National Affairs

At the opening of the second session of Parliament in 1982, State President Marais Viljoen stressed the nation's economic difficulties and indicated that continued discipline in government spending would be required. The key negative influence on the economy was the downward trend in the price of gold, which plummeted on the international market before showing signs of recovery in July. The value of the rand in relationship to the dollar reached its lowest level ever during the year, but rose to $0.94 by the end of January 1983. While the inflation rate in June 1982 was an alarming 16.5 per cent, by year's end the situation had considerably improved; the average for the year was 13.8 per cent, a slight improvement over the 13.9 per cent figure for 1981. The economy was considerably assisted by a 1.2 billion dollar loan granted South Africa by the International Monetary Fund to offset an increased deficit in the nation's balance of payments.

The continuing severe drought in large areas of South Africa greatly harmed the nation's agriculture and created serious ecological and social problems.

A conference involving Transkei, Ciskei, Venda, Bophuthatswana, and South Africa focused on economic cooperation and led to the establishment of the South African Development Bank.

There were dramatic and far-reaching political developments in 1982. At a meeting of the ruling National party (NP), two cabinet ministers, Andreis Treurnicht and Ferdie Hartzenberg, were suspended from all party and government offices after losing on a vote of no confidence directed against Prime Minister Pieter Botha. Among the supporters of Treurnicht and Hartzenberg was former prime minister and state president John Vorster. Other parliamentarians later joined the cause and a breakaway caucus of 16 (later 18) was formed in Parliament, with Treurnicht as leader. The split within the NP led to the formation of the Conservative party (CP), which attracted the support of one-time cabinet minister and leading NP figure Connie Mulder, his followers, and other right-wing elements.

While several factors contributed to the split within the NP, the most important was right-wing dissatisfaction with the proposed plan for constitutional change that had been recommended by the President's Council and supported by Prime Minister Botha. The plan featured an executive authority headed by a president combining
the posts of prime minister and state president, and a tri-cameral Parliament consisting of white, Indian, and mulatto chambers. A President's Council was to perform a partly advisory, partly legislative function; it would consist of 20 whites, ten mulattos, and five Indians elected by their respective chambers, plus 25 others, appointed by the president. Prime Minister Botha explained that the political future of blacks, for whom no provision was made in the reform plan, would be linked to their respective homelands.

A report was made public of a commission appointed in 1980 by the Kwazulu Legislative Assembly and named for its chief executive minister, Chief Gatsha Buthelezi. The report was the first black initiative to examine constitutional options for blacks in South Africa, and it recommended a consociational form of government for Natal, with a multi-racial Legislative Assembly elected on the basis of proportional representation. The South African government rejected these proposals, but it took under advisement the recommendations for development and the improvement of Zulu living conditions which the commission put forward.

A major confrontation between Kwazulu and the South African government took place when the latter announced that the Ingwavuma district and other areas in northern Kwazulu would be included in the kingdom of Swaziland. After legal action brought by Kwazulu, the supreme court found in its favor and the lands were ordered restored.

Other important political developments included the report of the Rabie commission, which concluded that preventative security legislation was essential for the maintenance of law and order, but that the broad powers granted ministers in this area had to be exercised with restraint. The commission's findings, and attempts by the government to deal with it—including new guidelines for the treatment of political detainees—were criticised by the opposition, segments of the press, and various public bodies. The Viljoen committee, which investigated the housing shortage in Soweto, recommended a five-year plan to build 55,000 homes in Soweto at a cost of 770 million rands. Changes in labor relations were reflected in a bill aimed at dealing with strikes by black workers; the bill permitted unregistered unions in some industries, established a mechanism for official conciliation boards, and made possible immediate mediation of disputes by a third party. While the bill was criticised in some quarters for not going far enough, it was widely welcomed as a positive development in an area marked by ongoing confrontations.

While increasingly tense relations developed between South Africa and Zimbabwe and South Africa and Lesotho, some measure of success appeared to attend a dramatic meeting between Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda and South African prime minister Botha. The two men were reported to have discussed the future of southern Africa and the problem of Namibia-South West Africa.

The political problems related to the granting of independence to Namibia remained unresolved. South Africa insisted that the major stumbling block to a settlement was the presence of Cuban troops in Angola; South Africa demanded that the Cubans leave the area entirely. There was much loss of life in military
confrontations on both sides of the Angolan border. As the conflict escalated and tensions grew, South Africa announced that all males between the ages of 17 and 60 would be required to register for military service.

Terrorist activity escalated. In June, there were nine explosions, including one in a building in Cape Town which housed the President’s Council; there was massive damage and one person was killed. Another widely-reported attack was at Mkuze on Natal’s north coast.

Tell Mogoerane, Jerry Mosololi, and Marcus Motaung, who were members of the African National Congress, were found guilty of treason and sentenced to death. Ernest Dipale was found hanged in his cell while being detained under the terms of the internal security act.

At a conference of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches in Ottawa, Canada, the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk (NGK) and the Nederduitse Herformde Kerk were suspended from membership. At the same time, Allan Boesak, the leading mulatto theologian of the NGK’s sister church, the Nederduitse Gereformeerde Sedingkerk, was chosen president of the World Alliance. The suspensions stirred much public debate in South Africa, particularly because 123 Dutch Reform clerics had earlier published an open letter in the influential journal, *Die Kerkbode*, criticizing apartheid on scriptural grounds.

The first of three preliminary reports on the 1980 national census was made public, showing 24,885,960 people in the country (excluding Transkei and Venda); there were 16.9 million blacks, 4.5 million whites, 2.6 million mulattos, and 821,320 Indians. Eighteen million people lived in areas designated as white and 6.8 million in the black homelands.

**Relations with Israel**

Satisfactory ties between South Africa and Israel continued to develop. At the annual meeting of the South Africa-Israel Chamber of Economic Relations, Chairman Abe Barron reported on a proposal to have the two countries exchange trade missions. At the same meeting, South African minister of transport Hendrick Schoeman stated: “Import and export trade plays an important role in the economy of South Africa and Israel. The economic cooperation between our countries is of vital importance.”

There were significant cultural and academic links between South Africa and Israel. During a visit to South Africa, Yaacov Avnon, vice-president of Ben Gurion University, explored the possibility of a collaborative effort with the University of Cape Town in establishing a comprehensive child development center. Joseph Lapid, director general of Israel’s broadcasting authority, was the guest of the South African Broadcasting Corporation. Professor Uri Gamiel, head of the physics-education division at the Weizmann Institute of Science, was in South Africa as part of an exchange program with the South African Institute of Physics. Professor Aharon Roy, a member of the chemical engineering department at Ben Gurion
University, was the guest of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research at Pretoria University. Professor Amos Shapira, dean of the Tel Aviv University law school, was the guest of the South African department of foreign affairs and information. A special conference on pediatrics involving experts from both countries was held in South Africa.

Sports ties between South Africa and Israel were enhanced when an Israeli youth rugby team toured South Africa.

South African visitors to Israel included the president of Venda, Chief P. Mphethu, and seven of his ministers; Professor Charlotte Searle, the leading figure in South African nursing, who addressed the first International Congress of Nursing Law and Ethics; and Professor Mike Bruton, head of the department of ichthyology and fisheries-science at Rhodes University. A South African youth tennis team toured Israel. In collaboration with the Market Theater, Cape Town’s Company of Four took Ronald Harwood's *The Dresser* (directed by Leonard Schach) on tour to Israel, where it enjoyed sell-out performances.

Under the leadership of Rose Norwich, a joint committee of the South African Zionist Federation (SAZF) and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies (SAJBD) began the task of planning a large exhibit on South African Jewry that was to be mounted at the Museum of the Diaspora in Tel Aviv.

On *yom yerushalayim*, Israeli minister of interior, police, and religious affairs Joseph Burg was the main speaker at a ceremony held at the Johannesburg Civic Center. The mayor of the city and other dignitaries participated in the event.

**Antisemitism**

Political developments, particularly the split within the National party, produced some uncertainty in the Jewish community. Conservative leader Treurnicht was reported to have said that his party believed in freedom of conscience and religion and that antisemitism *per se* was not an issue. On the other hand, Eugene Terre Blanche, leader of the Afrikaner Weerstands beweging (AWB), expressed strong anti-Jewish views at meetings throughout the country. Adding to the sinister atmosphere of these meetings was the presence of *stormvalke*, leather-clothed men on motorcycles who displayed an AWB emblem that was reminiscent of the swastika. In a newspaper interview, Terre Blanche declared that South African Jews should be deprived of all political rights under an Afrikaner Christian people’s government controlled by the AWB. When this statement aroused a sharp public reaction, Terre Blanche retreated, claiming that he only insisted on banning Jews from membership in his party.

A statement expressing revulsion over Terre Blanche’s views was issued by the SAJBD. Speaking in Parliament, Prime Minister Botha warned Terre Blanche that there was no room in South Africa for neo-Nazism and that his remarks concerning Jews were unacceptable. Terre Blanche also received a warning from Minister of Law and Order Louis LeGrange after stating that his movement might not adhere
to strictly legal measures in endeavoring to protect white interests and security. Toward the end of 1982, arms caches were uncovered at AWB offices in a nationwide police raid; nine people, including Terre Blanche, were arrested and were due to stand trial.

A number of left-wing and right-wing newspapers propagated malicious anti-Israel views in the wake of the Lebanon war, often extending the attacks to include Jews generally. Two pro-PLO Muslim organs, the Cape-based *Muslim News* and the Durban-based *Al Qalam*, took the lead in this regard. Some letters to the editors of major newspapers also manifested anti-Jewish views in the course of attacking Israel. These letters elicited responses from members of the Jewish community, including, in one instance, a joint letter from the chief executives of the SAZF and the SAJBD.

During "Israel Week," an event organized on the campus of the University of the Witwatersrand by the South African Union of Jewish Students (SAUJS), the Black Student Society (BSS) held a pro-PLO meeting. Jewish students who were angered by this action gathered spontaneously outside the room where the BSS meeting was being held, and violence was averted only through the intervention of the security staff. A number of students, both Jews and non-Jews, were suspended for unruly behavior; all were later allowed to resume their studies.

Slogans decrying Zionism and supporting the PLO were daubed on synagogues and Jewish communal buildings in Johannesburg. The police began an immediate investigation, and police stations throughout the country were ordered to give special protection to Jewish property.

**JEWISH COMMUNITY**

*Demography*

The Jewish population of South Africa was estimated to be 119,000. Leading Jewish population centers were Johannesburg, Cape Town, and Durban.

*Communal Activities*

The SAJBD issued a statement on the vexing issues of detention without trial. Arguing that "punishment should be the sole prerogative of the courts," the SAJBD, on humanitarian grounds, called for a reconsideration of existing security measures. Reaction to the statement, which received wide publicity, was generally favorable within the Jewish community.

At the annual conference of the SAJBD Cape committee, Chairman Solly Kessler stated that while individual Jews might support different political formulas for the solution of South Africa's racial problems, the Jewish community as a whole was united in a fervent desire to see racial harmony and equal opportunity for all.
“Accordingly,” Kessler maintained, “the Jewish community is likely to welcome all bona fide initiatives intended to achieve these ends.”

In order to allow time for implementation of the recommendations on the structure of the SAJBD which had been put forward by Judge David Melamet, it was decided to delay the SAJBD biennial conference until 1983. In March, a Transvaal committee of the SAJBD was established; called the Transvaal Council, it elected Hanns Saenger as chairman.

In February, the United Communal Fund (UCF) campaign was launched in Johannesburg by Professor Irwin Cotler of Canada. Fund-raising efforts continued throughout the year in all of South Africa.

The main speakers at the 20th national conference of the Union of Jewish Women (UJW) were Marice Halper, president of the International Council of Women, and Barbara Leslie, vice-president of the International Council of Jewish Women. An interesting feature of the conference was a well-attended panel discussion, “Why Pick on South Africa?” which was held at Witwatersrand University. The UJW proclaimed 1982 the “year of the aged.”

Jack Spitzer, president of B’nai Brith International, was the main speaker at the B’nai Brith national convention.

The presence in South Africa of large numbers of Israeli immigrants became a matter of public discussion. A report in the Sunday Times maintained that the Israeli embassy was concerned about the phenomenon, which might involve as many as 30,000 individuals. An embassy spokesman, however, indicated that no reliable figures were available.

Zionism

During the Lebanon war, the SAZF organized well-attended meetings throughout the country. Emissaries from Israel and local Zionist leaders put forward the Israeli viewpoint on radio and television, endeavoring, in particular, to counter the claim that Israel was indifferent to the loss of innocent civilian life.

In addition to undertaking emergency public information and fund-raising campaigns on Israel’s behalf, Zionist groups continued to sponsor cultural, educational, and social programs. The Johannesburg Zionist Luncheon Club was lauded by communal leaders and the press when it celebrated its 40th anniversary.

A trend towards increased professionalism in Zionist fund-raising, particularly on the part of the Israel United Appeal (IUA), did not diminish in any way the ideological fervor which had traditionally characterized this area of activity. The various fund-raising meetings and campaign launchings brought together large segments of the community for lectures and discussions of contemporary Jewish issues. Among the visitors brought to South Africa under Zionist and IUA auspices were Evelyn Sommer, WIZO representative on the economic and social council of the United Nations, to launch the biennial women’s Zionist campaign; Israeli minister Joseph Burg, as the guest of the SAZF and the United Mizrachi Organizations
of South Africa (UMO); Professor Mark Rittenberg of the University of San Francisco, to conduct workshops at the Western Province Zionist Council (WPZC) seminar on leadership training; Zvi Weinberg of the Keren Kayemet Le'Yisrael as the guest of the Jewish National Fund; Colonel Tibi Jonas of Keren Hayesod, to help with IUA pre-campaign activities; Gideon Patt, Israeli minister of industry and commerce, to launch the IUA campaign; and Donald Gould, assistant dean of students at Tel Aviv University, Itzhak Unna, former Israeli ambassador to South Africa, and MK Yitzhak Rabin, as guests during the IUA campaign.

Lisa Frank and Fay Weinstein, leaders of the national IUA campaign, jointly led the first study mission of South African women to Israel. The mission was conducted under the auspices of the Women's Zionist Council of South Africa (SAWZC).

During the first week of September, the 37th South African Zionist Conference took place. The conference theme, "Jewish Identity and the Tasks of Zionism" was set forth by Arye Dulzin, chairman of the Jewish Agency in Israel. The conference explored a broad range of issues, including Zionist ideology, aliyah, fund-raising, and administration, as well as youth affairs, antisemitism, and Jewish education. Julius Weinstein and Itz Kalmanowitz were reelected, respectively, president and chairman of the SAZF.

A SAZF commission, chaired by Judge Cecil Margo, was set up to investigate Jewish fund-raising with an eye toward combining the IUA and UCF campaigns.

Celebrations were held in October to mark the 50th anniversary of the SAWZC.

Religion

An event which aroused some controversy in religious circles was the appearance on the same platform of a Reform rabbi and an Orthodox rabbi to discuss modern Judaism. The event took place at Temple Emanuel in Johannesburg and involved the participation of Norman Mendel, chairman of the rabbinical council of the United Progressive Congregations, and Jack Steinhorn, senior rabbi of the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation.

Berea Hebrew Congregation of Johannesburg celebrated its 60th anniversary. The Posswohl synagogue was proclaimed a national monument. An emotional service was held to mark the closing of the veteran Bertrams Synagogue in Johannesburg; the furniture and artifacts were donated to the newly-developing Edenvale Synagogue. A new synagogue was established in Constantia in the Cape area.

A prominent visitor to South Africa was Bezalel Zolty, chief rabbi of Jerusalem, who was accompanied by his wife.

Jewish Education

A major study of Jewish education in the Diaspora, prepared at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, indicated that South Africa was virtually alone in not experiencing a decline in day school enrollments in recent years. More generally,
over a ten-year period, there had been an increase in the percentage of children in South Africa receiving a Jewish education—up from 58 per cent to 67 per cent. In 1978, 32 per cent of South African Jewish children were enrolled in day schools, 23 per cent in Jewish pre-schools, and another 12 per cent in part-time Jewish education.

The vitality of Jewish education in South Africa was evidenced in the continued growth of existing facilities and the establishment of new schools. At the Carmel School in Pretoria, the Ben and Anne Cohen Administrative Center was inaugurated. A new King David School was opened in Sandton; it commenced the year with eight teachers and 100 pupils in the first four classes. In Cape Town, the Meyer Goldschmidt complex was inaugurated as the new Herzlia Middle School. At the Arcadia Jewish Children’s Home, the Bella Lubner Library was established. The Selwyn Segal Hostel for the Jewish Handicapped expanded its facilities with the opening of Hatikvah House. A resource center for teachers in synagogue schools was inaugurated at Temple Shalom.

The third convention organized under the auspices of the education department of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) was held in Johannesburg in 1982. Participants from abroad included Eli Tavin, head of the WZO’s education department, Chaim Peri, WZO pedagogic advisor, and Seymour Fox, advisor to the Israeli minister of education.

Simon Herman, professor of social psychology at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, taught for several months at the Isaac and Jesse Kaplan Center for Jewish Studies and Research at the University of Cape Town. He also addressed various meetings throughout the country.

A recently-established advanced yeshivah, the Rabbinical Academy of Johannesburg, ordained five students.

In memory of the former secretary general of the SAZF, the Zvi Infeld Fund for Jewish Education in South Africa was established at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem by the SAZF and Manfred Simkowitz.

Jewish Culture

A broad array of cultural, educational, and social activities was organized by various groups, including the SAJBD, UJW, UMO, SAZF, FOS, SAUJS, WPZC, Hebrew Order of David (HOD), B’nai Brith, Western Province Adult Education Council (WPAEC), Council of Natal Jewry, Johannesburg Zionist Luncheon Club, and the Lubavitch Foundation of South Africa.

Newly-published books by Jewish authors included John Merriman by Phyllis Lewsen and Chapters from South African History by Nathan Berger. A project was initiated to translate into English the Yiddish poetry of the acclaimed South African poet, David Fram. David Wolpe continued to publish Yiddish translations of the poems of Breyten Breytenbach, the controversial and celebrated Afrikaans poet. A useful publication was a transliteration of the Passover Haggadah, which was prepared under the auspices of the HOD in Natal. A major event in Cape Town
was Jewish Book Week, which was organized by the WPAEC; activities included exhibits, readings, and lectures.

To much acclaim, pianist Marion Friedman appeared as a soloist with the National Symphony Orchestra. The Jewish Guild Orchestra performed under the baton of Solly Aronowsky at a music festival held to celebrate the 21st anniversary of Goudstad Teachers Training College. Hans Kramer, well known patron of music in Cape Town, drew an appreciative audience to a lecture on “The Exodus in Music,” which was held under the auspices of the WPZC. The Kiryat Ono Youth Orchestra toured South Africa.

Exhibitions of the work of Jewish artists included paintings by Na’ama Nothman, an Israeli; drawings by Cecily Sash, at the Witwatersrand University Studio Gallery; paintings by Jossi Stern, an Israeli; paintings by Eris Silke, at Die Kunskamer in Cape Town; and pottery by Kim Sacks. Eris Silke discussed her paintings on television.

Nusia Gold, a Yiddish actor from Israel, toured the country. Genocide, a new play written and directed by Ian Steadman, was staged at the Market Theatre Upstairs. Another theatrical event was the staging of The Spare Room by Geraldine Aron. Israeli actress Aviva Marks appeared to much acclaim in a one-person performance of Homecoming.

Among lecturers from abroad who drew large audiences were Rabbi Roland Gittelsohn, national president of the Association of Reform Zionists of America, as the guest of the South African Union for Progressive Judaism (SAUPJ) and the Democratic Zionist Association of South Africa; Rabbi Abner Weiss, previously of Durban and now rabbi of the Riverdale Jewish Center in New York; Gerald Lasensky of Metaire, Louisiana, executive director of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans; Ya’akov Avnon, vice president of Ben Gurion University, as the guest of the university’s South African association; Professor Julian Rubenstein of Canada’s McMaster University, to address the biennial meeting of the Jewish Family and Community Council; Professor Howard Sachar of George Washington University in the United States, as the guest of the SAJBD; Eric Feldheim, American educator, as the guest of the SAUPJ; Major General Amos Horev, president of the Haifa Technion, and Emanuel Shimoni, the school’s director of public affairs, as the guests of the Technion’s South African association; Hirsch Goodman, Israeli journalist, as the guest of the SAUJS; and Avner Yariv of Haifa University, as the guest of the Haifa University Cultural Exchange Society.

In August, the sixth annual Judaica conference was held at Witwatersrand University. The event was attended by many leading academics, as well as members of the public.

**Sports**

South African Jews continued to play a prominent role in the country’s sporting life, both as star athletes and leading administrators. Preeminent among the latter was Joe Pamensky, recently-elected head of the South African Cricket Union.
Individuals achieving honors in sports included Geoff Landsman, a bowler, who received the "Kappy" Kaplan Award as the outstanding Orange Free State sportsman; Gaby Schneider, who, with Bobby Wood, won the pairs title at the National Paraplegic Bowling Championship; Mark Abelson and Mandy Newstadt, who were named SJA super sportsmen of the year; Lawrence Seeff, who became a Springbok cricketer; Mark Handelsman, Springbok athlete, who was named Maccabi sportsman of the year; Russel Stein, a table tennis player, who was named Maccabi junior sportsman of the year; Alan Chait, who won the South African masters table tennis title and the South African Sport Merit Award; Harold Cohen, junior Springbok waterskier, who was named Western Province Maccabi sportsman of the year; and Ivan Levinrad, Brad Gogoski, and Harry Cheuidan, who were awarded Springbok colors in karate.

**Personalia**

The 1820 Settlers Foundation list of English-speaking South Africans who made major contributions to the country's life included sportsman Abe Segal; author Nadine Gordimer; ballet dancer Phyllis Spira; actor Syd James; politician Helen Suzman; and journalist Joel Mervis.

The Adelaide Ristori Award (Italy) was presented to Taubie Kushlik for her contributions to the theater in South Africa. Nadine Gordimer was awarded the CNA Prize for Literature (the third time she won the award) for her novel *July's People*. Henry Goodman was the recipient of the Fleur du Cap theater award for his production of *Agamemnon*.

Minnie Phillips was inscribed in the JNF Gold Book in recognition of 50 years of service on the executive of the Bnoth Zion Association, Cape Town. Upon completing military training, Lieutenant Paul Levin was awarded the Chief of the Army Commendation Award. Professor Marcus Arkin was invited to join the board of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency to replace the late Maurice Porter. Councillor Sybil Hotz was chosen Durban Woman of the Year. Sandra Klewansky, the youngest person ever awarded a Ph.D. in nuclear physics at the University of Witwatersrand, won the Special Merit Bursary of the Council of Scientific Industrial Research. The University of Witwatersrand awarded an honorary degree to Professor H. Sichel of the Haifa Technion, in recognition for his research on industry, commerce, and government in South Africa. Lillian Rosenberg, an executive member of the Industrial Council for the Clothing Industry, was appointed to the National Manpower Commission. Hilda Jeidel, distinguished philatelist, was awarded the Chevalier des Grimaldi Order of Monaco for her research on the stamps of Monaco. David Lazarus was elected chairman of Frere Hospital Board, East London, for the 24th successive year; the University of Witwatersrand Convocation Bursary was awarded to two prominent Jewish sportsmen, Mandy Yachad and Richard Kaplan. The Francisca Witt Piano Concerto Trophy was won by Gillian Rubin. Professor Sidney Kark received an honorary doctorate from the University of Witwatersrand. As the
University of Witwatersrand graduate with the most distinguished academic record, Steven Berkman was awarded the Gold Medal of the Dental Association of South Africa. Ivan Bachmeyer was the recipient of the University of Witwatersrand Alumni Fund Scholarship.

People gaining important communal appointments included Doris Brook, honorary life president, Federation of Synagogue Women's Guilds (FOSWG); Doreen Bender, president, FOSWG; at Yeshiva College—C. Jackson, headmaster (secular), Rabbi G. Mazabow, director of Hebrew and religious studies, Gerald Leissner, chairman, and Steven Adler, vice chairman; Marcia Parness, chairman, Johannesburg Women's Zionist League (JWZL); Maureen Collis, chairman, Johannesburg Women's ORT; Neville Eisenberg, chairman, SAUJS; Barbara Meltz, national director and vice chairman, SAUJS; Devora Klisser, national president, UJW; Clifford Meyersfeld, chairman, Transvaal ORT; Garvin Bernstein, president, Council of Natal Jewry; Jeffrey Wolf, chairman, Conference of Heads and Principals of Jewish Day Schools; Rabbi Sherwood Weil, rabbi, Temple David in Sandton; Professor Marcus Arkin, chairman, Association of Jewish Communal Professional Executives of South Africa; Leila Barret, chairman, Johannesburg Magen David Adom; Sylvia Kaplan, administrative officer, Eastern Cape Zionist Council; Monty Manoim, executive director, South African Maccabi; Mariene Bethlehem, chairman, Jewish Women's Benevolent and Welfare Society; Leon Lewis, chairman, SAZF in Natal; L. Bergman, president, United Progressive Jewish Congregation of Johannesburg; Rabbi John Spiro of Perth, Australia, senior rabbi, Cape Town Jewish Reform Congregation; Bertha Sherman, director, Active Learning Center of the WPZC; George Mendelsohn, president South African Maccabi Council; Sarah Plehn, honorary life vice-chairman, JWZL, upon her aliyah; Ghita Block, chairman, UJW in Johannesburg; Roseve Linde, national organizer, UJW; Lester Abrams, grand president, HOD; Rabbi Eugene Duschinsky, honorary life president, Cape Board of Jewish Education (CBJE); Hymie Geft, chairman, CBJE; Barney Singer, chairman, WPZC; Renee Gittelson, general secretary, United Hebrew Congregation of Johannesburg; A. J. "Bill" Rosin, chairman, ORT-South Africa; and David Ellman, chairman, South Africa-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Persons who retired after holding important communal posts included Robby Stone, finance manager, SAJBE; Rabbi Selwyn Franklin, chief minister, Durban Hebrew Congregation, upon aliyah; Rabbi David Sherman, senior rabbi, Cape Town Jewish Reform Congregation; Pauline Jacobson, secretary of the executive council, SAZF; Joe Green, director of the audio-visual department, SAZF; and Rabbi I. Alloy, spiritual leader, Berea Hebrew Congregation.

Three South African Jews were honored for their work on behalf of Israeli universities: Ivan Greenstein, honorary fellowship, Tel Aviv University; Rudolph Raphaely, honorary fellowship, Haifa University; and Stanley Lewis, honorary doctorate, Bar Ilan University. Rabbi Walter Blumenthal, chairman of the ecclesiastical board of the SAUPJ, was awarded an honorary doctor of divinity degree by Hebrew Union College, Cincinnati, Ohio.
Among prominent Jews who died during the year were Phillip Nocham, leader of the Nigel Jewish community, in February; Simon Chapman, volunteer worker for the Cape Town IUA, in February; Victor Hepker, former chairman, Arcadia Jewish Orphanage, in February; Meyer Goldschmidt, leader of Cape Town Jewry, philanthropist, and ardent advocate of Jewish education, in March; Isaac Stern, sportsman and founding member of the Ponevez Synagogue in Johannesburg, in May; Yankel Naifeld, champion of chazanut and the Yiddish language, in June; Dora Yellin, prominent communal personality and Zionist leader, in June; “Mitzi” Abraham Katz, well-known Zionist leader and respected member of the legal fraternity, in July; Even Kantor, honorary life president, United Sisterhood, in July; Victor Brasch, leader of the SAUPJ and honorary life president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, in September; Ellen Hellmann, president of the South African Institute of Race Relations, member of Progressive Party national executive, and Jewish communal leader, in November; Julie Landecker, active member of B'hai Brith, in November; Basil Benson, prominent in the affairs of the Gardens Synagogue, Cape Town, in November; Charles Hurwitz, communal activist, in November; and Rabbanit Frieda Mervis, head of Athlone Training Center for Nursery School Teachers and prominent communal figure in Cape Town, in December.

DENIS DIAMOND