



THE HERZLIA FOUNDATION TRUST

SECURING JEWISH EDUCATION



Meet Tanya Golan

Amanda Zar, Manager of The Herzlia Foundation Trust, interviewed Tanya Golan (1989) on her recent appointment as a Trustee to The Herzlia Foundation Trust. Tanya is a Herzlia Alumnus, current parent, UHS Board member, member of the Academic, Jewish Life and Learning and Investment sub-committees and a generous donor.

Who is Tanya Golan?

In my professional capacity, I am a Financial Advisor, having grown a business with my husband Hagai (1987). I have a passionate interest in the well-being and growth of the Cape Town Jewish community.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Constantia as the youngest of four, all of whom are Herzlia Alumni, and moved to Sea Point when I got married at the age of 24.

Tell me about your years at HERZLIA?

I enjoyed 12 incredible years at Herzlia from Herzlia Constantia, to Middle School and on to the High School. Herzlia provided me with an innate confidence and a love for Judaism and Israel. I embraced all opportunities afforded me and participated in each and every aspect of school life – from academics, to school plays, drama, choir, to netball and basketball. Through my involvement I learnt about team spirit and resilience even if we were not always the best team, we always arrived with a positive attitude and realised the fun and importance of being a part of team sports.

Are you still in touch with any of your Herzlia friends?

My two closest friends are from my Herzlia school days. They live overseas and we make a point of trying to meet once a year somewhere in the world and we communicate weekly via WhatsApp. Those friendships can never be replaced and form an integral part of who I am. My husband is also an alumnus and our circle of friends today include many Herzlia Alumni.

Do you have any advice/pearls of wisdom for the current Matric class of 2019?

Herzlia's five pillars can be utilised in every part of your life – use these to your advantage and make the most of the privileged education you have received. Academically you have been afforded an education of the highest level! Keep healthy through whatever sport or outdoor activity appeals to you and choose your individual passion in the arts and culture to truly immerse yourself in a full and rich Herzlia experience! Leave school with a love for your Judaism, because once you are part of a bigger and diverse society, people will respect your religion if you show respect for it. Promote Israel at every opportunity because if we as Jews don't stand behind our homeland – who will? Most importantly be a mensch!

What are you reading at the moment?

I have four books next to my bed, one is the life story of Golda Meir, Red Notice, a Jodi Picoult book and another that slips my mind. Truth be told I am consumed by news channels and the information provided through social media platforms. I navigate between CNN, Sky, BBC, Russian TV and even Al Jazeera and use this information highway to improve my general knowledge and understanding of business and world politics.



What inspires you to live your best life?

My husband who keeps me grounded and my two daughters, Sophia and Katya who inspire me to be the best role model that I can be.

List three personal attributes you feel are most important for business and/or personal success.

Honesty – Be honest with yourself and with others, Integrity – you only have one chance to ensure you have a solid reputation and modesty is a key characteristic. Ambition – strive to be the very best you can be in whatever you choose to do.

What do you do for leisure?

I used to run which was a bit of an obsession but due to numerous injuries, unfortunately my running career came to a grinding halt. I now enjoy yoga to give me my much needed adrenaline rush!

What makes you so passionate about our community?

This is a unique and incredibly special community. The various organisations, often run by volunteers who devote themselves to the upliftment of those around them, is both inspiring and beneficial. I truly believe that as long as we continue to have an emerging youth who are dedicated and interested in giving of their time, their thought processes and their ingenuity – this community can grow from strength to strength

What are your most important family values?

Be kind, be generous, and be modest.

What is your greatest wish for your children?

To be mensches – generous of their time and themselves to others.

How do you feel you can add value to The Board?

I hope to encourage others to give generously of their time and if possible financially to the growth of The Herzlia Foundation Trust. Education is key to the success of any individual, it is Herzlia's purpose and responsibility to educate every Jewish child and, in this way, we will ensure the continuity of a thriving Cape Town Jewish community.

What is the greatest advice your parents gave you?

Without an education, opportunities diminish considerably. Grab every opportunity that life gives you and then use it to grow yourself and those around you.