The new iPad: not designed to elicit gasps of awe. It’s heavier and thicker than its predecessor, even if only by a fraction of a millimetre and a few grams. Within that reversal of the size trend lurks the real leap ahead for the iPad.

Headlined by popular singer Danny K, this year’s Can Can Carnival last Sunday, masterminded by Yad Aharon, was a roaring success, attended by some 2 000 people, according to fundraising PRs, Laureen Shalpid and Sonia Margolias. The annual carnival, the second of its kind, is designed to raise awareness and directly assist indigent community members. Each attendee at the carnival, hosted for the first time at the Norwood Mall in Johannesburg, needed to bring two non-perishable food items, like rice, cereals, sugar, tea, coffee, oil or canned foods, to gain access to the kaleidoscope of fun-filled carnival activities. The idea of the carnival evolved out of the encouraged month-long participation of Jewish nursery schools in the Greater Johannesburg area. But it’s not only about the carnival. The collecting of non-perishable foods for the hundreds of families in the province unable to afford them, is an initiative practised all year round. Its next highlight will be Shavuot, when bikkurim items will fill Yad Aharon’s coffers, after the chag. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSENDRYVER)
A permeating holiness

Until every part was in place, no part had the status of Mishkan (Tabernacle). What lesson does that teach you?

Parshat Vayakhel-Pekudei

Rabbi Dani Brett, Ohr Somayag, Cape Town

Over a span of five Torah portions, we become involved in the mission of building a heart. As with all things in Torah, we do not simply observe, we participate. Their mission remains ours.

The directive began with the call to "make for Me a sanctuary...". The commentators famously point out that the goal was not simply to create a space in which Hashem's presence could intensely and intimately manifest, but that this would facilitate Him dwelling within each and every Jew. And so it does not say "...so that I may dwell in them", but "...in them" - in each and every one of us.

Using a modern analogy, the Mishkan would act as a router, with every Jewish heart and soul connecting to that source in some way, ultimately projecting its own impressions of G-dliness.

The final verses in this week's portion, in fact the final two in the Book of Shemot, are some of my favourites. Mission accomplished! The Mishkan is erected, and the success of the mission is assured.

"The cloud entered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Hashem filled the Mishkan." But the mission went beyond that - it was about that glory filling the hearts, minds and souls, and even the bod-

ies of every Jew at the time. It was about a holiness permeating their entire being and lives.

It's even more than that, though. Mission accomplished, but not mission over. In a sense, the building of the Mishkan has gone on relentlessly in all times and all places. True, only the Mishkan, and the Temples are the ultimate irreplaceable routers, and we build them tirelessly of the third and final such manifestation. However, the ability to create Mishkan-like access points remain available - and required - in all time.

The shuls, the learning centres - schools, Batei Midrash, and so on, the Jewish home, each of these is a vessel, a way be a reflection of the Mishkan. And in doing so, they direct holy energies into all the spaces that the life of a Jew fills.

And so, when we read these last lines of the book of Shemot, we are being chal-

lenged to assess the effectiveness of our mini-sanctuaries in routing this holiness down from Above, and into the world beyond. Our shuls, our schools, our Batei Midrash, our homes. Can the same be said of them. "The cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Hashem filled the Mishkan"?

But it's important to recognise that until every part of the Mishkan was in place, no part carried the ultimate holiness. Each depended on all the others. And if one part was missing, there was something missing in each other part too. That lesson, too, is part of our mission.

Yes, every mitzvah counts, and every effort is valuable. But there are certain key elements required, or one ultimately seriously jeopardises the wholly-integrated creation of a holy space. While we always encourage celebration of each independent element, we also need to recognise how important completeness is as well.

And so, let us consider what key elements we have wholesale neglected in our homes, shuls and learning centres, making it highly questionable to what extent we may welcome into them the glory of Hashem. And let's get those parts, and in doing so, add immeasur-

able value to every other part too.

The Parsha in 180 words

Last year was the Jewish Report's tumultuous year. This column, Talking Numbers, will celebrate our 13 years by looking at the significance of numbers 1 to 13 from a Toratic perspective.

Gematria, assigning each Hebrew letter a numerical value, is a branch of Torah that assigns meaning to numbers and uses these meanings to reach a deeper understanding of a concept, or to link seemingly unrelated concept.

Numbers have personalities, and just like people can encompass a number of seemingly incompatible characteristics which upon deeper investigation are reconciled, so too with numbers. A sequence of numbers reveals patterns and relationships between numbers, for example odd numbers form a group; even numbers another; 3, 5 and 7 form a very important sequence.

We will start by looking at the relationship between one and thirteen. The Hebrew for one is echad, made from 3 letters: aleph with a numerical value of 1, chet 8 and daled 4. The gematriya of echad is actually 13 (1 + 8 + 4).

For this reason, Hashem, who is the embodiment of oneness, has 13 attributes of mercy, Israel, a nation of oneness had 13 tribes: Levi represented by the Ayeleh, was separated to serve as Levi'im and Kohanim; 8 tribes born to Yisrael and Leah (Joseph is split into Efrayim and Menashe) and 4 tribes born to Bihai and Zilphah. Next week: Who knows? 13 years by looking at the significance of numbers 1 to 13 from a Toratic perspective.

Community Briefs

STORY OF PURIM IN PRESENT SA TIMES

Northcliff Shul celebrated Purim with much laughter accompanying its Purim play entitled North Side Story. The play, which was written and directed by Sharom Gomer, depicted what the story of Purim would look like if it had occurred in South Africa in 2012.

In addition to the play, the audience also enjoyed a Megillah reading by Rabbi Pesach Fishman and a Purim feast professionally catered by the shul's talent-

ed Latin Gulf.

The shul is now taking bookings for its lavish annual Pesach seder on Saturday evening, April 7. It's a family-like seder, where everyone has an oppor-

unity to participate in the reading, explaining and singing if they wish to do so and it features a five-course meal of all the traditional Pesach seder food.

Booths and lay by Monday, March 19 for the discounted rate of R180 for adults and R100 for children.

Bookings from Tuesday, March 20 to Monday, March 26 are R190 for adults and R95 for children under 12. Please contact Sharon on (011) 678-3015 or sharon@northclifftshul.co.za for more details or to book. - OWN CORRESPONDENT | PHOTOGRAPH: MARK BADER

Shabbat Times
Baal Shem Tov fight continues

The fight for the closure of the Baal Shem Tov Shul in Eighth Street, Orange Grove, is not over.

STAFF REPORTER

Although the Townships Board in December granted permission to the shul to continue operating without any conditions, two of the objectors, Marian Laserson of the Orange Grove Residents’ Association and shul neighbour Christine Walters, will be appealing against the decision on the grounds that they were not invited to the hearing.

The saga has been going on for many years after Walters, a former City of Johannesburg mayoral committee member, who lives across the road from the shul, started a campaign to close the shul down, claiming it was causing parking problems.

When Walters found out that the shul was operating without consent, she started procedures to close it down.

Rabbi Gavin Michal, the Baal Shem Tov rabbi, admitted that he did not have the necessary permits and subsequently took steps to rectify it by applying for consent use permission to the city.

Through what was claimed to be “political interference” by Walters, the council’s Town-Planning Tribunal turned down the shul’s application for consent use, citing insufficient parking and the fact that there had been no application for the relaxation of parking bylaws.

However, this was overturned by the Townships Board in December.

Rabbi Michal claims services are only held for 45 minutes a day, from Monday to Friday, on Friday nights and Saturday mornings.

The shul has been operating for 16 years. Walters moved in about eight years ago and started complaining about congregants parking on her side of the road. Rabbi Michal then asked his congregants to park only on the shul’s side of the street.

There were two other objections: one from the Orange Grove Ratepayers’ Association. Seven immediate neighbours signed letters for the synagogue to continue operating.

Laserson said she had not been notified of the Townships Board hearing.

“I have asked them for proof that they invited me and am waiting for it. The shul is not complying with building bylaws and has built on to the house illegally, with no approved plans, so we will be appealing.”

The Jewish Report was not able to reach Walters for comment but, at a hearing held last week to try to close down Winners Chapel, a church allegedly operating illegally, in Highlands North, Walters said the shul matter was “not over” and would be going on appeal.

The SAZF has exposed the terrorist background of Abdul Aziz Umar, who visited South Africa as guest of the Palestinian Solidarity Committee.

Ben Swartz, spokesman for the SAZF, says the PSC has made various allegations about conditions in Israeli prisons, in particular those imprisoned for their involvement in terrorist acts. As an example they cite the experience of Umar, who was recently released under a prisoner swap deal (for Gilad Shalit).

“The PSC create the impression that Umar was not guilty of acts of terrorism. The reality is that it was conclusively proven that he was one of the masterminds behind the Café Hillel bombing of 2003. In this atrocity seven Israeli civilians were killed, including Dr David Appelbaum, head of the emergency room at Shaare Zedek Medical Centre and his daughter Nava.”

Unlike Israeli soldiers captured by Palestinians, Umar was accorded humane treatment in line with internationally accepted laws. He and fellow prisoners received regular visits from the International Red Cross.

“He was also given the opportunity to study and in fact, attained his doctorate through the Hebrew University at the expense of Israeli taxpayers,” says Swartz.

Umar was released last year “despite having neither expressed remorse for his crimes, nor deviating from his support for ongoing terrorist actions against civilian targets. “Given the type of crimes he is guilty of, the trustworthiness of his testimony can only be regarded with scepticism,” Swartz said.

He is a RABBI
He is a TEACHER
He is a COUNSELLOR
JOYOUS MISHNA TORAH EVENT

Chabad recently celebrated the culmination of the Rambam’s yearly schedule of Sefer Hamitzvot. The Lubavitcher Rebbe initiated an innovation to encourage men, women and children to learn the Rambam’s compendium of Jewish law - The Mishna Torah. He encouraged participants to learn at least a chapter a day, ensuring that every three years the book would be completed.

The event was held at Sandton Shul and was attended by a diverse group of Johannesburg Jews. - SHIRA DRIUON

It's a never-ending debate: to stay or to go

A highly contentious debate in the Jewish community remains: “To stay or not to stay”. This is a question generating an increasing amount of tension for many South Africans who fear a precarious status quo.

SHIRA DRIUON

PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

The question has become a concern for Saffas of various age groups, many of whom are talented and highly-skilled people who are willing to trade life with “The biltong boys and Sunday braais” for grey skies, or the turbo pace of Israeli life.

Dubman-born and bred hedge fund manager Damon Hoff, moved with his wife and daughters three years ago to set up the UK branch of Capricorn Capital, with offices in central London.

“London is certainly a very alluring city, which exudes a captivating energy and vibe. The biggest pro to London life is that you are forced to compete in a very big pond, and if you are able to succeed, you are really at the top of your game.”

“However, the converse of this is that you enter the job market with no network, and no ‘school buddies’ to help you fast track the system. Therefore, guys who would under normal circumstances make it very quickly in South Africa, often experience a much bigger challenge here.”

Emigrants worldwide admit that lifelong friendships are most difficult to replace. Former Victory Park head boy, Gideon Valkin left South Africa at age 18 to study in the UK.

“Not only is leaving South Africa an emotional decision, but it is a financial decision as well. Before we emigrated, I was working in financial markets at Credit Suisse. Nearly a decade later, he says: “Life in the US and the UK has exposed me to a kaleidoscope of cultures and it is in this melting pot that I have been able to create friendships with a very diverse group of people. But what I have come to realise is that despite the many new relationships formed, one never loses the strong bonds created during the King David years.”

“I will always consider myself South African, I miss going to shul with my dad on Friday night and Yomtovs spent around my parent’s table, but I have managed to recreate that sense of community.”

The emigration factors that one should consider, differ vastly from country to country and Israel comes with an entirely different set of pros and cons to the UK.

In recent months, the Zionist dream has been deeply embedded in South Africa and it has been suggested that many Saffas have made the big move. Devorah and Ian Kur admit: “Israel was our only choice. We were not looking to emigrate, we love South Africa; we loved our life there.”

“My wife and I decided to immigrate to London five years ago. However, when asked to advise other South Africans about making the move, I do so with caution. South Africa is a beautiful country and affords thousands of Jews a lifestyle that cannot be matched in other countries around the world.”

Ian and Devorah Kur and their daughters in their new home.

“Unquestionably, the biggest challenge is being away from family and close friends and not being able to have the luxury of domestic help, but for now... it’s everything.”

“My dream to make aliyah came with the ultimate bonus of a dream husband, and it has been very rewarding to have had the opportunity to successfully build a life in a new country.”

“Debates range from the newer sleeping city to the beaches in summer and the close proximity to Europe for quickgetaways. It’s a never-ending debate: to stay or to go”

THE PEOPLE RADIATE SIGNATURE WARMTH AND THE COMMUNITY IS FAMOUS FOR ITS CHEERFUL, WELCOMING ATTITUDE.
All systems go to relaunch a revamped Jewish Report

The SA Jewish Report was integral and vital to the community, Howard Feldman, chairman of the board of the newspaper, told a gathering of board members, staff and stringers at a reception at his Glenhazel home last Sunday, to celebrate the relaunch of a revamped SAJR this week.

SUZANNE BELLING

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Discovery’s Gone upbeat about SA and role of Jewish community

Adrian Gore (48) is a leading South African businessman. In 1992, he founded Discovery Health, South Africa’s largest private healthcare funder, which pioneered reward-based healthcare with its Vitality programme. Discovery Health Medical Scheme provides healthcare for more than 218,000 companies and 2.6 million people.

In Johannesburg and a graduate of King David School and Wits University, Gore is CEO of the Discovery Group, which generates total income flows in excess of R5bn across South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States and China. The group cover approximately 5.5 million unique customers globally. He has been recognised as “South Africa’s Leading Entrepreneur” by Ernst & Young (1998), was nominated as “South Africa’s Leading CEO” by a peer group of South African CEOs in the annual MoneyWeb CEOs “CEO of the Year Awards” (2004, finalist 2006), as well as winning the “South African Leading Managers Award”, an initiative of the Corporate Research Foundation and Business Report (2006). He also won the “Investec Award for Considerable Contribution in a Career/Profession” (2008). In November 2010 he was chosen as the “Sunday Times Business Leader of the Year”.

Gore was a recipient of the Investec Jewish Business Achiever Award in 2010. The Jewish Achiever Awards are hosted annually by the SA Jewish Report. He is active in the South African Jewish community, and is a former chairman of the South African Board of Jewish Education.

Gore told JEOFF SIFRIN about his business philosophy, views on South Africa and other issues.

**To what do you attribute the attributes of the biggest medical scheme in the country?**

Discovery Health’s success can be attributed to its challenging of the industry paradigm of “paying for sickness”. Its vision from the start was for the business to make people healthier, and to develop a sophisticated institutional capability to influence the healthcare industry at the time.

Core to this vision was creating insurance products that customers want to buy, rather than those that have to be sold. From the outset, the breakthrough was the Financial Savings Account, which puts customers at the centre of the decision regarding their consumption and financing of care. This not only empowers members within the healthcare system, but made transparent the costs of care, and thus brought stability to the system by serving as a mitigant to healthcare cost inflation.

The second breakthrough was through employee engagement and incentivising members to make better decisions around their health and wellness, the result of which was improved actuarial dynamics within the medical scheme.

The cycle has been virtuous in that the above focus enabled the Discovery Health Medical Scheme to grow at scale, and as a result of this scale, we are now able to offer richer benefits to members at the most competitive premiums, offer members complete financial stability and peace of mind that their claims will be paid, and leverage our scale to invest significantly in technology and services that other medical schemes are not able to provide.

**What is the role of Jewish community in South Africa?**

I don’t believe in wallowing in mistakes or being self-satisfied. The potential of this country cannot be emphasised enough, it’s our attitude towards our country that inhibits or liberates this opportunity.

In the light of your own experiences, is South Africa still a land of opportunity? If you were to give advice to a young entrepreneur today, what is your secret of success? And is South Africa still a good base from which to become a world player?

The potential of this country cannot be emphasised enough, it’s our attitude towards our country that inhibits or liberates this opportunity.

**In what is your view on this?**

We are desperately aware that people must be able to meet their health insurance commitments, and that our role is to make private health insurance more affordable. Having said this, there is no doubt that healthcare is expensive. This is a global phenomenon, and is driven by increased rates of chronic disease and the emergence of many profound, but costly, new drugs and technologies.

Healthcare inflation has, however, been lower than other inflationary pressures such as education and petrol over the last 10 years. The belief of an unmodified cost is perpetuated by the probabilistic nature of the private health insurance product, with 80 per cent of people claiming less than 10 per cent of claims. Individual individuals expect to have access to world-class healthcare when their health is compromised, they pay for each month are not visible to them on a day-to-day basis.

We believe that the South African private healthcare system, while having room for improvement, is excellent. Consumers have access to some of the best healthcare in the world, at prices that are comparable, or lower, than the costs in most other countries. And we believe that, while these individuals expect to have access to world-class healthcare, they are willing to pay for it.

**What is your view on the emigration to so-called “greener pastures” outside the borders of many Jews, an increasing number of whom are coming back?**

As an extremely active member of the SA Jewish community, how do you balance this with the high demands of your business commitments?

I am very proud of my Jewish roots, and a great believer in valuing your heritage. I thoroughly enjoy being part of our community and helping to build it. It’s a natural priority for me so I haven’t found it difficult to balance with my other commitments.

**What is your view on the emigration to so-called “greener pastures” outside the borders of many Jews, an increasing number of whom are coming back?**

Even in advanced economies with very high per capita incomes, the potential of this country cannot be emphasised enough; it’s our attitude towards our country that inhibits or liberates this opportunity. As an extremely active member of the SA Jewish community, how do you balance this with the high demands of your business commitments?

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Journey from the Cape Flats to Orthodox Judaism

The audience at a gathering of the Union of Jewish Women’s adult education division recently, was spellbound as they listened to Ilana Skolnik relating her journey from Kensington on the Cape Flats to embracing Orthodox Judaism.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

In 1973, Skolnik was, as Ellen Peters, Miss Africa South, the non-white version of Miss South Africa. Of the Miss World competition held at the Royal Albert Hall in London, she remembers she "clicked with Miss Israel", promising to come and visit her one day. Little did the then-17-year-old know the part Israel was to play in her future.

On her return to SA, she realised “apartheid and I had no future” and found herself working with tourists in Athens, where she met her Israeli husband-to-be. “He took me to meet his parents (in Israel),” she recalled, joking of his mother: “I don’t know if she was more upset that I was a ‘shikse’ or a ‘shwartze’!”

Although he had not asked her to convert to Judaism, Skolnik says she began to realise that this was the path she wanted to follow.

The date for her conversion arrived (“the yahrzeit of the third Lubavitcher Rebbe’s wife”), the pair then married traditionally and came to this country. “Because I was ‘Coloured’, our marriage was not recognised in South Africa and we weren’t allowed to stay together. “But my parents always instilled in us not to hate, rather to strive for better.” They then returned to Israel.

She recalls meeting the Lubavitcher Rebbe on a later visit to Crown Heights. “I was so, so shocked when I saw the bright, bright light around him. For the first time in my life, I’ve seen a man who walks with G-d,” she remembers thinking.

Skolnik set about committing herself fully to Orthodoxy, drawing her husband - a founding father of the Jewish state who had fought in the underground alongside Menachem Begin - on the journey with her. “I reconnected him to his roots, I taught him Judaism,” she says.

Following her husband Na’aman’s death after 27 years of marriage, she decided to return to South Africa to her family. “Hashem had connected my soul to my body. Hashem had a mission for me. He took me away, connected me to my ‘bashert’ and brought me back.”

Dr Hannah Reeve Sanders, co-chairman of the UJW adult education division; Ilana Skolnik (formerly Ellen Peters, Miss Africa South); and Sara Pascall, co-chairman.

The Jewish Digital Archive Project (JDAP) at UCTs Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, is looking for a part-time media manager who is interested in Jewish family stories and how they are captured in various forms of media.

We are looking for someone who has:

- experience in the media field and is excited by digital communication.
- inter-personal skills to manage students, interact warmly with donors.
- problem solving skills regarding technology and delivery challenges.
- organisational skills for multi-tasking on various projects.

Please reply to: Romikaplan@gmail.com

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**Newspapers riding curve of Internet age**

As any veteran newspaperman whose nostrils are familiar with the intoxicating smell of printer’s ink will tell you, newspapers are living, breathing organisms, constantly changing: no issue the same as the previous one.

The craft of newspaper-making is addictive. People do it for the passion much more than the salary. It’s a process — any given newspaper is a snapshot of a moment in time, the best its staff and contributors can produce with the information and resources they have at their disposal at that instant. And then on to the next one...

Newspapers have been described as the “first draft of history.”

The South African Jewish Report is now approaching its 14th birthday after our establishment in May 1998, with the brief to be a quality paper serving all of South Africa’s Jews, in a country going through massive change, four years after its first democratic elections. The newspapers, the president Nelson Mandela asked us through a man he referred to as “my rabbi” when he toured Jerusalem with him in 1999 — the late former Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris — to gratulate us on being another important piece in the mosaic of South African media, reflecting the country.

Since then, the Internet has caused massive changes in the media. It was still in its childhood in 1998, compared with what it is now. Technology changes so fast these days that presumbably in another decade, today’s “sophistica- tion” will in retrospect seem simplistic.

Papers change in character and style in response to the events, ideas and fashions of the times. Today, physical newspapers face the challenge of integrating with the Internet while upholding principles of good journalism like accuracy, balance and fairness, in that medium which — unlike physical papers — provides editors with almost unlimited space to carry as much material as they wish, from so many sources as they want.

Deadlines — the age-old bane of journalists in the print media who know that if they are late with their stories, the paper will go to print without them — are infinitely more flexible in the electronic medium: content can be changed at the flick of a few buttons by an editor sitting almost anywhere in the world, based on updates from reporters also located almost anywhere.

And with the latest news being instantly available on the net — and many of our readers getting it from there — weekly papers like ours must adapt and provide more features and content that are interactive and dynamic.

This first year after our barmitzvah is a good time to freshen up the look and feel, as well as the content, of the Jewish Report — part of the longer-term process to integrate the physical paper with our website, which will make more interactive and dynamic.

Ultimately, we intend being at the front of this trend in the world of media. With the rise of smartphones and tablets and whatever other devices might develop in the future, we are delighted to incorporate some initial changes in this week’s issue. It is part of the process; we will fine-tune it and add more as time goes by.

We hope you, our readers, enjoy it. In these flux times — and we will continue maintaining the standard of the Jewish Report as a credible, quality paper celebrating and refecting — as Madhia urged us — the diversity of this great country and its vibrant Jewish community.

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**After Bibi’s US visit: What’s Israel’s next step on Iran?**

Israel’s Defence Minister Ehud Barak visited the Iron Dome anti-rocket defence system in southern Israel, on March 10.

**Ron Kamepas**

**Washington**

Analysts and Jewish organisational officials who speak with Israeli and US government, say Netanyahu came away from his meeting last week with President Barack Obama feeling that he had a strategic partner in seek- ing to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

But, they say, he has yet to decide whether Obama’s tactics will do the job or if Israel must strike.

David Makovsky, senior analyst at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, outlined a number of theories that have cropped up in the wake of the meeting.

That Netanyahu will wait until after European oil sanctions kick in this summer to decide on a course of action, or that he would launch a strike before the American elections in order not to be locked by the powers of a newly elected president to set an interna- tional agenda. Or that he would not act at all.

“There were a lot of convergences between the pres- ident and the prime minister, but timing wasn’t one of them,” Makovsky said. “Obama said we have plenty of time in his speech” to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, “and that is not the Israeli perception.”

It was hard to pin down how much time Israel believes it has, in part because its calculations are based on Western intelligence, which may not be entirely reliable. A key factor, Makovsky said, was when and whether Iran developed the capability to enrich uranium to weapon-grade levels, 90 per cent.

“Israel has two questions: Will conversion to high- ly enriched uranium be detected in real time, and will the West act if it is detected in real time,” he said.

A consensus is that the main takeaway of the meet- ing last week between the two leaders is that they had moved toward one another: Obama in making explicit the possibility of a US military strike on Iran, in under- scoring Israel’s sovereign right to defend itself, and in rejecting a strategy of containing Iran, and Netanyahu in ratcheting down threats of military action.

“For now the chances of an Israeli attack against Iran have receded,” said Ali Reza Nader, an expert on Iran-Israel relations at the Rand Corp, an independent think tank that often consults with the US govern- ment.

“I wouldn’t say the military option is off the table. We’ll have to see what Netanyahu says in the next few days or weeks.”

What precisely is the time frame for a make-or- break decision by Netanyahu on whether to strike is a matter of conjecture.

Some suggest that Netanyahu cannot act before the consequences are clear of tough oil sanctions that the European Union is set to impose on Iran, if only because Netanyahu has pressed so hard for the sanc- tions.

“The sanctions are set to kick in on June 1 and it will take weeks to see if they have had an effect on Iran’s considerations of whether to advance its sus- pected nuclear programme.”

Abraham Forman, director of the Anti-Defamation League, said it was his impression that Netanyahu would not decide to act at least until the American elections in November.

The backlash of a strike before then would not serve Israel well, he said, noting the uncertainty it would inject into the American political sphere and economy, particularly regarding oil prices.

“Iran will not act for the time being, from my perspective, until the elections because of the unforeseen consequences, the impact on the economy,” he said.

Meir Javedanfar, an Iranian-born Israeli analyst, says the chances of a unilateral Israeli attack against American wishes are “tiny.”

“If Americans are dragged into war and oil shoots up, it would dam- age our position,” he said. “Our relationship with the US is a very valu- able strategic asset.”

The same wake of the meetings, news reports surfaced that Israel had asked the American administration for weapons that would help in a strike against Iran. The White House denied a report in the Israeli daily Maariv that Obama has promisedFRISKING equipment that could help Israel to hit Iran on condition that it not attack this year.

One prominent critic of the notion that Israel could successfully attack Iran’s nuclear facilities is former Mossad chief Meir Dagan.

Appearing on the CBS news programme “60 Minutes” that was broadcast just last Sunday night, Dagan warned that an Israeli strike on Iran could result in a war that had “devastating impact on our ability to continue with our daily life.”

Dagan, who has clashed with Netanyahu and Defence Minister Ehud Barak over the issue, said if there was a strike, he would “always prefer that Americans do it.”

However, it is not clear whether Israeli leaders are content to rely on the US to do what they feel is necessary if push comes to shove.

Makovsky outlined three areas of tension between the Israeli and American approaches: What would constitute the trigger, an Iranian capability to make a weapon, which is Israel’s red line, or Iran’s decision to weaponise, the US red line; the utility of diplomacy; and Israeli’s sense of urgency regarding when Iran’s nuclear programme becomes impene- trable — what Barak calls a “zone of immunity.”

The Israeli fear is that Iran will try to drive a wedge between the US and Israel, and offer the US enough to stay at the table and not strike,” Makovsky said.

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**Community Voices**

**Can Israel live with a nuclear Iran?**

“An Israeli attack on Iran’s nuclear facilities may succeed in frightening Iran’s leadership, but it would also vastly increase Israel’s nuclear weapon. Unless regime change occurs within, and Iran’s own security dilemmas are palliated, a nuclear Iran will become a reality. Israel may have to live with...” - Larry Benjamin.

“Can one live with a known murderous psychopath? For a short time perhaps, Iran killed over a million Muslims brothers (Iran- Iraq war) without remorse. Nuclear Iran is a deadly threat to Israel...” - Naomi Dinur

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**With a decision like this, only the Israeli public and the elect- ed government of Israel can truly decide the impact of a nuclear Iran in its region.”** - Zev Krengel
A blind eye to human rights atrocities in Congo

At last week Monday's talk at the University of Johannesburg, "Middle East politics vs African Genocide: Do we as South Africans care about Our Continent?" Benjamin Pogrund, Jean Pierre (a Congolese human rights activist) and Bassem Eid (a Palestinian human rights activist) spoke.

Ed, a Palestinian, courageously and publicy speaks against his own Palestinian leaders for their corruption and for silencing the true needs of the Palestinian people.

What struck me about the strong Congolese element of the talk was twofold: Firstly, these people are in a lot of pain. Millions of Congolese lives have been murdered in recent years and many women are raped daily.

Despite these atrocities, the world turns a blind eye to Congo. No-one has told the Congolese people that they would be more comfortable in the role of victim, not the oppressor. And this is still being played out in the middle of the 21st Century.

I refer to the photographs published illustrating the article "Beit Midrash programme proves to be a resounding success" and won't dare to share the photographs with the readers of Jewish Report.

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"Malema Award" gets the blood pressure sky high

Jack Bloom, Cyrildene, Johannesburg

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Jack Bloom, Cyrildene, Johannesburg

A gate ‘leading to the courtyard of G-d’

David Saks wonders why so many eloquent defenders of Israel are secular "cultural" Jews rather than religiously observant.

But they do love the Jewish people, and according to the Baal Shem Tov "Love of Israel is the first gate leading to the courtyards of G-d".

And this ultimately will aid the longed-for redemption.

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What’s in a number?

The announcement of the new iPad last week was the most anticipated gadget event of the year, and will probably be overshadowed only by the new iPhone when it is announced later this year.

Curiously, for a device and announcement that attracted such a frenzy of hype, the new iPad is not designed to elicit gushy fits of awe. Even the name is a muted echo of the previous versions: ‘The new iPad’. Don’t quite have the same ring as that expected ‘iPad HD’ or ‘iPad 3′, does it? The naming - or lack thereof makes sense, though.

When the successor to the iPhone 4 was announced last late last year, the market was expecting an iPhone 5, with what behaves new features and nothing less than a halo to reveal the last will and testament of Steve Jobs. Instead, Apple announced the 4S, with only incremental improvements. The collective gasp of disappointment was heard across the globe.

Apple isn’t going to fall for that one again. Expect the next iPhone to be, simply, the new iPhone 5, with whiz-bang new features and nothing less than a halo to reveal the last will and testament of Steve Jobs.

But the new iPad reveals that Apple is no longer as unreachable far ahead as it was with the launch of the first iPad in 2010. Indeed, when the next generation of devices from the likes of Samsung, Acer, Motorola and Lenovo are announced, they may well be better than the iPad at many of its core functions.

The pros and cons for their rival’s well as for consumers around the world. Apple did not raise the bar too high. Bear in mind that Apple doesn’t manufacture its own screen - the iPhone screens were made by LG, a rival smartphone manufacturer. The processor powering the iPad is made by Samsung, its most bitter rival in the tablet market.

That all adds up to true choice, before you can think of touching your pockets. The least, hardest, most unforgotten work I have ever done. And the journey starts now that the film is out, in working to get the international kudos it warrants.

MIGRON RESIDENTS AGREE TO RELOCATION

MIGRON - Residents of Migreron have signed an agreement with the Israeli government on relocating the illegal West Bank outpost.

The agreement signed last Sunday will allow the outpost’s 50 families to move to a nearby hill over the next three years, meaning that they will not be evicted as ordered by Israel’s Supreme Court.

The current site will be lead over to the Civil Administration, which has agreed to consider public uses.

Migreron, approximately 22 km north of Jerusalem, had been slated under an Israeli Supreme Court order in 2011 to be razed by the end of this month. The state will ask the court to cancel its order.

Minister Benny Begin brokered the negotiations between the government and residents. UTJ

ROVYN SASEN PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

For 18 years, I’ve done the same thing: creating stuff and selling it,” says film producer Ronnie Apteker, who will be turned over to the Civil Administration.

But the new iPad reveals that it is still the first stop for the tablet shopper.

You've got to touch people's hearts before you can think of touching their pockets.

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Apartheid Week: SAUJS gives as good as it gets

Israel's enemies around the world - those not opposed to any particular policy of the Israeli government but to Israel's very existence - have for a long time now been seeking to festoon the "apartheid" label on the Jewish State.

Through this, they wish to delegitimise Israel in the eyes of the international community, thereby paving the way towards its eventual demise as a sovereign nation state. Was this, after all, what ultimately brought down the apartheid regime in this country?

Central to this campaign, now an international one, is the "Apartheid Week", which has just concluded in South Africa.

This year's campaign was the most ambitious yet in this country, with events being staged in 13 separate centres. Particular emphasis was put on those held on the various university campuses.

It says a great deal about the morality and real motivations of those who organised the campaign that one of the prime "witners" they brought out was a recognised terrorist, Abdul Aziz Umar, one of those responsible for the 2003 Cafe Hillel bombing, in which seven Israeli civilians were killed.

Released last year under the prisoner swap deal, he remains an unrepentant advocate of violence against Israel.

The Board also brought out people from Israel to be here during "Apartheid Week". They were Benjamin Pogrund and Bassim Eid, respectively an Israeli and a Palestinian whose lives are dedicated towards striving for peace and understanding between the two peoples.

The contrast between them and Umar is so striking as to be impossible to miss by any neutral observer. Both are prepared to be sharply critical of their own leadership where necessary. However, they provide a grassroots, first-hand and above all balanced perspective about what is happening, unlike the deliberately slanted, exaggerated and frequently downright false depiction that the Israeli-Apartheid lobby is doing.

Frongard is renowned as having been one of the bravest, most resourceful and effective journalists to have confronted and exposed the apartheid regime. For many years, at great personal risk, he reported on every aspect of that iniquitous system.

Thus, when he unequivocally states that whatever may be wrong with Israeli policy, it cannot be likened to apartheid, it carries true weight that cannot be simply dismissed.

In the frontlines of the struggle to count er all the anti-Israel vitriol, were our Jewish students. Here, full kudos are due to SAUJS Chairman Daniel Katzew and his team.

Under the most difficult circumstances, in which they faced constant abuse and intimidation, they stood their ground and confronted head on the false, emotive slogans of the other side. They did so with dignity, courage and commitment, and we as a community can be justifiably proud of them.

A sad farewell to Michal Modai

Dear Chaverot,

It is said that you are remembered by the things you have done for others and the difference you have made in their lives. And so we will remember Michal Modai, esteemed past president of World WIZO, who passed away in Israel last week.

Michal, a seventh generation "abra", was born in Jerusalem to one of Israel’s oldest families, the Solomon family. She was voted Miss Israel in 1951 and was married to the late Yitzhak Modai, a former minister of finance.

Michael was determined to reduce the social gap in Israeli society, especially where women and children were concerned. Under her leadership WIZO organised interactions with day-care centres and youth clubs in underprivileged areas as well as initiating the first WIZO shelter for battered women.

Michal visited South Africa during her presidency to address audiences on the topics that were her passion – the upliftment of women and children in Israeli society. She was loved and admired by all who came to know her.

As we, we celebrated Purim and rejoiced in the marvels of the tradition and ancient Jewish history. Hopefully, among our younger generation are the future women leaders of Am Israel.

This is why we stand together with women everywhere who abbhor calls in sections of Israeli society for women to sit in the back of the bus and who want to forbid women singing in army concerts.

These women, forbidden to sing to mixed audiences, may very well be the six women who recently graduat ed as pilots in the IDF. How ironic that they may fly but may not sing.

"WIZO aligns itself with women’s issues, whenever they need support ranging from abuse and breast cancer to human trafficking and honour killings. All these issues feature in its WIZO awareness calendar. The empowerment of women in Israel is very much a part of WIZO’s "raison d’etre". Counselling women to have a better self image, supporting women in abusive situations, teaching simple parenting and life skills all have far-reaching effects in society, in the most positive ways.

Queen Esther was a true example of women’s courage and strength. We are able to look back through Jewish history at the marvels women are capable of.

Michal Modai encouraged women to be their best and made sure they had the tools with which to do so. May Michal (of blessed memory) rest in peace and may the blessed memory) rest in peace and may the...
SA Ballet performs Adam’s Giselle

Accompanied by the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, SA Ballet Theatre performs “Giselle” from April 12. This Rhinelander-based ballet in two acts to music by Adolphe Adam was originally choreographed by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, inspired by a poem by Heinrich Heine. It tells of a peasant girl who dies prematurely. Her ghost protects her lover from the vengeance of a group of evil female spirits called Wilis. The SABT’s 20 planned performances are scheduled for mid-morning, afternoon and evening sessions. Cape Town City Ballet will also perform Giselle this season, April 13-22 at Artscape Opera House.

LISA MELMAN: WE’RE ALL THE POORER FOR HER PASSING

ROBYN SASSEN

Well known and beloved entertainer, Lisa Melman (pictured), considered one of South Africa’s foremost performers, succumbed to cancer on Tuesday. She was 45.

Having performed every run in the musical Nunsense, and starred in everything from Grease to Fame, Melman also did industry and cruise entertainment. She directed and produced a musical celebrating Marilyn Monroe in 2000 in collaboration with David Fleming.

Melman, who friends remember sitting around Habonim campfires with her guitar, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004, while on the Fame cast. It made her look at life anew. It didn’t stop her from performing and was a catalyst to her experiencing as much of life as possible.

Born on June 11, 1966, Lisa attended King David Victory Park and Wits University. When she was in grade 11, she lost her mother. Her father died in 2000. Supported by a network of her siblings, cousins and friends, Lisa was relentless in making the most of her life.

Described as “one funny gal” and “talented, brilliant and brave”, by many, she “hated the thought of being an object. She only ever wanted to surround herself with positive energy; she had no regrets about the decisions she took in her life. She was grateful for the experience which encouraged her to learn so much about herself,” according to Fleming.

In December 2009, a benefit concert was held, organised by Richard Lonning and Malcolm Terrey, to help her raise funds for alternative cancer treatments in Germany. At this show, her interpretation of This is My Life, the Holocaust diary he found in a Parisian bric-a-brac shop.

The commercial was proudly played for the first time - but hardly pulled off the air when the radio station realised that its background music was the Horst Wessel Lied, the anthem of the Nazi Party.

The piece had been unwittingly selected from a tape of random, untitled matchbox recordings by the Legion’s 20-something media director, who - unaware of his history - thought it was “stirring”. SABC, rest easy: it doesn’t even you have yet stumbled so badly.

THE GOAT HERDER BY STEWART RONEN (LULU ENTERPRISES, R243)

A refreshingly lucid analysis of Israel’s current predicament, as global and internal pressures force it to reconsider many of its assumptions about science, art, relationships, sex and destiny. A novel which admirably balances philosophical and metaphorical enquiry with satire and contemporary moral issues.

Highly recommended.

Success is all very well – but it is not near-
ly as entertaining (or instructive) as failure. In this, the former is at Documenta in Kassel, in June. The latter performs Johannesburg this November.

World War’s for its 2005 lottery. The commercial was proudly played for the first time - but hardly pulled off the air when the radio station realised that its background music was the Horst Wessel Lied, the anthem of the Nazi Party. The piece had been unwittingly selected from a tape of random, untitled matchbox recordings by the Legion’s 20-something media director, who - unaware of his history - thought it was “stirring”. SABC, rest easy: it doesn’t even you have yet stumbled so badly.

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Highly recommended.

The former is at Documenta in Kassel, in June. The latter performs Johannesburg this November.

FROM SOUTH TO SOUTH, an acclaimed tango show at the Old Mutual Theatre on the Square in Sandton, from May 7, for two weeks.

Featuring Argentina’s leading tango duo, Ariel Feldman (who also directs) and Cynthia Paikovic, accompanied by Nadia lankova-Loureiro on piano, the show is something of an educational foray into the klezmeroid of the style, history, costume and sensuality that is tango, and takes the audience from old folk traditions to contemporary tango, with the Argentina guitar, Argentine canta music and costumes stemming from tango’s traditional roots.

OORLIN’S ‘DADDY’ RETURNS TO MARKET THEATRE

The hit of this year’s Dance Umbrella that has travelled internationally continuously since its Johannesburg debut in 1998, Robyn Orlin’s “Daddy” has been included in the programme.

The show premiered in 1998 and has since toured internationally, winning numerous awards and critical acclaim. It tells the story of a father and son, both of whom are dancers, and explores the complex relationship between them.

The cast includes child actor Lloyd Marks as the young Daddy and dancer Johan van Zyl as the older, retired dancer. The production features music by Adi Goldstein and costume design by recluse costume designer Erisa Kauffman.

The show runs from April 7 to April 13 at Market Theatre, Johannesburg.

Cohen debuts at Festival d’Avignon

Recognised as the pioneer of performance art in South Africa, contemporary dancer-artist choreographer Steven Cohen debuts at the Festival d’Avignon this July in a new work premised on an unpublished Holocaust diary he found in a Parisian bric-a-brac shop. Entitled “The Witness for legal and ethical reasons”, the work’s duration is variable.

Performed by Gerard Bester, Nelisiwe Xaba, Myrthe, Anya Carstens as Queen of the Wilis, Myrthe.

TANGO SHOW ON AT OLD MUTUAL THEATRE ON THE SQUARE

Cherry-picked from last year’s Witness Hilton Arts Festival in KwaZulu-Natal, “From South to South”, an acclaimed tango show at the Old Mutual Theatre on the Square in Sandton, from May 7, for two weeks.

Featuring Argentina’s leading tango due, Ariel Feldman (who also directs) and Cynthia Paikovic, accompanied by Nadia lankova-Loureiro on piano, the show is something of an educational foray into the klezmeroid of the style, history, costume and sensuality that is tango, and takes the audience from old folk traditions to contemporary tango, with the Argentina guitar, Argentine canta music and costumes stemming from tango’s traditional roots.

'Through the 'Hour' Debuts Internationally

From June, “Refuse the Hour” William Kentridge’s collaboration with dancer Dada Masilo pictured, composer Philip Miller and film editor Catherine Meyburgh, which screened local critics last September, debuts internationally.

Recipient of Tel Aviv University’s 2012 Dan David prize for culture, Kentridge collaborated with Harvard history of physics Prof Peter Galison in “The Refusal of Time”, an installation about time from which “Refuse the Hour” grew.
NOTE: Deadline for all entries is 12:00 on Friday prior to publication.

Today Friday (March 23) 

Sunday March 25 

Tuesday March 27 

Thursday March 29 
• Pianoforte quiz for SAUJS at Colony Arms. The quiz covers a range of topics from history to science and nature, movies, music, current events etc. Teams of 4-8. Time: 19:30. Cost: R35pp. Prizes to be won. Early booking is essential. To book call or SMS Lawrence: 082-888-5255.

Friday March 30 

PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS
• You are a dynamic and inspirational speaker, a learned teacher and an empathetic counselor.
• Personal warmth, strong interpersonal skills and an ability to develop rapport across all age groups and genders.
• Highly learned, yet approachable, accompanied by an intellectual openness.
• Energy and demonstrated leadership skills, and being both self-reliant and a self-starter.
• Knowledgeable of current economic, religious, political and technology affairs affecting our lives.
• The ability to integrate Torah with real life issues and thereby to engage and teach our kehila.
• High energy and outcome-focused; you are committed and deliver.
• Keep our community updated on current political and religious affairs in Israel.

APPLICATIONS INVITED
• Meet the requirements above.
• Applications must include a complete CV and cover letter.
• Applications must reach us no later than Friday, March 30, 2012.
• All applications will be replied to and will be treated with the strictest of confidence.

THE ROLE
• Facilitate the growth and spiritual advancement of the congregation through your inspiring leadership, uplifting teaching and dynamic personality.
• Ensure a broad range and high standard of youth and children’s services, adults and seniors activities, active engagements with our female members, interesting learning programmes and regular calendar events.
• Keep our community updated on current political and religious affairs in Israel.

COMMUNITY RABBI
The Camps Bay Hebrew Congregation in Camps Bay, Cape Town, seeks a new dynamic rabbinical couple to lead the congregation.

An attractive market-related remuneration package commensurate with the role, is being offered.

THE ROLE
• Maintain an active community calendar.
• Keep our community updated on current political and religious affairs in Israel.

EXPERIENCE REQUIRED
• 5+ years’ experience as a community rabbi.
• Demonstrable recent track record of building and growing a community.
• Track record of increasing congregants’ levels of knowledge, observance and connection to Yiddishkeit.

CONTACT DETAILS
Marc Steenberg, Chairman:
Mobile: +27 84 600 1600 | Work: +27 21 418 3330 | E-mail: marc@parkalm.co.za

All applications will be replied to and will be treated with the strictest of confidence.
An exciting Purim programme was held at the Torah Academy Nursery School when children and their teachers dressed up for a costume parade; there was the swapping of shalach manos; music; candy floss and a mock Megillah.

Purim at KDHSVP - ‘best fun day of the year’

Purim at Pine Street Playschool

TA TOTS get into Purim spirit
REPORT: EGYPT HAS BROKEDER ISRAEL-HAMAS CEASEFIRE

CAIRO - Egyptian officials told Reuters last Monday that they had brokered a truce between Israel and Hamas to end four days of cross-border fire between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

The Reuters report quoted unnamed Egyptian officials. Neither Hamas nor Israel would confirm the report, and the terms of the truce were unclear.

Militant groups in Gaza launched a barrage of rockets last week Friday after Israeli assassinated Zuhair Qasim, leader of the Popular Resistance Committees. In response, Hamas launched an operation in Gaza that Israel described as planning a terrorist strike in Israel.

More than 150 rockets were launched, injuring eight civilians in Israel, including one who was severely wounded.

Israel authorities said the Iron Dome anti-missle system intercepted 90 per cent of the missiles, including 28 out of 31 long-range Grad rockets targeting major Israeli cities such as Beersheba, Ashdod and Ashkelon.

At least 17 Palestinians, including a 14-year-old, were killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza.

The IDF Home Front Command-ordered schools closed again Monday in cities and towns located up to 40 kilometres from the Gaza border, affecting about 200 000 children, after being closed last Sunday.

Classes at universities and colleges in the area were also closed. (JTA)

EX-MOSSAD HEAD DAGAN: ISRAEL SHOULD WAIT ON IRAN ATTACK

JERUSALEM - Former Mossad chief Meir Dagan says Israel should hold off on attacking Iran and that he would “prefer” that the United States execute any attack.

Dagan also said in an interview aired last Sunday on the CBS news program “60 Minutes” that he feared an Israeli strike on Iran would lead to a regional war that would see at least 50 000 missiles fired on Israel from Hezbollah in the north and Hamas in the south.

“For a day it will be a devastating impact on our ability to continue with our daily life. I think that Israel will be in a very serious situation for quite a time,” Dagan told Lesley Stahl. “And wars, you know how they start. You never know when you stop.”

Dagan began the interview by saying: “An attack on Iran before you are exploring all other approaches is not the right way to do it.”

He added: “No doubt that the Iranian regime is not only not rationally based on what I call Western thinking, but no doubt they are considering all the implications of their actions. They will have to pay dearly and all the consequences for it.”

One sign of the Iranians’ forward thinking, Dagan said, was how they dialled through diplomacy.

Dagan pointed out that a nuclear Iran was an international problem, not solely an Israeli one. Thus he believes that the United States could be the ones to halt Iran’s nuclear programme.

“Perhaps I would prefer that somebody will do it, I always prefer that Americans will do it.”

Dagan added that an attack would not halt Iran’s nuclear programme, only delay it, and asserted that there were dozens of sites throughout the country, not the four that were spoken about publicly. (JTA)

TWEETED PHOTOS CLAIMING CURRENT GAZA VIO- LENCE ARE REFUTED

JERUSALEM - Two photos tweeted as being the result of Israeli airstrikes in Gaza in the recent round of violence, have been proven false.

One photo, showing a dead Palestinian girl covered in blood in the arms of her father, was tweeted by Khuloud Badawi, who was identified as Honest Reporting as the information and media co-ordinator for the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. It also was tweeted by Diana Alzeer.

“Palestine is bleeding... another father killed by #Israel... another father carrying his child to a grave in #Gaza,” Badawi’s tweet posted on March 10 reads. It has been retweeted at least 300 times.

The picture was retweeted by tweetr Ami Moyer, who identified it as a 2006 Reuters photo, and that the girl had died in an accident, according to Honest Reporting. Alzeer later tweeted an apology.

Another photo uploaded to Facebook by Masrass Nabilss on March 11 and later retweeted by Gaza South Break Out, an explosion in Gaza City was identified as “Gaza Under Attack Today.” In reality the photo was taken by Reuters in 2009 during Operation Cast Lead. (JTA)

CONSIDER NAVAL BLOCKADE OF IRAN, SENATE LEADER LEVIN SAYS

WASHINGTON - An international naval blockade of Iranian oil exports should be considered as an option to stop Iran’s nuclear programme, US Sen Carl Levin has said.

Levin (Democrat Michigan), chairman of the US Senate Armed Services Committee, said in an interview last Saturday with C-SPAN that the blockade should be considered before utilisating airstrikes. He said the blockade would put additional pressure on Iran to stop its suspected nuclear weapons programme.

He also said that imposing a no-fly zone over Iran could prove to be “very effective” and “I think (these are) options that whoever is willing to participate should explore, including Israel and including the United States.”

Israel has threatened to launch a military strike on Iran’s nuclear sites in a matter of weeks or months, according to reports. (JTA)
Pollock to speak at Maccabi Stag

**Pollock to speak at Maccabi Stag**

There have been many superb left-handed batsmen in cricket over the years, but there are few who could match the majestic talent of Graeme Pollock. As an 18-year-old he was setting the cricketing world alight which was quite an achievement in the 1960s.

**JACK MILNER**

Donald Bradman was one of the people who rated him the finest left-hand batsman the game has ever produced, who rated only Garry Sobers as his equal among those he saw play. Deprieved of greater exposure by South Africa’s isolation during his playing time, Pollock showed in his 23 Tests what an awesome talent he possessed; his highest score of 274 for many years was the South African Test record.

Pollock scored his maiden first-class century when he was just 16 and then posted his first Test hundred at age 19 in Australia. There has been a lot of turning in South African cricket of late and Pollock will help shed some light on what is happening in the boardroom and the changeroom, when he speaks at Maccabi Stag on Thursday, March 29. The talk will take place at Beyachad in Johannesburg.

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Israel’s Nakash could be ‘Last Man Standing’

When it comes to boxing innovations, nobody in South Africa does it better than Rodney Berman. Starting on June 16 his company, Golden Gloves, will be holding the first round of the Super 8 “Last Man Standing” competition.

**JACK MILNER**

It is a tournament restricted to cruiserweights and they will fight against one another until there is literally, just one man left standing.

The final round will be staged in November and the winner will walk away with R200 000 and the runner-up with R120 000. The question is: Who will be the last man standing out of Zack Mwekassa, Daniel Allotey, Johnny Muller, Danie Venter, Flo Simba, Daniel Bruwer, Thabiso Mchunu, Simba, Daniel Bruwer, Thabiso Mchunu and Ran Nakash?

While the majority of the fighters are South African, Nakash is Israeli and could very well be the No 1 seed for the event.

Due to his late start in the sport, he’s never been the most refined of pugilists. Seldom will he take a backward step, as it’s in his nature to shy away from danger.

For the lopsided results two judges turned in (scores of 116-112 and 118-110 twice). “They didn’t give me any rounds. If you saw the fight, I won the first five (rounds). Even the guys that worked at the fight for Euro Sport - I’d never met them - but even they said after the fight that it was crap,” claims Nakash. “But listen, this is Germany. I know the game. This is Germany, and if you don’t win with a KO, you lose.”

Even if he hadn’t turned in an impressive effort, he can be forgiven, as he took the bout on short notice. Since then, he’s taken a more measured approach for his next bout, moving his training camp to Canada, where he visits a new gym every day in southern Ontario to get varied sparring.

Before he embarks on his sparring tour, though, he wakes up at his base in Toronto, puts in the requisite roadwork, and chops wood in the snowy forest.

“It’s horrible,” joked Nakash. “I’m from Tel Aviv. Tel Aviv is a desert. The worst winter day, you can go T-shirt and a jacket, that’s it. Here, the day before it was minus 15.”

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Pollock great Graeme Pollock will be the guest speaker at Maccabi Stag in Johannesburg on March 29.