandler on her 70th birthday

Danny & Janine Gelley;
Phillip & Debbie Zabow; Issie & Sonia Kacev;
Martin & Michelle Wolff & family.  Solly Kaplan on his 94th birthday

Phillip & Estelle Chasen.  Orah Haviva Chasen on her Bat Mitzvah
Gaby & Freda Haimovitz.  Samuel & Sarah Braun on their 40th anniversary
Phillip & Estelle Chasen.  Talia Yael Graham on her Bat Mitzvah

Solly & Eta Scher; Jakob & Geta Teller; Bella Barnett;
Sox Casper; Rochelle Cohen & family; Jack & Rae Galloon;
Meg Stoch & family.  Nokkie & Vicky Scher on their golden wedding

Martin & Michelle Wolff.  Sidney Kaplan on his 60th birthday
Joe & Jose Grossman.  Adi Kimche on her 80th birthday
SAZF (Israel).  Cecily Hack – in appreciation
SAZF (Israel).  Chanie Hurwitz – in appreciation
Orkie Chesed June Solman;  Smiler & Lily Levite on their golden anniversary
Harold & Edie Kaufman.  Smiler & Lily Levite on their golden anniversary
Peter & Denise Sanders.  Chana Tabachnik on her special birthday
Gaby & Freda Haimovitz.  Wolfie & Sonia Sacks on their 55th anniversary
SAZF (Isr) Breakfast Club.  Steve Linde, in appreciation

Ron & Doris Bloom; Max Canard & Joyce Miller; Teddy & Rebecca Michelson;
Ethel Sachar; Naty & Lilian Schwartz; Nathan & Shirley Kansky;
Gerald & Sabena Ralph; Reuven & Ros Mowszowski;
Jonathan & Batya Smukler; Barry & Sheli Cohen;
Micha & Alana Grunberg; Orkie Chesed and June Solman;
Aviva Ben Tov; Alf & Ida Weinberg; Anne Biderman;
Dave & Gail Bloom; Issy & Janie Lotz.  Julius & Bella Melman on their golden anniversary
KEREN TELFED

Gidon & Minnie Susser; Anita Friedman; Leon & Rachelle Peerutin; Yossi & Shelly Oved; ........................................ Harry & Audrey Katz on their golden anniversary

Edie Rosengarten; Issy & Dot Isacowitz; Joe & Jose Grossman; Naomi Fredman; Simmie & Hettie Matz; Issy & Janie Lotz; Leon & Freda Sarnak; Sol & Miriam Ende .......................................... Uri Milunsky on his 80th birthday

Natie & Anita Liberman; Louis, Isobel, Selwyn & Sharon Hare; Geoff & Tamara Israel; Annette Milliner & Baruch Giladi; Leon and Ann Moss .................................................. Clive Peltz on his 70th birthday

Joe & Helen Lewis............................................. Solly Mallach on his 90th birthday
Natie & Anita Liberman ......................................... Joe Gishen on his 75th birthday
Naomi Fredman .............................................. Rolf & Judy Jacobsen on their golden anniversary
Hertzel and Lola Katz ........................................... Isaac Abromowitz – in appreciation
Annette Milliner & Baruch Giladi ...................... Naomi Fredman on her granddaughter’s Batmitzvah
Annette Milliner & Baruch Giladi ...................... Ivan Greenstein on his granddaughter’s Batmitzvah

Annette Milliner & Baruch Giladi; Freda Raphael; Freda Pincus; Okkie & Rae Rabinowitz; Sara Sapieka; Leah Lotzov ............................ Florence Goldberg on her 80th birthday

Fonda Dubb.......................................................... Alan Goodman on his 70th birthday
Leonore Saevitzon & family ............................. Jack Halperin on his 80th birthday

KEREN ALIZA

David & Hilary Kaplan, Martin & Michelle Wolff.. Itz & Shirley Stein – in appreciation
Gaby & Freda Haimovitz ...................................... Ernest & Elizabeth Schneider-Kuper on their anniversary
Marvyn Hatchuel .............................................. Roland & Shoshana Weil on their golden anniversary
Faye Saacks ...................................................... Keren Aliza
Ruth Bakst, Dina Hatchuel Tabernik ............. Marvyn Hatchuel on his 82nd birthday

VICTIMS OF TERROR FUND

Dave & Rae Kopping........................................... Motti & Lauren Ron – on the birth of their son Guy
Bella Nick ....................................................... Avril Siboni, Tobi & Robert Rosenberg, in memory of Ella Aronowitz
Monica Liefman ............................................... Reg & Eve Donner on their wedding anniversary
Henry & Ruth Shakenovsky ............................. Uri Milunsky on his 80th birthday
Henry & Ruth Shakenovsky ............................. Uri & Beryl Milunsky on their golden anniversary

FOOD PARCELS FOR SOLDIERS
Melaney Berman................................................. For needy soldiers

IN MEMORIAM
Meg Stoch .......................................................... In loving memory of Sheila Tollman

TELFED EMERGENCY APPEAL
Orkie Chesed

36
Karin, daughter of Alon and Hira Blau of Ra’anana, married Gil, son of Yacov and Hana Greenstein of Ramat Gan.

Alisa, daughter of Milton and Beulah Jawno of Raanana, married Shahar Elon, son of Yosef and Yael Elon of Jerusalem.

Sheryl, daughter of Maurice and Marcia Katz of Cape Town, married Hur, son of Shalom and Yecheved Aharoni of Petanga.

Jodie, daughter of Bernard and Rosy Lever of Ramat Poleg, married David, son of Nadine and Michel Baruc.

It is said that each generation is a link in the chain of life. The “linkage” between early Jewish immigrants to South Africa and the city of Cape Town provides a fascinating historical episode in that chain.

In 1652 the Dutch East India Company sent Jan van Riebeeck to the Cape to establish a station where its ships could call for replenishment. The Company’s restrictive residency policy prevented early Jewish immigration. It was only in 1804 that this practice was abrogated under the enlightened Batavian administration, and was maintained by the British following their occupation in 1806.

There were only a handful of Jewish residents in the early years. They were spiritually apathetic and communally dormant until the arrival of a dynamic “1820 settler”- Benjamin Norden. On his initiative, on the eve of the Day of Atonement, September 26th 1841, the historic inauguration of the first orthodox Jewish service in South Africa took place. Seventeen males attended. A week later, ten of the worshippers formed a properly constituted congregation called Tikvat Yisrael (Hope of Israel), the forerunner of the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation (the Gardens Shul consecrated in 1863).

The small numbers of Jews in the 19th century were predominantly of British, Dutch, and German origin. In 1891 the community in the Cape numbered about 3,000. However, the challenge of the Jewish pioneers who wished to perpetuate their heritage...
was enormous. Fortunately, this precarious situation was offset by the arrival of East European Jews towards the end of the 19th century. Some 40,000, arrived fleeing pogroms, economic hardship, and prolonged military service in the Czar’s army. The majority disembarked at Cape Town, which was the start of a railway line to the north, where diamonds had been discovered in 1869 and gold in 1886. They were extremely poor, spoke Yiddish, and little, if any English.

GROUP AREAS

With the arrival of the early settlers in Cape Town, the community divided into two groups. The well-established community of mainly English and German origins, lived in the more affluent suburbs and were members of the Gardens Shul. The larger, and more recent group from Eastern Europe, the “Litvaks” settled primarily in the poor District Six area. The division was based on language, education, culture, and background, resulting in a measure of tension between the two groups. All they had in common was their Jewish heritage.

The immigrants gravitated to District Six, an inexpensive area conveniently located near the Central Business District. They had a predilection for commerce, and lived with their families in rooms above their shops or in boarding houses.

My father, Max, arrived in 1901. His first job was selling newspapers in the seamy docks area. “My competitors hit me black and blue”, he would later reveal. He would then become an egg peddler going from door-to-door, eventually opening an outfitting shop in Hanover Street, the main shopping street in District Six. He remained in business in District Six for some 60 years. His struggle to earn a living epitomized that of his fellow Jewish co-immigrants.

District Six encompassed an area of approximately one square kilometer. Some 40,000 people inhabited this area, mainly coloureds and a small number of other racial groups, including a few thousand Jews. There was racial harmony. At the beginning of the 19th century, to get to the area, it was necessary to cross several canals that drained water from Table Mountain to the sea - hence the original name “Kanaldorp”. Later, in 1867, it was designated “District Six” as it was one of six municipal districts. Inexplicably, it was the only one to be left with a number.
KEEPING FAITH

The large number of Litvaks in the area maintained their faith, resulting in the establishment of many synagogues, the largest being in Roeland Street, housing a thousand worshippers. There was also the Constitution Street Synagogue and several smaller ones.

My early recollections concerned the crowded, noisy, narrow streets with buses and cars slowly wending their way through the multitude of people. As children, we relished Simchat Torah. My two brothers and I would run from one shul to the next—Constitution Street, Roeland Street and then on to the Gardens. We received chocolates at each place! Although the community had religious freedom and was able to preserve its heritage and traditions, there nevertheless still existed racial prejudice. This affected many minorities, but the Jews incurred the greatest hostility.

The arrival of the immigrants from Eastern Europe precipitated anti-Semitism with some sections of the press being particularly hostile. “The Owl”, a Cape Town English weekly publication became the chief exponent with scurrilous caricatures. The public clamoured for legislation, resulting in the passage of the “Immigration Restriction Act” in 1902. New immigrants had to be able to write in the characters of a European language. This affected Asians and immigrants speaking Yiddish, which is written in Hebrew characters and was not recognized as a European language.

PILLARS OF THE COMMUNITY

The controversy over Yiddish inspired one of the most outstanding Jewish personalities in South Africa at the time, Adv. Morris Alexander, to establish the Cape Jewish Board of Deputies. The efforts of the Board under Alexander’s direction, assisted by David Goldblatt, the editor of the Yiddish newspaper “The Jewish Advocate” were eventually successful. In 1906, the Immigration Act was amended recognizing Yiddish as a European language. As a result, thousands of Yiddish speaking Jews were able to escape pogroms and enter South Africa. This would lead to a further influx of businessmen to District Six.

On Alexander’s death in 1946, General J.C. Smuts, the Prime Minister, would describe him as “one of the most distinguished men ever produced by public life in South Africa”. Other Jews also played a prominent role in Cape Town’s early history. Hyman Lieberman was Cape Town’s first Jewish Mayor from 1904 to 1907. He formally opened the City Hall on July 25, 1905. As Mayor and president of the congregation, he officially
opened the Great Synagogue in the Gardens on September 13, 1905. He died on June 23, 1923. His bequests resulted in the establishment of the **Hyman Lieberman Institute** in District Six, a cultural and social centre for the poor.

**ART AND THE CITY**

One of the many beautification projects executed with monies bequeathed by Hyman Lieberman, was the teak door at the National Gallery in Cape Town. It has carvings depicting the wandering of the Jews throughout history until they find refuge in South Africa. Sculptor **Herbert Vladimir Meyerowitz** spent four years carving the door out of Burmese teak. At its dedication, in 1934, the Minister of the Interior, J.H.Hofmeyr stated: “He came as an alien to Cape Town, a stranger and a member of a race which had had a bitter path to tread through the corridors of history. Cape Town dealt kindly with him, and he gave his heart in return.”

**Max Michaelis**, whom the renowned **Michaelis School of Art** is named after, was a generous Jewish benefactor and a patron of the arts. He donated to the State an art collection of 68 Dutch and Flemish old masters, representative of the period of Jan Van Riebeeck. It was one of the largest and most valuable collections of paintings ever presented to the nation. It is housed in “The Old Town House” in Greenmarket Square in Cape Town.

**DOCTORS FOR THE DISTRESSED**

As medical students at the University of Cape Town, we were required to do a term of residency at doctors for the distressed. Not only did we attend to inpatients, but we also did confinements at home, to which we usually walked. Walking in District Six, particularly at night, could be hazardous because of the “skollies” (District Six jargon for gangsters or delinquents). Even the police patrolled in pairs. However, as long as we were accompanied by a uniformed nurse we were never molested.

**AN ACT OF BAD FAITH**

The Group Areas Act of 1966 declared District Six, although predominantly inhabited by “non-whites”, a “white” area. This was one of the great travesties of justice of the apartheid era. Inhabitants were removed or in the parlance of the Authorities, “relocated” to other areas, and wonderful buildings reflecting early Cape architecture were destroyed. The scorched earth left in the wake, was a sad commentary of a fiendish policy inflicted on a vibrant, but defenceless community.

District Six as it was, is no more. Only Beinkinstadt’s Jewish Bookshop escaped the bulldozers. A member of my family, the grandson of the original owner, still carries on the business. The Bookshop remains an enriching relic of Cape Town’s Jewish heritage.

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AMBASSADORS FOR ISRAEL

In a country that is constantly portrayed and condemned as aggressive and militaristic, why is Israel so reluctant to dispatch women to one of today’s most important battle zones - Public Relations? Heaven forbid they surprise the male dominated political establishment and prove to be far more adept at softening the country’s image and presenting a different and more compassionate Israel. So, it is left to outsiders to help salvage the situation.

Freda Keet, a former Rhodesian, and an English News broadcaster for many years on The Voice of Israel, has for the past two decades waged an unrelenting public relations campaign overseas, all at her own expense. Michal Tzarfati (nee Lewis), a graduate of law, whose parents hail from Durban, has been on a three week-mission to the USA addressing audiences on the situation in Israel. She was part of a group of 45 Israeli students sponsored by American philanthropist Joey Low. [Ed. see Telfed April 2002]

TRAINS, PLANES AND AUTOMOBILES

“I travel constantly. I’m on the road morning, noon and night, spending my life at airports and I always wear something like a scarf or a brooch that identifies me as an Israeli,” proudly proclaims ambassador extraordinary Freda Keet at Telfed’s Kfar Saba/Hod Hasharon AGM.

“Israel’s obsession with Hasbara is understandable. Foreign to any other nation’s lexicon, the need for Hasbara is tied in with the history of the Jewish people. Being a pariah nation and reviled and abused for over 2000 years, we finally made it into the ranks of the family of nations. We have paid an appalling price for this membership.”

Freda stresses three reasons why Hasbara should remain an obsession.

“Firstly, for the dignity and honour of the Jewish people. What the world says about us is unfair, untrue and unacceptable. We are obliged to fight it. Secondly, the war that was once against Israel has become much wider. Today, it’s a war directed at the Jewish people worldwide and we are obliged to fight it on their behalf.”

The third reason, commands Freda, is - “for our survival. If initially the strategy of the Arab world was to delegitimise the State of Israel, they have now gone way beyond that. We are now defending an attempt to delegitimise the very existence of the Jewish People in this land, in effect, to delegitimise Jewish history. The plan is to eat away at the roots, the very bedrock of this Nation. The message is clear. What is being taught to Arab children, appearing on Arab websites and TV networks, is that Jews have no historical belonging to this land.”

Freda articulates this point, by citing Arafat’s behaviour at the Camp David talks. “With his back to the wall, Arafat had to come up with a reply to the offer made by Israel. Arafat’s response, “I can’t negotiate with the Jewish people over Jerusalem. There is no historical evidence linking these people to Al Kuds. There is no historical evidence linking the Jewish people with our land of Palestine.” True, this diatribe is not new. We’ve read and heard it all before. But to have said it before the President of the USA and that it hardly solicited a ripple of protest was staggering. If the Arabs can be so brazen in the articulation of these lies, eating away at the very legitimacy of the Jewish people to this land, then
the whole existence of this country is a fake and a bluff and therefore unacceptable to the family of nations. The disappearance of the State of Israel will become an absolute matter of course. It is for our sheer survival that we have to fight back by whatever means.”

**CRISSCROSSING AMERICA**

On the lecture circuit, mainly in America, where she has become a familiar figure to thousands of Evangelical Christians, (an 80 million strong branch of Christianity and a powerful force in American politics), she is oft asked, “Why is the world so obsessed with Israel?” A classic example of this obsession, Freda cites, is the case of “the UN Geneva Convention of Human Rights, which passed into International Law soon after WW2. It has met only once, not to address the massacres that took place in Africa’s Rwanda or Burundi, or in Europe’s backyard - Bosnia and Kosova. The only occasion it saw fit to assemble was to condemn Israel for Human Rights violations? Why?

“They attack Israel because it’s easy. Israel is the equivalent of a cheap date. Attacking Israel exacts no price. You can’t attack any other country because they all belong to geographic blocks and the members protect each other. You can’t raise the issue of Tibet because you would offend the Chinese. Zimbabwe is taboo at International Conferences. There was recently a meeting of the UN, where Zimbabwe was on the agenda, but South Africa insisted that it be removed. So if you can’t discuss Africa because it will annoy the Africans, violations in Moslem countries because it will offend Moslems, what are you safely left with? You need a rallying cry and a slogan and what easier target than Israel! It will not annoy anyone.”

**LEMON-AID**

So, “what’s the good news?” asks Freda. “The Americans have an expression that ‘when life deals you a truckload of bitter lemons, add sugar and make lemonade.’ When the violence erupted on American campuses, a disturbing phenomenon was revealed. Jewish students, who wanted to fight back, could not, because they knew absolutely nothing about Judaism and Israel. The Jewish leadership got into gear. Spearheaded by Hillel, and funded by community organisations and Jewish philanthropists, intense programmes were introduced to urgently educate students on campuses.” Freda stresses that if nothing else comes out of this recent chapter of unrelenting assaults on Judaism and Zionism, “we will at least have developed an extraordinary cadre of educated and motivated young Jews. What was once a ‘truckload of bitter lemons’ now represents the future leadership of the community in the USA. They will prove to be a powerful factor in Israel’s future.”

continued on next page
Young, educated and motivated, Michal Tzarfati was staggered at how little American students knew about Israel. After being selected following gruelling interviews, Michal and her fellow Israeli students paired off into small groups and from their base in New York City, were dispatched to destinations across the USA. Her designated States were Pennsylvania and Ohio.

OPENING THEIR EYES

Michal began her addresses with, “Close your eyes and imagine your best friend in Israel being killed in a terrorist act. Now open your eyes. That is my life in Israel.” It struck a cord every time with her audiences as the enormity of loss and anxiety amongst young Israelis was brought home to “young Americans who live in this bubble, the USA, and who know so little outside their own experiences and interests.” Michal was speaking close from the heart, having lost a good friend in a terrorist attack on a bus. If Michal would return on such a mission to the USA, she could sadly expand on her opening address—her dear departed friend’s uncle was killed shortly after in the suicide bombing of Mike’s Place on Tel Aviv’s beachfront.

A six-hour drive from Pittsburgh, “We addressed a college where there were few Jewish students and religion was not strong on their agenda. The campus was overwhelmingly pro-Palestinian and I hardly began speaking when a student, who had lived in Ramallah, interrupted me. He started shouting how Israeli soldiers had shot at his house. His heckling subsided as I continued my address, and he listened for the first time to a personal account from the other side. We went out for lunch afterwards and we parted on friendly terms.”

On Shabbat Michal’s group were hosted at a Reform synagogue two hours out of Philadelphia. “This shul doubles as a church on Sundays. I spoke midway during the service, whereafter I answered questions, which reflected an obvious bias and ignorance - Why does Israel practice Apartheid policies? Why is the largest party in Israel in favour of transfer? Why was Israel so keen to support the Iraq war? At the end of my talk many congregants approached me and expressed how little they knew and asked what they can do for Israel. Most touching, was a 12 year old girl, who pleaded with me to repeat my talk at her school because she said the Jews have such a rough time when Israel is reported negatively in the media.”

At Kent State University, “we addressed a huge audience, which included the leadership of the pro-Palestinian movements. One of these leaders, ‘a most troublesome individual’ as was described to me by the leaders of Hillel on campus, shocked all by doing an about turn. He had lived in Gaza for 4 months to get a better understanding of the plight of the Palestinians. After our talk, he came up to us and admitted that he should have also lived in Israel for a period in order to have reached a balanced perspective on the issue.” What more can one ask for?

Heed the plea of a 12-year-old girl from Pennsylvania. The value of good Hasbara should not be underestimated.
The Chairman, Executive members and staff of the SAZF (Israel) offer sincere condolences to the bereaved families of:

Yetta Klass, Tel Aviv
Isaac Balkin, Tsufim
Sadie Juter, Rehovot
Sandra Bransky, Herzlia Pituach
Sam Gorfil, Netanya
Michaela Melmed, Jerusalem
Ida Polliack, South Africa
Ralph Tobias, Herzlia
Kalma Wortreich, Herzlia
Issy Novick, Nes Ziona
Michael Galland, Ra’anana
Bill Susskin, South Africa
Yehuda Maskalik, Tel Aviv
Sylvia Silver, Herzlia

Dr Ralph L. Tobias, prominent ex-Cape Town physician and respected member of the South African Jewish community passed away on 6th May 2003 in the Carmel Hospital, Haifa, Israel. He was buried in Kfar Hassidim, alongside his beloved grandson, Major Avihu Ya’akov, killed in action last year. Ralph was 87 years old and leaves behind his wife, Helene, four children, many grandchildren and an ever-increasing number of great-grandchildren.

The Cape Town Jewish community will remember Ralph as a proud Jew and active Zionist, who made a profound contribution to local Jewish life particularly in Jewish education, which he saw as the key to Jewish continuity. He was one of the pioneers of the fledgling Weizmann Primary School, chaired the school committee in the early 1960s and spent many hours persuading parents to enrol their children in Jewish day schools. Later, he was to chair the Cape Board of Education and in this capacity, he involved himself in all aspects of Jewish and Zionist education: staffing, educational programmes and fund-raising. The growth and success of Jewish education in the Cape owes much to Ralph’s dedicated efforts. His concern for Jewish life, however, was not only limited to the field of education. He served on the committees of the Hebrew Order of David, the Green & Sea Point Synagogue and the Jewish Board of Deputies. He also provided voluntary medical services.

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services for various institutions of the Cape Jewish community, such as Highlands House.

On retiring in 1983, Ralph and Helene made aliya. Ralph continued part-time work in national health clinics and the geriatric ward of the Talbieh psychiatric hospital. He continued his medical studies well into his seventies and successfully sat for a British diploma in geriatric medicine. In 1992, Ralph and his wife moved into Beth Protea. He served as an informal advisor to the medical staff and suggested substantial changes that significantly improved the medical services of the home. He chaired the Shul committee and helped organize social activities.

Ralph will be sorely missed and deeply mourned by all that knew, loved and respected him as a great physician, a caring human being, a proud Jew, a committed Zionist and a warm and loving family man.

Staff Sgt Matan Gardi of Moshav Moledet in the Upper Galilee, who was killed by Palestinian gunmen in Hebron on the 8th June 2003 and was laid to rest in the military section of the Moshav’s cemetery on June 11th, had a distinct South African connection. Matan’s grandparents Mannie and Tzippie (née Frank) Kotzen made aliyah in 1962 and settled in Moshav Moledet. Matan’s mother Rina (Joy) is the Kotzens’ younger daughter. She married Ilan Gardi in 1975. Matan Gardi was interred alongside his closest friend, Tomer Ron, who was killed also in Hebron three months earlier.

Leib Frank
Member of Telfed’s Board of Governors
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