



Western Cape Numismatic Society

Under the distinguished Patronage of Alderman Geordin Hill-Lewis, Mayor of the City of Cape Town

Western Cape Annual General Meeting 21 February 2026

Tribute to Natalie Jaffe

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, Members of the Western Cape Numismatic Society,

Today, we gather to honour a truly exceptional woman — a woman of strength and grace, a pioneer, a custodian of history, and a name synonymous with numismatics in South Africa — Natalie Jaffe.

For me, this tribute is deeply personal.

I first met Natalie in Tulbagh Square as an 11-year-old — young, enthusiastic, and already captivated by coin collecting, having just discovered an entirely new world. City Coins was the very first coin shop I ever visited, and that memory has remained with me ever since. I can still picture that day vividly — the quiet reverence of the space, the cabinets filled with history, and the overwhelming sense that I had stepped into something far greater than myself. Even today, I feel as though I could walk back through that door and relive that first feeling of wonder and possibility. City Coins in Cape Town truly stands as one of the enduring cornerstones of South African numismatics.

What began in 1967, when Natalie and her husband Allen established City Coins, became far more than a business. It became an institution — a trusted name, a meeting place for collectors, historians, investors and dreamers alike.

Then, in 1975, tragedy struck with the passing of her husband. Six months pregnant, hearing-impaired — which many might not even have known — and raising young children, Natalie faced circumstances that would have overwhelmed most. Yet instead of stepping back, she stepped forward. Let that just sink in.

In a time when many would have retreated, she advanced. With resilience, discipline and unwavering determination, she assumed full leadership of City Coins. She did not merely sustain the business — she strengthened it. She elevated professional standards, built international relationships, mentored generations of collectors, and served as President of the South African Numismatic Society. Through her leadership and integrity, she helped shape the numismatic landscape of this country for decades.

Natalie did not simply trade in coins. She preserved history. She protected trust. She upheld excellence. Over a lifetime of dedication, she built not only a company, but a legacy.

Even in her final years, her commitment never wavered. Her wish to see Postal Auction No. 72 completed was fulfilled shortly before her passing — a testament to her devotion to the craft she loved.

And that legacy continues.

Her daughter Sharon now carries the torch forward — not merely maintaining a business, but preserving a heritage. Through Sharon's leadership, the values Natalie embodied — integrity, knowledge, discipline and service — remain alive for future generations.

It is therefore profoundly fitting that today we present the first Posthumous Honorary Life Membership ever issued by the Western Cape Numismatic Society.

I cannot imagine a more deserving recipient. If this honour is to represent lifelong contribution, resilience in adversity, unwavering integrity, and enduring impact — then there is no better name than Natalie Jaffe.

Natalie shaped more lives than she may ever have realised — including that of an 11-year-old boy who walked into Tulbagh Square many, many years ago and discovered his calling.

It is my great honour to award, posthumously, this first Honorary Life Membership of the Western Cape Numismatic Society to Natalie Jaffe.

Her legacy lives on — in our collections, in our community, and in our hearts.

Thank you.

Delivered by Thomas van der Spuy