



Anthea Pokroy's in the red! (page 10)

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Beyachad Library will close without some 'helping hands'

ROBYN SASSEN

Conditions set for the continued existence of the Beyachad Library - with "substantial rent" to be paid by it as from the end of February - have made the closure of this Johannesburg Jewish communal facility, now a stark reality. As support from Beyachad does not seem to be forthcoming - in fact no comment has been forthcoming from the powers-that-be - it seems only the community itself may be able to save this valuable asset for posterity.

Selwyn Lichtenstein, the Chief Financial Officer of Beyachad, and Gerald Leissner chairman of Beyachad's committee, both declined to comment.

"Our grandchildren will not thank us," said long-time researcher Lionel Slier, reflecting on the current situation of the library. "They probably won't forgive us. In years to come, it will be a stain on our community."

Marcia Parness, honorary life

president of the SA Zionist Federation and honorary life vice-president of WIZO SA explains: "We have been told that there is a tenant for the 120 square metres of space the library currently occupies, if we cannot produce a monthly rent.

"This is a communal asset," she adds speaking of the years she spent compiling questions for the Israel Quiz through the library's archives, "the responsibility should be a communal one.

"The Port Elizabeth Jewish community has a museum connected to their shul, and a library, which are maintained and kept up. If 100 members of Johannesburg Jewry donated R1 800 a year, small change for some people, we would not be in this predicament."

The Beyachad Library, in existence since 1946, grew from a nucleus collection dating back to the 19th century, of material donated by the Transvaal Youth Council, into a monumental collection of tens of thousands

of books, journals and archival material, which includes minutes of meetings, newspapers editions and the like.

Effectively, this means that a lot of the material in the collection cannot be found anywhere else, including the Internet.

Originally, the collection was housed in Coronation House, and then Zion House in De Villiers Street, in central Johannesburg, which is where the offices of the Zionist Federation were located during the early part of last century. When the Zionist Federation moved to Raedene, in 1994, the library remained an important part of the communal centre.

"This is our heritage," says Parness. "Well-known Israel-based scholar Gidi Shimoni, wrote both of his ground-breaking books about SA Jewry making considerable use of these archives."

"He travelled specifically to South Africa to work in the archive," Slier remembers.

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Morsi aide calls Holocaust a US hoax 'Six million Jews moved to the US'

CAIRO - A key figure in Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi's government has called the Holocaust a hoax cooked up by US intelligence operatives and claimed the six million Jews killed by Nazis simply moved to the US, FoxNews reported on Tuesday.

"The myth of the Holocaust is an industry that America invented," Fathi Shihab-Eddim, a senior figure close to President Morsi (pictured) was quoted as saying.

According to FoxNews, Shihab-Eddim is responsible for appointing the editors of all state-run Egyptian newspapers.

The Egyptian official was further quoted as saying that "US intelligence agencies in co-operation with their counterparts in allied nations during the Second World War, created it (the Holocaust) to destroy the image of their opponents in Germany, and to justify war and massive destruction against

military and civilian facilities of the Axis powers, and especially to hit Hiroshima and Nagasaki with the atomic bomb."

FoxNews said that Israeli experts had expressed concern at the harsh statements. Efraim Zuroff, Israel Director of the Jerusalem-based Simon Wiesenthal Centre told FoxNews.com the remarks showed a dangerous, but common, mindset.

"Obviously, if a person in that position makes that ridiculous claim it is of concern," Zuroff said.

"The sad truth is that these views are relatively common in the Arab world and are the result of ignorance on one hand and of government-sponsored Holocaust denial on the other hand."

The statement comes on the heels of the much-publicised comments made by President Morsi in 2010, that Jews are "the descendants of apes and pigs", remarks that Morsi insists were taken out of context. (YNet)

International Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorated

"People who hid Jews were executed together with those who were in hiding if they were caught. Would I have had the courage to do it? I don't know."

3, 4, 8

Beinart: West Bank settlements put Israeli achievements at risk

"Israel needs to go back to the 1967 proposed borders, to help her reach a positive two-state solution. In my view, Netanyahu is misguided in his refusal to give back land..."

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Anti-apartheid veteran Alan Lipman - principled to the end

"As an anarchist, to me, the most important truth is that humans can manage their own affairs. You don't need leaders; leaders are mostly dangerous people."

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Chabad House brings Joe Lieberman to South Africa for Miracle Drive



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DAVIS: Alas, the 'one-staters' seem to have won Israeli debate

"I have increasingly failed to see how any Israeli government will remove sufficient settlements on the West Bank to ensure that a viable Palestinian state can ever emerge..."

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Parshat Yitro

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18:15	19:28	Durban
18:20	19:45	Bloemfontein
18:05	19:58	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:47	East London

World News in Brief

'ISRAELI RELOCATION FROM BEYOND GREEN LINE NOT REALISTIC', SAYS LEFT-WINGER

JERUSALEM - An Israeli kibbutz movement leader and left-wing activist said removing Israeli residents from communities located beyond Israel's pre-1967 borders (the "Green Line") was no longer a viable solution to the conflict over territory with the Palestinians.

"I believe the topic of two states for two peoples will come up, but I don't think there's any way that hundreds of thousands [of Jews] will be moved from their homes to inside the green line," said Yoel Marshak, head of the Kibbutz Movement's task force, according to Israel National News.

"There will be agreements, or an autonomy, that will allow two nations to live side by side... The struggle today is not to remove settlements, but to find creative solutions," he added. (JNS.org)

MURDOCH TO SUNDAY TIMES: APOLOGISE FOR 'GROTESQUE' CARTOON OF NETANYAHU

NEW YORK - Rupert Murdoch, whose News Corp owns the Sunday Times of London through a subsidiary, said the paper should apologise for printing what he called a "grotesque" cartoon of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Murdoch, the founder and CEO of News Corp, made his remarks on Monday on Twitter about the cartoon that appeared the previous day. Netanyahu is depicted as building a brick wall with the blood of Palestinians as mortar.

"Gerald Scarfe has never reflected the opinions of the Sunday Times," Murdoch tweeted, referring to the cartoon's illustrator. "Nevertheless, we owe major apology for grotesque, offensive cartoon."

Murdoch's statement was made in response to criticism from leaders of the Jewish community in the UK who said the drawing was reminiscent of anti-Semitic blood libels.

The Sunday Times defended the cartoon on Monday, saying it was "aimed squarely at Mr Netanyahu and his policies, not at Israel, let alone at Jewish people".

Also on Monday, the Board of Deputies of British Jews, an umbrella organisation, filed a complaint with the independent Press Complaints Commission, the Guardian reported, and incoming Sunday Times editor Martin Ivens told The Jerusalem Post that he would meet with leaders of the British Jewish community this week over reaction to the cartoon.

Jon Benjamin, the head of the Board of Deputies, called the cartoon "appalling" and said it was similar to the offensive images of Jews "more usually found in parts of the virulently anti-Semitic Arab press". Benjamin said its appearance in the broadsheet on International Holocaust Remembrance Day added insult to injury. (JTA)

Seeing is believing

Parshat Yitro describes the giving of the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai to Moses and Israel over 3 300 years ago. That event effected a change in the spiritual and physical worlds forever.

Prior to that instant, the spiritual world and the physical world had no real effect on each another, but with the giving of the Torah, G-d delegated to the nation of Israel the power to "interfere" with spirituality through our involvement with the physical.

So, now a physical action like putting on tefillin or lighting Shabbat candles actually causes a profound spiritual change for the person and in fact for all mankind.

As described in this week's parsha, something most unusual occurred when G-d descended Mount Sinai to give the Torah to the Jewish people. "And all the people saw

the thunder," the Torah states.

They saw what is normally heard, and heard what is normally seen - a miraculous change in the natural perception of the world. To understand what occurred, let's examine the concepts of hearing and seeing.

A person perceives life primarily through sight and hearing. The fundamental difference between the two is that our sense of sight verifies our external reality in the clearest and most convincing manner.

Hearing something, however, is much less definite and leaves room for later doubts about what was really heard. On the other hand though, our sense of sight is far more limited than our sense of hearing. A person can only perceive physical objects through seeing, whereas hearing enables us to un-

derstand a more abstract and spiritual reality.

Nonetheless, in our current reality, as the saying goes, "seeing is believing". But what occurred at Mount Sinai was a reversal of nature - spirituality was clearly perceived and understood, and physical existence became less tangible.

This phenomenon wasn't a special miracle performed by G-d in honour of the occasion, it was the natural result of G-d revealing Himself at Mount Sinai.

The reality of G-d's existence took centre stage at that precise moment in history and the physical world seemed less of an existence but immediately after the Revelation our perception of reality returned to its former state.

The world wasn't yet ready for such G-dliness to be revealed on an ongoing basis. We simply couldn't



PARSHAT YITRO

Rabbi Moshe Kazilsky

Sephardi

Hebrew Congregation

sustain living in a state where we could see thunder and hear lightning - where spirituality is visible and materiality is inconsequential.

But as we move ever closer to the end of days, when Mashiach will reveal himself and the world will reach a state of perfection, this is precisely what will occur. Right now it's hide and seek - G-d is hiding and we are seeking...

G-dliness and spirituality is hidden within the physical reality. But soon nature will once again be reversed – permanently - when spirituality will be revealed and be apparent to all and our belief in G-d will stem naturally from actually seeing the G-dliness around us - and that's truly when seeing, will really be believing.

District Six of old carries many fond Jewish memories

MOIRA SCHNEIDER

CAPE TOWN

While District Six may be no more, having been razed to the ground by the apartheid government, an exhibition at the South African Jewish Museum is highlighting its importance in the early Jewish life of this city.

"The Jews of District Six: Another Time Another Place", documents a period when Jews co-existed with others in what was a melting pot of races, cultures and faiths. With research and text by Millie Pimstone and convened by Prof Milton Shain, it is a joint undertaking by the Museum and the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at UCT. Photographic research was by Adrienne Folb.

During her research, Pimstone was most struck by the way in which the immigrants brought their way of life with them and established communal organisations to meet their own needs, as well as the easy relationship between the working peoples of District Six of all races.

"They lived cheek by jowl and I didn't come across any personal anecdotes of discrimination or ill-treatment - only one example of anti-Semitism that came from a poor white Afrikaner family."

She was also impressed by the importance the newcomers attached to education, and that they would "really sacrifice" to ensure that their children benefitted in this way.

Eastern European Jewish immigrants began arriving in Cape Town's most vibrant neighbour-

hood in the mid-1880s, attracted by its proximity to places of employment in the central city and the low cost of accommodation. At one point, there were no less than nine synagogues catering to the community.

Lily Cammerman arrived in District Six in 1931, aged six, having been born in Lithuania. Her mother was a dressmaker and her father had a shop on the corner of Mount and Constitution Streets.

"The relationship between the Jews and the coloured people was unbelievable," she remembers. "My mother had three Muslim women working for her and I used to go and play with their children.

"Times were hard - it was the time of the Depression - and everyone helped one another." In Harrington Street, just outside the area, "99 per cent" of the inhabitants were Jewish.

As a child, Cammerman remembers taking part in Yiddish theatre there, a popular form of entertainment.

Years later, her first job took her back to District Six where she was recognised as "Liebke" by one of the "skollies" of the area. Such was the feeling that had existed between the groups that he insisted on escorting her safely out of the area when she finished work late on a Friday evening.

Families often lived above their shops and accommodation was often shared with grandparents, extended family or lodgers who could supplement the family income.

One interviewee remembers a grandmother going to the docks



One of the photographs on display at The Jews of District Six exhibition at the SA Jewish Museum.

every Friday and shouting: "Who is from Dvinsk?" If someone answered, she would take them home and arrange jobs and accommodation for them.

The exhibition doesn't gloss over less positive aspects of Jewish life at the time, dealing with, among other issues, divisions in the community occasioned by the newcomers' arrival.

The established German and English (Jewish) pioneers, we

learn, were "embarrassed" by their "appearance and demeanour", with their language, Yiddish, being regarded as "a sign of lack of education".

By the mid-1940s, most Jews had moved out of District Six to more upmarket areas, but many still retained their businesses there.

- The Jews of District Six is on at the SA Jewish Museum until the end of March., (021) 465-1546.

LIONEL SLIER

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‘Human rights must be for everyone’

ALISON GOLDBERG

Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions South Africa spokesman Mbuyiseni Ndlozi, said on opening his inaugural commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day on Sunday evening, that the reason for the programme was as a result of deep reflection about the meaning of the Holocaust. “We in the Palestinian Solidarity movement, fighting a struggle, think of human rights. We have in our ranks Holocaust deniers and anti-Semites. To renew our fight for human rights, these cannot be only for the Palestinians, but for everyone.” The event was held at the Women’s Jail on Constitutional Hill in Johannes-

burg. All speakers failed to mention wars and massacres by Arabs against Israel in their repetition of the charge that Holocaust victims had become perpetrators of human rights crimes against Palestinians, or that the separation wall in the West Bank was a defence against terrorist attacks. Another was the claim that Yad Vashem, on the western slope of Mt Herzl, chosen for its lack of political connotations according to Wikipedia, itself had been built on Palestinian land. The speakers (pictured from left), who made it clear they spoke in their personal capacity, were Yasmin Sooka (Foundation for Human Rights); Prof Farid Esack (University of Johan-

nesburg); Mbuyiseni Ndlozi; Janet Love (South African Human Rights Commission); Kayum Ahmed (CEO, SAHRC); and Prof Steven Friedman (Rhodes University). Calling the commemoration “long overdue”, a tearful at times Steven Friedman, quoted Rabbi Michael Goldberg of California. The master story of the Jews is the Exodus and one we need to return to; how even in the defeat of one’s enemies in our fight for freedom, we are not allowed in Judaism to celebrate it at their expense. This had been replaced by the Holocaust cult that if you have a state, you need to affirm your deterrence, rather than your humanity. The very word Holocaust, meaning a willing sac-



Photo: Ilan Ossendryver

rifice, Friedman said he had problem with. The Zionist myth perpetuated was that it was the fault of the victims who didn’t have guns and bombs. The message of the Holocaust was not to make their mistake of allowing ourselves to become victims, he said. Prof Farid Esack, warning the audience that anti-Jewishness was alive and well, said he was “ashamed

- bloody ashamed” of its expression in the [Muslim] community from which he comes. “‘Never again’ is not a promise that we make once and get over with it - it is a lifetime of resistance to all forms of discrimination... at every forum. If the Jews disappear, [as Poland Nazi governor Hans Frank in 1941 asked ‘only’ of them], then so will all of us. An injury to one is an injury to all.”

Love him or hate him, you can never ignore Peter Beinart

SHIRA DRUION

“Whether you agree with him or disagree with him, love him or hate him, one thing you cannot do is ignore the voice of Peter Beinart,” said David Jacobson, executive director of the Cape Board of Deputies, when he introduced Associate Professor Beinart (pictured) who was brought out to South Africa from the US, by Prof Milton Shain of the Kaplan Centre. Beinart is the former editor of The New Republic, has written extensively for Time, The New York Times, and The New York Review of Books among others and has authored three books of his own. He espouses a provocative set of ideas on Israel’s democratic policies regarding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict which continue to be an issue of contention for critics worldwide. In his new book, Beinart presents the issues that continue to prevail, specifically among Israelis and American Jewry.

“A dramatic shift is taking place in Israel and America. In Israel, the deepening occupation of the West Bank is putting Israeli democracy at risk. In the United States, the refusal of major Jewish organisations to defend democracy in the Jewish State, is alienating many young liberal Jews from Zionism itself.” Beinart was outspoken on his views on the recent Israeli elections. “Although the Palestinian state could be a threat, it is outweighed against the risk of permanently holding millions of Palestinians who lack basic rights. “I think that Israel needs to go back to the 1967 proposed borders, to help her reach a positive two state solution. In my view, Netanyahu is misguided in his refusal to give back land and he should be more committed to building a viable Palestinian state. If Yair Lapid decides to use his new influence to push the government to create a Palestinian state, I believe it would be a very encouraging move for



those hoping to witness democracy in the Israeli government. “ Said Jacobson: “During his weeklong stay in Cape Town, Beinart engaged with a range of Jewish audiences and to each one he threw out a significant challenge. From the Mini Nahum Goldman (group) to a lunch with Jewish communal leadership, Beinart was exceedingly eloquent and passionate in his plea to preserve Israel’s

democracy in order to safeguard the Jewish State. His visit helped enrich our engagement with critical issues facing the Jewish world today.” Besides radio interviews, Beinart presented a public lecture at the Albrow Centre and spoke at UCT, Herzlia High and to a large group of Habonim madrichim. Commenting on his experience, Beinart said: “The South African audience engaged with me and there were only really civil disagreements. I was really pleased with the dialogue we were able to create.” “I think it’s a testament to the Cape Town Jewish community that various community leaders and organisations were able open to hearing the views of a controversial thinker like Peter,” said Vanessa Valkin, director of The Herzlia Foundation. “While some shared his opinions, he was often heard by individuals with quite disparate views and yet there was good, open dialogue and a mutual respect.”

West Bank settlements are putting Israeli achievements at risk, says Beinart

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

The creation of Israel had been a blessing for the Jewish people, but the West Bank settlements were putting its achievements at risk, warned Peter Beinart, associate professor of Journalism and Political Science at City University of New York. Beinart, whose book, “The Crisis of Zionism”, caused waves across the Jewish world last year, was speaking during the course of a visit to the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at UCT. Centre director Prof Milton Shain, described him as a “passionate Zionist”, a “major voice in the United States” and possibly “one of the most important modern Jewish voices in the world today”. The American-born Beinart, whose parents met at UCT, referred to Israel’s Declaration of Independence which speaks of complete equality for all its inhabitants. “For me that democratic vision is crucial,” he said.

“That miracle is today being imperilled by Israel’s control of the West Bank in a flagrant violation of the principles of the Declaration. “This is not to say that Jews should not be allowed to live in the West Bank,” he stated. “I believe they should be,” he added, adding that the land should be annexed or be part of a Palestinian state in a peace agreement. Israel would eventually be forced to choose between a Jewish and a democratic state, which he described, quoting Tzipi Livni, as being “in mortal danger”. He acknowledged, however, that the Palestinians did bear “significant blame” for the situation and had badly undermined their cause through grotesque terrorism. Beinart criticised the fact that much of the West Bank had been declared a national priority zone under the present government, making it eligible for subsidies. The budget for the settlements had doubled since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had been in power, with Hebron receiving

seven times as much as the under-resourced area of Beersheva. “By supporting settlement growth, we’re pushing the Palestinians in a direction we don’t want them to go,” he maintained. “We make the Palestinian leaders look like fools... and make Hezbollah and Hamas stronger.” Beinart questioned Diaspora Jewish leaders’ silence in the face of this “crisis of Zionism and Israeli democracy” which he said was fundamentally contrary to the Jewish tradition of criticism and open debate. They say that a Palestinian state might imperil Israel’s security, but this view was at odds with Israel’s heads of security, bar one. He charged that Diaspora leaders only considered threats from outside such as anti-Semitism and Iran, as this fitted with the “familiar narrative of Jews as a weak and reviled people. The core of Jewish leadership is unwilling to accept that the Jewish condition has fundamentally changed. “Some of our deepest challenges stem,

not from our weakness, but from our power. We don’t talk about it because we lack a language to talk about the ethical responsibilities of Jewish power.” Citing this silence as a reason for “so many young Jewish kids feeling disaffected”, Beinart said we had to tell the younger generation that “they’ve been tasked by history with a very special obligation”. He said South African Jews had an enormous amount to contribute, having witnessed societal change. “Young Diaspora Jews need to find a way to struggle for Israeli democracy,” he added, warning against allowing the dream of a democratic Jewish state to “die on our watch”. Beinart slammed “the way in which the Holocaust is always used as a touchstone for every situation Israel faces”, saying that a broader panoply of images from Jewish experience was needed to enable us to draw on situations in which we had not been defenceless.

World News in Brief

REPORT: GLOBAL ANTI-SEMITISM INCREASED NEARLY 45 PER CENT IN 2012

JERUSALEM - Global anti-Semitism rose nearly 45 per cent in 2012, according to a report presented by Israeli Information and Diaspora Minister Yuli Edelstein to the Israeli Cabinet, Israel Hayom reported. Using statistics gathered from the Kantor Centre at Tel Aviv University, the report found that terror threats, attacks, verbal and physical street assaults, and vandalism against Jewish targets rose globally in 2012, particularly in Western Europe. The report blamed the rise of Islamist movements and neo-Nazi groups in Europe and elsewhere as the cause for the spike. Surprisingly, despite the rise of Islamist groups and Israel’s recent offensive in Gaza, anti-Semitism in the Middle East did not rise significantly. The report speculated that this was likely due to Arab preoccupation with internal issues and the short duration of the Gaza conflict.

As a result, Edelstein noted that this proved there was little connection between Israel’s policies and anti-Semitism. “During Operation Pillar of Defence and following it, there was no sharp increase in anti-Semitic incidents. There is no doubt that as part of anti-Semitism there are anti-Zionist approaches and delegitimation of the State of Israel, but unfortunately, no policy of the State of Israel will diminish these manifestations of racist hatred against Jews,” he said. Speaking to JNS.org in late 2012, Simone Rodan-Benzaken, the director of the American Jewish Committee’s Paris office echoed similar conclusions. “What is worrying now, since the murders in Toulouse, [is that] there has been an increase in anti-Semitic attacks unrelated to the Middle East events,” Rodan-Benzaken said. (JNS.org)

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Anti-apartheid veteran Alan Lipman was true to his principles to the end

DAVID SAKS

Alan Lipman, who died in Johannesburg this week age 88, has been lauded as an architect of South Africa’s democracy and as one of the original drafters of the 1955 Freedom Charter. He was further actively involved, as a member of the underground African Resistance Movement, among other things taking part in the firebombing of an office where records to include black women in the pass law system were being compiled.

Like many other underground activists, he and his wife, fellow anti-apartheid campaigner and journalist Beata, went into exile in the UK to evade arrest and imprisonment. The couple eventually returned in 1990 to play their part in building a new democratic society.

Like the legendary Lionel Bernstein, who was primarily responsible for drafting the Freedom Charter, Lipman was an architect by profession and worked with Bernstein in that capacity for a time.

Despite his impressive activist credentials, Lipman was one of the relatively little-known Jewish Struggle veterans. In no small part, this was because he had turned against the Soviet Union and eventually left the Communist movement altogether, because of his disillusionment over the crushing of popular resistance to the Soviet regime in Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

For this, as were all former cadres who refused to toe the SA Communist Party line on the Soviet Union, he was systematically frozen out of the tightly-knit exile community, in his words, becoming “isolated: socially, economically and intellectually”.

In due course, largely through his son’s influence, he adopted anarchism as a political philosophy, and on his return to South Africa was involved in the Zabalaza Anarchist Communist Front (ZACF).

“As an anarchist, to me, the most important truth is that humans can manage their own affairs. You don’t need leaders”

In a 2006 interview, Lipman related how he had narrowly escaped arrest when his flat was raided by police searching for incriminating documents. During the search Detective-Sergeant Johan Coetzee – later head of the feared Bureau of State Security (Bossa) – found the poem “O koud is die windjie en skraal / En blink in die dof-lig en kaal...” by Eugene Marais.

Said Lipman: “He was surprised that I, ‘a Joodse kommunis’, read Afrikaans poetry. He asked me if I liked the poem and I said of course. He said: ‘It’s a wonderful poem’.” Shortly thereafter, Coetzee found

some papers that Beata had hidden under some shirts.

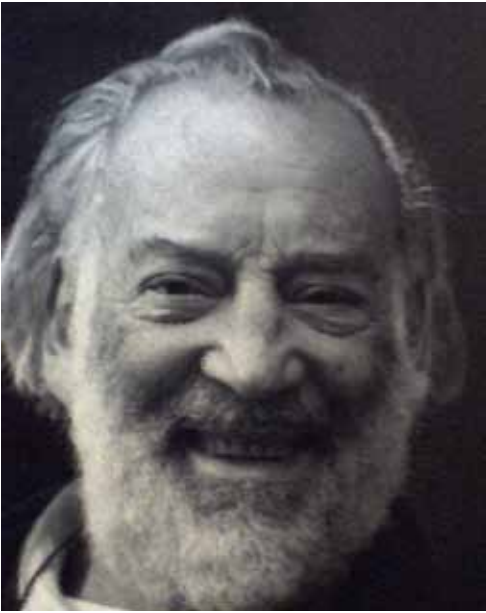
Continued Lipman: “He looked at them, then looked at me, then called out to his men that they were finished the search. I never knew why he did that. Perhaps under other circumstances, Johan Coetzee and I could have been friends.”

According to Lipman, Coetzee was also the one who tipped him off that he was on a list of militants targeted for arrest following the Rivonia raid. This enabled him to evade the fate of dozens of other underground operatives who served long prison sentences for their activities.

Lipman became disillusioned with the post-apartheid regime, believing that the ANC had become an “anti-liberation movement” and that a real “People’s National Congress” was needed to take real liberation forward.

“As an anarchist, to me, the most important truth is that humans can manage their own affairs. You don’t need leaders; leaders are mostly dangerous people. The reason that the Communist Party today is the same as any other party and behaves in the authoritarian fashion it does, is because it doesn’t trust the people,” he once said.

Lipman is survived by Beata, his wife of 63 years. According to the anarchist journal, Zabalaza, Beata is believed to have hand-written the original Freedom Charter.



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The Canadian Jewish News, Toronto, Canada:
www.cjnews.com

“Winnipegger admits to anti-Semitic posters”

A failed candidate for the Winnipeg city council, Gordon Warren, has admitted to local media outlets that he was behind a series of posters titled “Shitler’s List”, which many have described as anti-Semitic. He explained that he embarked on this initiative because he was critical of Winnipeg’s Jewish mayor, Sam Katz.

Ynet news, Tel Aviv, Israel:
www.ynetnews.com

“Public rushes to update gas masks”

The defence establishment’s concerns about threats of chemical weapons hasn’t gone unnoticed by Israel’s public. The number of Israelis updating their gas masks and ABC (atomic, biological and chemical) kits, distributed in Israel since Occupation Desert Storm (1991), has tripled over the past month.

St Louis Jewish Light, Baltimore Jewish Times, Maryland, USA:
www.jewishtimes.com

“Court decision on anti-Semitic tweets emboldens Jewish activists”

In response to a poster spray-painted with the words “dirty Jew” that appeared on Twitter, the Grand Instance Court in Paris has in an unprecedented decision ordered Twitter to reveal details about users who had posted these messages, imposing a \$1 300 fine for every day Twitter fails to comply, instructing the company to set up a system to flag illegal content for removal.

Jerusalem Post, Jerusalem, Israel:
www.jpost.com

“Al Jazeera: Saudi pledges \$300 million for Syria aid”

Saudi Arabia has pledged to provide \$300 million to help fund humanitarian efforts for Syrians affected by nearly two years of conflict. The announcement was made by the kingdom’s finance minister, Ibrahim Alassaf at an aid donor conference chaired by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Kuwait.

The Jewish Chronicle, London, UK:
www.thejc.com

“Holocaust survivors tweet to reach new generation”

The lessons of the Holocaust were transmitted to a new generation via Twitter last week when two survivors, Zigi Shipper and Eva Clarke, joined a live Q and A session on the social networking site, organised by the Holocaust Educational Trust to coincide with Holocaust Memorial Day.

The Daily Maverick, Johannesburg, South Africa:
www.dailymaverick.co.za

“Shock is in the dock and now his wife is under lock”

The Canadian trial of Aubrey Levin, 73, the notorious apartheid psychiatrist known as “Dr Shock”, should shortly produce a verdict. Levin is accused of nine counts of sexual assault against male former patients; his wife Erica has also been placed under house arrest for allegedly attempting to bribe a juror.

Arutz Sheva, West Bank, Israel:
www.israelnationalnews.com

“PM stresses: Only US attack can halt Iranian nuclear programme”

In a plea to Israel’s closest ally, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu stressed that an Israeli strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities could cause “significant damage”, but only a US attack could halt their operations. He also hinted that US military activity should be carried out before Tehran finishes the process of enriching uranium to 20 per cent purity.

World News in Brief

NETANYAHU-LED BLOC CAN FORM COALITION WITHOUT LAPID

JERUSALEM - Israeli Environmental Protection Minister Gilad Erdan (Likud) stressed on January 24 that with the rightwing bloc led by PM Benjamin Netanyahu earning 61 of 120 Knesset seats - just more than half - in the recent election, the Likud Beytenu-led bloc did not need to incorporate Yesh Atid and its leader Yair Lapid into its coalition.

Netanyahu and Lapid reportedly met for about two and a half hours the night of January 24 to

discuss their potential coalition. Lapid has made equality in sharing the national service burden, particularly the drafting of haredim into the IDF, a precondition to his joining the coalition.

At the same time, senior Likud sources told Israel Hayom that Netanyahu's first task in coalition talks with Lapid is to agree on drafting haredim into the IDF in a way that the haredi parties will be able to live with and remain in the government. (JNS.org)

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Free speech and hate speech in the cartoonist’s world

When President Jacob Zuma recently gave up his attempt to sue cartoonist Zapiro for depicting him, in a cartoon in the Mail & Guardian 2008 as a rapist unbuttoning his pants and about to rape “Lady Justice”, who was being held down by ANC stalwarts, it was an admission of how complex the notion of freedom of speech is.

At what point does a drawing cross from being “freedom of speech” to become hate speech or libel? There is no definitive answer; it depends on culture, context and history - maybe even personal prejudices.

When artist Brett Murray produced a painting entitled “The Spear”, seen as mocking Zuma’s sexual prowess, accusations of racism against blacks were made. That sort of mockery of a leader is unacceptable in black culture, roared the accusers. But satirical comment on politicians is protected by the right to freedom of speech, and is crucial in fuelling public debate, said the defenders.

When the gallery removed the painting and City Press newspaper took it off their website under political pressure, it was seen as a victory for those who would re-impose censorship on South African society.

A similar uproar has erupted in the UK after the London Sunday Times printed a cartoon by Gerald Scarfe last Sunday captioned “Israeli elections - will cementing peace continue?”, depicting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu building a wall with blood-red cement, with Palestinians squeezed between the bricks.

Jewish organisations have been in an uproar, accusing the paper of anti-Semitism. Scarfe’s drawing, they say, used classic motifs of Judeophobia, and it appeared on International Holocaust Remembrance Day - which made it doubly suspect.

Jewish heavyweights have entered the fray: the Anti-Defamation League, Board of Deputies of British Jews, and Israel’s ambassador to the UK. The Board of Deputies filed a complaint with the independent Press Complaints Commission.

Scarfe subsequently apologised for the timing of its publication. In a statement printed on his official website, he emphasized: “I am not, and never have been, anti-Semitic.” He said the drawing, published on January 27 - International Holocaust Remembrance Day - was “a criticism of Netanyahu, and not of the Jewish people: there was no slight whatsoever intended against them... I was, however, stupidly completely unaware that it would be printed on Holocaust Day, and I apologise for the very unfortunate timing.”

Sunday Times acting editor Martin Ivens has also apologised for the cartoon. A statement by several Jewish groups said he met community representatives to discuss the cartoon.

“On behalf of the paper I’d like to apologise unreservedly for the offence we clearly caused. This was a terrible mistake,” Ivens said. “You will know that the Sunday Times abhors anti-Semitism and would never set out to cause offence to the Jewish people - or any other ethnic or religious group. That was not the intention last Sunday.”

Is Scarfe’s cartoon anti-Semitic or a legitimate satire of an international, powerful political figure? Some commentators say there is nothing anti-Semitic in it: for example, there is no kippah, Star of David or stereotypical “hooked nose” to identify its subject as Jewish.

Secondly, Scarfe is known for routinely lampooning his subjects - particularly politicians - in this spectacular way and has not targeted Netanyahu more than others. Nor does the cartoon accuse the Israelis of “Nazi-like” behaviour, which has become a staple of contemporary anti-Semites.

The two schools debating this issue are - and will probably forever be - poles apart; it depends from which vantage point you view the subject matter.

When truly anti-Semitic tracts such as the “Protocols of the Elders of Zion” were created many years ago, they took a long time both to disseminate and to be refuted - although the Protocols are still taken seriously in some places. Now, in the Internet age, images like Scarfe’s cartoon are instantly transmitted worldwide, particularly in the social media.

Their effect is thus magnified, but the Internet also allows them to be debated widely and quickly, as is happening. This has the effect of sharpening the issues - precisely what the skilled cartoonist aims at.

Cartoons caricaturing Muslims, especially the prophet Muhammad, have evoked similar outrage in certain quarters. While such cartoons may be offensive to some, many would argue that this is the price one pays for democracy and freedom of speech.

Jews need to be extremely worried about the dangerous rise in anti-Semitism in Europe and elsewhere 68 years after the liberation of Auschwitz, and must fight it vigorously. But they must also be careful not to cry wolf too easily, lest they diminish their credibility in this fight.

Netanyahu’s depiction in Scarfe’s cartoon is certainly offensive, but does that make it necessarily anti-Semitic, particularly when it appears in a highly regarded paper like the Sunday Times? There is no easy answer to this vexing, yet stimulating question.

Alas, the ‘one-staters’ seem to have won Israeli debate

Following the latest Gaza campaign, two respected writers captured much of the frustration and the long-term implications of another military conflict in the area. Jonathan Friedland, writing in the Guardian, spoke of his anger at the chair leaders on both sides.

Supporters of the Palestinian cause can find nothing positive ever to say about Israel and thus like stuck records focused exclusively on the destruction of Gaza City and the very sad loss of life without ever pausing to consider what a country is supposed to do when rockets are incessantly directed at its citizens.

Somehow, every country has a right to protect its own, save for Israel. Needless to say, the massacre of more than 60 000 people in Syria hardly gains a mention from this band of bigots.

Friedland did not limit his critique at the moral expedience and equivocation of the supporters of the Palestinian cause. For him, Israeli cheerleaders perennially hold the military option as the means to solve all problems, a fetishising of military strength as opposed to a sustained consideration that non-military options are the only long-term hope to prevent yet another repeat performance in a couple of years.

Applied to my personal context, rational debate appears to have been replaced by rabbis without a scintilla of training in politics or secular studies becoming the authorities on the political questions posed in the area!

Leon Wieselter, of the New Republic, author of the acclaimed book Kaddish and a longtime Zionist, recently proclaimed that he had lost all hope in the possibility of a two-state solution. Distinguishing between his view that the only solution is for two states which he claims is unchanged and his loss of hope for its implementation, Wieselter spares neither side.

For him Palestinian leadership has been nothing short of pathetic and at worst vicious, which failure has so poorly served the cause of Palestinians. But the point for Israel is that

if the Palestinian leadership, both the PLO and Hamas, were reasonable and disposed toward Israel, there would have not been a problem for so long.

Peace is made with one’s enemies not friends. It is here that Israel has failed, a failure that he considers is exacerbated by what he describes as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s outrageous decision to sanction the E1 construction in the greater Jerusalem area.

Like Wieselter, I believe that it is essential that over the long haul Israel remains democratic and Jewish. The increasing influence of a profoundly anti-democratic Avigdor Lieberman (and lately the more polished but equally pernicious Naftali Bennett) threatens the very core of the first of these two characteristics.

Similarly, I agree with Wieselter that at least since 1937 and the Peel Commission, only the establishment of two states could provide a basis for some reconciliation, however difficult its attainment might prove. But increasingly, that vision no longer seems possible.

I have increasingly failed to see how any Israeli government will remove sufficient settlements on the West Bank to ensure that a viable Palestinian state can ever emerge, notwithstanding an unexpected conversion along the Damascus road by the Palestinian leadership.

To be sure, the rhetoric may be employed to claim that a two-state solution is on Israel’s agenda, but like Wieselter, I find it difficult, even impossible to see how this will occur.

After reading Friedland and Wieselter, I reluctantly concluded that those within our community, in Israel and beyond, who wanted a one-state solution, may have won their victory.

Of course the recent election in Israel may yet disturb my conclusion. To be sure, the religious fundamentalists are the big losers in this election. Hopefully this democratic consequence will not be lost in our own community.

I, however, remain sceptical as to whether Mr Lapid and his Yeish Atid party, who are now a



THE JURY IS OUT
Dennis Davis

key factor, will reinvigorate the impetus toward a two-state solution. Another four or five years of kicking for touch and building yet more settlements and surely this will herald the end of the possibility.

Then the one-state advocates, either by way of commission (Messrs Bennett and Lieberman) or by omission (Mr Netanyahu) will need to explain how the demographic problem will be solved.

How, in short, will Israel remain democratic and Jewish if the majority of the population from the Jordan to the Mediterranean will no longer be Jewish? Unless a solution is to be found, how will we defend Israel against the apartheid slur?

The argument that many, including myself, have employed against the analogy is that Israel is a democracy, Arab citizens serve on very powerful institutions like the High Court and the West Bank is an occupation and not part of the sovereign state of Israel. But if the two-state solution is not attainable for the foreseeable future, then this argument will increasingly be divorced from reality.

To be sure, I can hear the response that the fault lies with the Palestinians and that a continued presence in the West Bank is not to be attributed to the blame of Israel. But that argument looks increasingly like a political fig leaf as settlements on the West Bank continue apace and the rhetoric of the two-state solution gives way to a realpolitik of a de facto one state.

I hope, unlike Wieselter, not to lose hope of any tangible change in my lifetime. I fear, reluctantly however, even after this election, that the only realistic debate will take the form of a one-state solution as advocated by Jewish and Palestinian one-staters respectively. I can only pray that I am proved wrong.

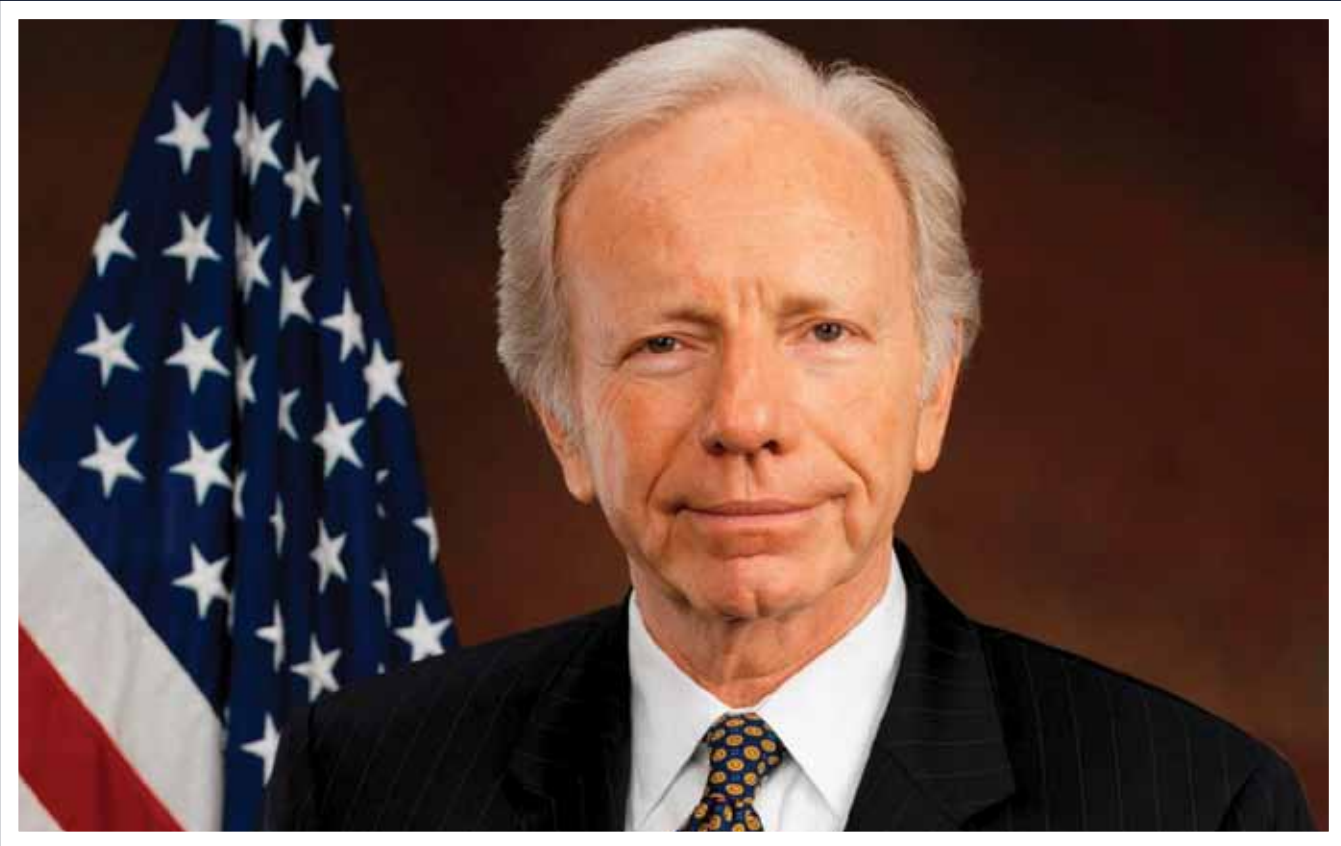
What Israel’s next government might look like

After the recent Israeli elections, there is intense speculation about the makeup of the coalition government that will be formed. Clockwise, from top left, are some of the party leaders who will likely be included in the government: Benjamin Netanyahu of Likud-Beitenu, Yair Lapid of Yesh Atid, Naftali Bennett of Jewish Home, and Aryeh Deri of Shas. (Flash90/JTA)



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International community remembers the Holocaust



Site of an Einsatzgruppen shooting in Hadiach, Ukraine, identified in 2009 for French Roman Catholic priest Father Patrick Desbois (inset), by elderly witnesses to the atrocity.

MAXINE DOVERE
WASHINGTON, DC

A city accustomed to House and Senate hearings witnessed a different kind of testimony on Monday.

Father Patrick Desbois, president of the Yahad-In Unum (YIU) Association of France, has undertaken the mission to investigate the mass executions of Jews and Roma between 1941 and 1944. He has located the graves of more than a million Jews at 68 sites throughout Eastern Europe.

Desbois spoke on Monday at the US State Department in Washington, DC, during the government’s marking of United Nations’ International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

“These killings took place in public,” he said. “It was like a show. Children were taken to watch the shooting of the Jews.”

At the State Department’s George C Marshall Auditorium, Ambassador Michael Kozak - interim Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism - led a panel discussion on history’s implications for future behaviour. The panel also included Father Desbois, Suzanne Brown-Fleming of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; Ambassador Douglas Davidson, Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues; and Victoria Holt, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the State Department.

Brown-Fleming, director of the Centre for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the national Holocaust Museum, said the former Soviet Union’s demise made thousands of Holocaust documents accessible. The museum has rescued many. Since 2005, it has worked with Yahad-In Unum to raise greater awareness about the Eastern European tragedies.

“Scholars are reconstructing the crimes,” Brown-Fleming said. “This was a personal Holocaust: neighbour to neighbour. What is the core moral dilemma of the Holocaust? Do I become a participant, a killer, or a rescuer?”

“Every victim was killed by some-

one - it was a personal crime,” she said.

“Looking at the contemporary examples of Holocaust by bullet, we are convinced that we cannot build democracy on [unrecognised] mass graves,” Brown-Fleming added. “Killing by machine-guns in the forest is being repeated in Darfur, in Cambodia. Bullets, not camps, are the repeated method of death.”

The State Department’s Holt said the challenge regarding the Holocaust and contemporary genocide “is to channel the horror into the productive”.

“Building a culture of remembrance helps prevent repetition of the crimes of the past,” Brown-Fleming said. “The lessons of history must be learned and applied to prevent its repeat.”

Holt believes that process has begun, but that further action must be taken.

“It is the nature of the diplomatic culture to be cautious... the first step is to bring the stories to the front, making it public... The challenge is to learn to handle the crisis before it occurs,” she said. “Not every country or every group turns to violence.”

Father Desbois’ research is extensive and growing. He is preparing an interactive Google map designed to tell the story of each Eastern European village where executions took place.

“The big difference now is that you can take a picture and expose it... There is a new generation [of people] who want to know, both inside and outside of Europe, including in China and India,” he said. “They understand the implications of the lessons of the Holocaust.”

In 2005, the UN designated January 27 as a yearly memorial day for the victims of the Holocaust - six million Jews and millions of other victims of Nazi Germany during the Second World War. The date honours the anniversary of the 1945 liberation of Auschwitz, the most notorious of the Nazi concentration camps.

On Sunday in Rome, the German-

born Pope Benedict XVI, appearing at his window in the Vatican, called for vigilance against racism.

“The memory of this immense tragedy, which above all struck so harshly the Jewish people, must represent for everyone a constant warning so that the horrors of the past are not repeated, so that every form of hatred and racism is overcome, and that respect for, and dignity of, every human person is encouraged,” the Pope said of the Holocaust.

“The United States, along with the international community, resolves to stand in the way of any tyrant or dictator who commits crimes against humanity, and stay true to the principle of ‘Never Again,’” US President Barack Obama said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a clear link to Iran’s nuclear efforts and the Nazis’ efforts to annihilate the Jews.

It disappeared and - to our regret - neither has the desire to destroy a considerable part of the Jewish people and the State of Israel. They exist and they are strong,” Netanyahu said.

Last week Friday, speaking in a voice fraught with emotion at the UN General Assembly in New York, Israeli Ambassador to the UN Ron Prosor, proclaimed: “The loss [of the Holocaust] is unimaginable... the riches lost to the world untold. But, their spirit lives on, their dreams never died... Nothing can break the 5 000-year-old chain of Jewish history.”

Looking to his own emotions, Prosor noted that he was a father of the generation for whom it was “incomprehensible to comprehend what it meant to be a Jew in the face of evil” without the protection provided by the Jewish State.

This year is the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Israeli Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum’s “Righteous Among the Nations” recognition for gentiles who helped save Jewish lives during the Holocaust.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, greeting those gathered in memory of the victims of the Holocaust last week Friday, said: “The examples of these brave men and women demonstrate the capacity of humankind for remarkable good, even in the darkest days...”

Ban also stressed the need to “work against hatred and prejudice to prevent future genocide”.

Prosor acknowledged the sparks that lit humanity’s darkest hours - Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, Italian construction worker Lorenzo Perrone, and the Japanese consul in Lithuania, Sugihara - calling their actions “inspiring stories that must become guide posts for the international community... There is much work to do in a world... where hate is met with silence.”

The State of Israel is a living, breathing monument to survival, stated the ambassador. “Am Yisrael chai!” he extolled.

Also recognised was the courageous Irena Sandler, a Polish Catholic nurse who saved 2 500 children, and Eli Zborowski, who survived the war in hiding and was the driving force behind the creation of Yad Vashem’s Valley of the Communities, as well as a founder of the American Society of Yad Vashem.

Mordecai Palodiel, a Holocaust survivor who spoke at the UN, was six years old when he and his family escaped to Switzerland. He was instrumental in gaining acknowledgement for the non-Jewish heroes who risked their lives to save at least one Jewish person.

Palodiel helped develop the Garden of the Righteous. Fifty years after its initiation, some 25 000 names are inscribed in its stones, each representing a commitment to help others in need, despite the risk to themselves.

“We have an obligation to pass on to future generations the legacy of the Righteous Among the Nations and the lesson of the spark of goodness the individual can arouse within himself,” he said. (JNS.org)

World News in Brief

PA VOWS TO PROSECUTE ISRAEL IN INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT OVER E1 CONSTRUCTION

JERUSALEM - Equipped with possible eligibility to join the International Criminal Court (ICC) following its status upgrade at the United Nations last November, the Palestinian Authority (PA) last Wednesday said it would prosecute Israel in that court if the Jewish state proceeded with construction plans in the 4,6-square mile E1 area between Ma’ale Adumim and Jerusalem.

“If Israel would like to go further by implementing the E1 plan and the other related plans around Jerusalem, then yes, we would be going to the International Criminal Court,” PA Foreign Minister Riad Malki said, according to Israel Hayom.

“We would have no other choice. It depends on the Israeli decision. Israel knows our position very well.”

Israel needs the E1 area in order to maintain a connection between Jerusalem and the large Jewish commuter city of Ma’ale Adumim, which is east of the E1 zone. The Palestinians, meanwhile, say that the E1 area is essential for continuity of a future Palestinian state and their proposed capital in eastern Jerusalem.

The Oslo Accords, signed by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority, do not prohibit Israel from building in E1, although it does prohibit the Palestinians from seeking redress for grievances outside of the framework of direct negotiations with Israel.

In order to prosecute Israel in the ICC - which deals with charges of genocide, war crimes and other human rights violations - the PA must first apply for membership in the court, and then refer Israel for investigation. Some commentators have wondered whether such acts will subject the PA itself to suits by Israel that the PA has violated human rights by targeting Israeli civilians. (JNS.org)

EU OFFICIAL: HEZBOLLAH MAY NOT MAKE TERROR LIST, EVEN WITH BULGARIA BOMBING

BRUSSELS - Hezbollah may not be included on the European Union’s list of terrorist groups even if it did bomb Jewish tourists in Bulgaria, the EU’s top counter-terrorism official reportedly has said.

On Monday, the news site EUobserver quoted the official, Gilles de Kerchove, as saying that Bulgaria’s investigation into the incident was likely to be concluded next month.

According to Israel, the Lebanon-based Hezbollah was behind the bombing on July 19 in Burgas, which targeted a bus of Israeli tourists and left five Israelis and one Bulgarian dead.

US and Israeli officials have said the EU should blacklist Hezbollah if the Bulgarians find it guilty of perpetrating the attack. Its inclusion would make it illegal for Hezbollah sympathisers in Europe to send money to the group, which the United States and Israel list as terrorist.

“There is no automatic listing just because you have been behind a terrorist attack,” De Kerchove is quoted as saying. “It’s not only the legal requirement that you have to take into consideration, it’s also a political assessment of the context and the timing.”

He noted there was “no consensus” among EU states on whether listing Hezbollah, which is part of the Lebanese government, would be useful or not.

The London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat last week cited a “European source” as saying that he predicted the investigation would point to Hezbollah. The Bulgarian Interior Ministry denies the report, however. (JTA)

Disclaimer The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report	Guidelines for letters Letters up to 400 words get preference. Provide your full name, place of residence, and daytime contact phone number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened. <i>The Editor, PO Box 84650, Greenside, 2034 email: sharon@sajewishreport.co.za</i>
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STOPTHEJNF LIKE DON QUIXOTE, STILL FIGHTING WINDMILLS

Talk about hollow victories and severe doses of self-delusion! For a prime example we need only turn to Allan Horwitz, national spokesman of StopTheJNF South Africa and to BDS SA, its prime affiliate.

Some months ago, StJNF launched a boycott of Reggies Toy Stores, identified as supporters of Israel’s long established JNF, responsible for (among other projects), the rejuvenation of thousands of square kilometres of formerly arid land.

Targeted, was Reggies’ then director, Issy Zimmerman, who received an ultimatum to either cut his company’s ties with the JNF or face a countrywide boycott of Reggies stores.

Undaunted, Zimmerman ignored the threat and maintained his long-existing relationship. This resulted in an embarrassing “demonstration” outside one or two Reggies stores on a particular Sunday, much to the bemusement of other shoppers.

As a demonstration of their iron-willed commitment, some of the demonstrators were caught later, on surveillance cameras, making purchases at Reggies of video games. Talk about principle!

Twelve months ago Zimmerman entered into negotiations to sell Reggies and Toys R Us online. The sale was completed in December. This negotiation and sale was in no way influenced by the planned boycott which occurred much later on.

As neither new owner has any ties with Israel, Reggies’ previous commitment to support the JNF was promptly and understandably terminated.

Here’s the rub: Desperate to show that StopTheJNF has earned its keep, this has been hailed by Allan Horwitz and crew as a victory for the principles of the BDS campaign.

Further, he congratulates the new owners of Reggies

for “standing on the right side of history by taking this ethical position” while all they in fact did was purchase a successful company...

The fact is that Reggies, as a company, now has no reason to support Israel than would the local cafe on the corner.

Yet this appears to elude this collection of bright sparks who seem unable to differentiate between punishing a company for doing something deemed “unacceptable” against claiming to have successfully punished one that has simply changed ownership.

In fact, in all probability Izzy Zimmerman will simply carry on supporting the JNF in his personal capacity, or via his new venture, while Reggies will continue doing what it does best - sell toys.

If this is the best StopTheJNF can produce its efforts are indeed pathetic.

Victor Gordon
Pretoria

PEACE WITH THE PALESTINIANS WAS NOT AN ISRAELI ELECTION ISSUE

Last week’s paper quoted “SA notables” on the Israeli election. Justice Davis states there is “a massive divide in the country between those who want peace and a democratic Jewish state”. There were only three parties which focused on peace with the Palestinians: Habayit Hayehudi on the right, which won 12 seats and on the left, Meretz and Hatnua which each won six seats.

Likud didn’t even have an election platform. Labour is not against settlements, but further construction. Lapid’s Yesh Atid fought the election on social issues, the religious parties on social issues and army conscription. For the majority of Israelis, peace with the Palestinians was not an election issue. Davis’ attempt to put a spin on the results by saying half the Israeli electorate are less concerned with democracy in Israel than the other half, has no factual basis.

David Abel gets it half correct when he states “two themes predominated: Jewish settlements in Judea and Shomron, as well as social responsibility”. As said above, the “settlements” were hardly an issue. Abel places much importance on the fact that Likud is “by far the largest individual party”. He attempts to place a positive spin on Likud’s results which almost resulted in the left, centre and Arab blocs being larger than the right and religious parties.

If it were not for Yisrael Beiteinu joining with Likud, Likud would be only a little stronger (20/1 seats) than Yesh Atid (18 seats). Their campaign focused on destroying Habayit Hayehudi instead of attracting undecided voters (which Prof Shain states is about 16 per cent).

As a result, the undecided vote went to Yesh Atid. Habayit Hayehudi is not as Abel says a debutant party, having had representation in the last Knesset.

Aubrey Katzef, Cape Town

MITZVOTH SPECIFIC TO JEWS; WISDOM IS UNIVERSAL

David Saks in the SA Jewish Report of January 25, is critical of the late Rabbi Hertz for quoting gentiles to reinforce our understanding of Torah.

It appears to my reading of Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks’ book “Present Tense”, that he (Rabbi Sacks) takes a different approach. Critically, Hashem created all people. My interpretation of Rabbi Sacks’ book is that one of the main reasons Hashem chose us, is to be a light unto the nations.

Is our purpose solely to obey Hashem’s commandments (eg tefillin, sacrifices/ prayer, kashrut, etc) independently of the rest of mankind, without down-loading our wisdom (chochma) to the nations, or absorbing wisdom from them? Commandments (mitzvoth) are specific to Jews, but wisdom (chochma) is universal.

Referring to another article in the SAJR, on behalf of the Cyrildene Observatory Shul, we would like to convey our condolences to the Krok family (on the death of Abe Krok). The Kroks, like many other Jewish philanthropists, are “chochma Jews” who support Orthodox communities by their generous donations and support other Jewish and gentile institutions (especially the SA government by way of taxes).

Notably in the Kroks’ case, they established a seat of learning for baalei teshuva among other acts of charity.

John Brenner
Cyrildene, Johannesburg

WHY NOT A WORD ON THE SHOAH?

The International Holocaust Remembrance Day was on January 27. It recalls the six million Jews that were murdered by the Nazis, including one and a half million children, during the Second World War. One and a half million murdered children...

January 27 records the liberation of the Auschwitz and Birkenau death camps by the Russian army in 1945. It is recognised worldwide as the official date of mourning.

The camp commandant stated in his memoirs that four million people died there. He was convicted of the recorded deaths of one and a half million human beings.

Auschwitz-Birkenau were two of six death camps, six in a complex of an estimated 20 000 labour and concentration camps spread across Nazi-occupied Europe. Those six death camps used gas chambers; in the remainder of the other camps starvation, brutality, indescribable “living” and “working conditions” affected the mass killings.

At the end of the war, most Jews living in South Africa were descended from Jews who came from Eastern Europe. The families that they left behind in the “Old Country” were no more. There could have been very few Jews living here who did not suffer the bereavement of their nearest kith and kin and the victims number in their tens of thousands.

And yet, in the premier English-language Sunday paper in the country, with undoubtedly many Jewish subscribers, the only reference to this internationally recognised horror was a photograph on page 10, showing visitors having “fun” jumping from memorial stone to memorial stone at the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin. Otherwise not a single word! It is a shame and disgrace.

Don Krausz
Chairman, Association of Holocaust Survivors in Johannesburg

FOR PEACE, YOU NEED A PARTNER

Dennis Davis’ quote last week comes up with an assessment little short of pathetic, saying it is clear Israel is divided between those who want peace and those who don’t. What rubbish; 95 per cent of the country across the board want peace; about 60 per cent realise we don’t have a peace partner on the other side.

It is amazing how left-minded thinkers get stuck on this one idea. When Rabin, Olmert and Barak offered massive concessions, we did not even get a positive counter-offer from the Palestinians. The response came in the way of an intifada and continuous rocket barrages.

The sooner people like Davis see the situation as it is, instead of what they envisage in their dreams, the quicker pressure can be asserted on the side that is not interested in peace. The settlements are only the latest excuse for the Palestinians not to come to negotiations. As they continue to get billions of euros and US dollars, most ends up lining the pockets of those in power; why would they want to stop this as long as the soft liberal West keeps pampering them?

While everyone is entitled to an opinion and the right to free speech, when one is in an influential position such as Davis, one should temper one’s own bias and stick to the facts.

I am not saying everything here is good or perfect, far from it, but we have to face our issues on a daily basis and live with them for better or worse.

If we had the Swiss, or Dutch, or Canadians as our neighbours, we could be judged by the standards they hold. If we are to be judged on our morals and behaviour towards our citizens, then look at our neighbours and decide who holds the moral high ground.

We live among peoples of a different creed - those who still stone women to death because they are “suspected” of adultery; or daring to support a different political point of view; or being chained by their ankles to a vehicle and dragged to death through the city streets to show what happens to anyone “suspected” of passing information to Israel.

There are Muslims who have run away and now live in democratic societies, who openly condemn the ME societies they once lived in.

However, it seems self-proclaimed authorities on Israel like Davis, do not take notice of this and choose to promote the Palestinian narrative taking every opportunity to blame Israelis who do not share their views for being unwilling to make peace.

Joel Dotan, Israel

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A PEERMONT RESORT

More about identity than tones and tints



A detail of one of Anthea Pokroy's charts of the gingers she has "collected".

Photo by Anthea Pokroy

Exhibition: "I collect gingers"
Artist: Anthea Pokroy
Where: Speke Gallery, downstairs from Circa, Rosebank, (011) 788-4805
Until March 2

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

The Jewish nose, the apartheid-coined pencil test, and Darwinist eugenics are thrown into a heady but seamless mix in Anthea Pokroy's debut exhibition "I collect gingers". Impeccable in its concept and finish, the show has sparked cross-community dialogue. It delivers on all its promises, and more: it embraces a sinister underlying message, which strips it of self-conscious artiness.

Successfully straddling sociology and photography, the exhibition seems clinical, but tweaks your values; the more you look the more you get sucked into a colouristic whirlwind, but one that's more about identity and looking at others than tones and tints.

The exhibition comprises some 500 photographs of generally unsmiling faces of red-heads ranged like Pantone colour charts from light to dark, in 15 discrete gallery-high panels.

Last year, an exhibition by photographer, Zanele Muholi, showcased 60 portraits of black lesbians.

The two shows bear comparison, but Pokroy's anthology is easier to look at, emotionally. While black lesbians in this country fight the real monstrosity of corrective rape, contemporary redheads are not perceived as victims.

This hasn't always been the case, however. Wall texts on the show, comprising a manifesto - in classically inflammatory language - and a history, contradict flippancy. They document brutality toward redheads, dating back to Malleus Maleficarum, a 16th century Inquisition text used in persecuting so-called witches.

Pokroy argues that gingers are the last kind of people one can get away with mocking - one can no longer acceptably laugh at blacks, Jews, gays or women.

According to her detailed research, there were redheads on this planet, between 400 000 and 600 000 years before man's entry into the modern world; they constitute two per cent of today's society, and the recessive gene on chromosome 16 which causes a mutation in the MCIR protein creating red pigment, is carried by 40 per cent of society.

You probably will recognise one or two of the people photographed here - historically they draw from Jewish, Irish, Scottish and Dutch communities; there are also Coloured faces here. The faces are ostensibly anonymous - in that they have no name tags - they've been used simply illustratively of their genetic colour types.

At cross angles to the charts is the exhibition's sinister nub. It's a series of identity cards, constructed for this project with such an understanding of bureaucratic authenticity they are convincing as eugenically-defined originals, pushing an association with Darwinist - indeed, Nazi - perspectives, itemising types in hair, eyes and skin.

The show's title evokes superman philosophies: the idea of collecting kinds of living things evokes butterflies pinned in rows or horrifying photographs associated with 1930s German eugenics.

Pokroy inverts these values, leaving you pondering your own: Seemingly effortlessly, she seduces you into her work's central idea, but there's a catch. Regardless of your own natural colouring, this show is about how you fit into society.

Mozart Festival: a feast for everyone



Photo courtesy Johannesburg International Mozart Festival

Some of Buskaid's performers.

PAUL BOEKKOOI

It requires open, creative minds, great tenacity and strategic wizardry to continuously bring new ideas to an event like the annual Johannesburg International Mozart Festival. Now in its fifth year, it has formed its particular character from the beginning: A festival in a big city where art lovers over a period of 15 days can roam free and choose from a wide selection of events.

Apart from music, this year also includes dance, masterclasses, literary events, the art of improvisation, film, a school workshop, and, on the last day, February 10, a special showcase named "Choreography of Sound", lasting for five hours, with 10 different groups of performers. The festival is staged at a range of venues, reaching from the suburb of Parktown to Johannesburg's inner city.

This weekend, starting today (Friday) till Sunday, there are no less than five events. Bongani Ndodana-Breen, this year's JIMF composer-in-residence, who was first acknowledged locally in 1998 with the Standard Bank Young Artist award for music, will talk about his newly-commissioned Piano Concerto and his work as a composer on a wider field, at Parktown School for Girls.

As this festival, which is entitled "Se vuol ballare" (if you would dance - a quote from Mozart's opera "The Marriage of Figaro") has

dance as its main theme, this aspect will be reflected most prominently in the repertoire chosen for each concert.

This evening, guitarist James Grace will include Flamenco and other Spanish dance forms in a recital at Villa Arcadia, featuring works by Albéniz, Malats, Rodrigo and Tárrega.

Tomorrow evening in the Linder, the world premiere of Ndodana-Breen's Piano Concerto will be performed by the JIMF's artistic director, Florian Uhlig, with Richard Cock conducting the Johannesburg Festival Orchestra.

Other works in this concert are Danse Macabre by Saint-Saëns and Beethoven's Symphony No 7 in A major, Op 92 described by Wagner as "the apotheosis of dance".

On Sunday Richard Cock will lead the rehearsal for the programme Orchestra from Scratch, an initiative to "introduce classical music to as wide an audience with possible", according to the programme. Open to any and all musicians who wish to share the passion of making and exploring classical music with like-minded people, it will rehearse for three hours before being presented. The concert will include works by Schubert, Sousa, Coates and Rodgers & Hammerstein.

That evening violinist Ruth Waterman will introduce her book, When Swan Lake Comes to Sarajevo, the winner of the Observ-

er's Book of the Year 2012, at Villa Arcadia. On Monday evening Waterman, who has also made a name for herself as a conductor, performs Bach's Partita No 3 in E major, BWV 1006 in an exploration concert featuring all the dance aspects of this glorious work, in Northwards House, Parktown.

Jazz pianist and composer Paul Hanmer presents Cinema Improvisando on Tuesday at The Bioscope at Arts on Main, comprising live improvisation on silent movies.

Lovers of piano recitals should not miss one highlight of this year's festival on February 6, when Frenchman Eric La Sage performs works by Schumann and Debussy, both of whom are his speciality.

Two choreography concerts, with award-winning dancers and instrumentalists, are on February 7 and 8 in the Wits Art Museum. The first is entitled "Moving Mozart" and features dance improvisation by 2011's Standard Bank Young Artist winner, Mamela Nyamza and the second "Fantasia" is led by Standard Bank Young Artist winner from 2009, Thabo Rapoo, collaborating with dancers from the Tshwane Dance Theatre.

On February 9, another highlight ends the formal dynamic of 2013's JIMF. The Buskaid Soweto String Ensemble will perform new repertoire, conducted by Rosemary Nalden, at Villa Arcadia.

• Visit www.join-mozart-festival.org

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‘A groundswell of opinion in the ANC is not rooted in democracy’

MICHAEL BELLING

One of the reasons for tension between politicians and the judiciary was that at heart many in the ANC believed that parliament should be sovereign and that the right of the courts to set aside legislation and the acts of officials, should be limited.

Addressing the Union of Jewish Women in Johannesburg on the topic, “Politicians and the Law”, retired Justice Ivor Schwartzman (pictured) said: “If our politicians played by the rules, there would be no tension between them and the courts, (but) 19 years into the new South Africa, there is a great deal of tension.”

In a democracy the powers and functions of politics and law were separate and the courts had no bias towards government and its institutions or whims. Parliament was supreme in England, as it was in pre-1994 South Africa.

Laws made by Parliament could not be challenged in court, with no tensions between government and the courts. In countries that had a written Constitution, such as South Africa now (including the Bill of Rights), the Constitution was the supreme law and the courts, in protecting the Constitution, had the power to strike down a law that conflicted with the Constitution.

This had happened several



Photo by Michael Belling

times in this country, for example, with the abolition of the death penalty.

“Using the mechanism of the Constitution, the courts have come to the assistance of people deprived of basic rights because of the incompetence and corruption of ANC cadres in important jobs,” for example the Limpopo school book scandal and a case of polluted water that was supplied to a community.

Politicians could still influence the courts. In this country, the body that appointed judges had a majority of ANC members. The appointment of judges was affected by politics in other countries as well, the United States among them.

As recently as January 8, the ANC made a thinly-veiled threat to limit the powers of the courts, something which was inconsistent with frequent statements by ANC leaders that they were committed

to the Constitution and its values. However, “there is a groundswell of opinion in the ANC that is not rooted in democracy”, Schwartzman said.

He pointed out that Justice Minister Jeff Radebe had never practised law in this country, having obtained his qualifications in the Soviet Union and East Germany, countries “not known for their respect for human rights and law”.

Calls to limit the courts’ power to review the actions of government officials and to set aside Acts of Parliament, were fanned by several elements, including the ongoing concern over the controversy surrounding President Jacob Zuma’s prosecution following the Schabir Shaik case, Zuma’s appointment of Menzi Simelane as director of public prosecutions, which was set aside by the courts because of his failure to apply his mind appropriately, the refusal to hand over the findings of a commission set up by (former President) Thabo Mbeki that investigated whether the Zimbabwe elections were free and fair, in spite of court rulings to do so, and the Secrecy Bill, allowing officials to stamp any act or document as secret, without allowing any defence of public interest.

Replying to a question about young Jews entering the legal profession, Schwartzman said they could still rise to the top.



Chabad House brings Joe Lieberman to SA for Miracle Drive

Chabad House in Johannesburg has hit the jackpot by bringing former US Senator Joe Lieberman to South Africa for its Miracle Drive campaign on February 26.

Chabad House made the announcement in a media release.

Lieberman was the United States Senator of Connecticut from 1988 - 2012, first as a Democrat and latterly as an independent. In the 2000 US elections he was the Democratic Party’s candidate for vice-president.

“He established himself as a national leader, a man who speaks his conscience and gets things done. Chabad House is privileged to be hosting Senator Lieberman as their honoured key-note speaker at Miracle

Drive...”

Says Rabbi David Masinter, director of Chabad House Johannesburg: “The reason we are bringing Senator Lieberman to Miracle Drive, is to give people a rare opportunity to hear from such an extraordinary man, a man who was not only the solitary Orthodox Shabbos observant Jew in the Senate, but moreover, the only Jew in the history of American politics to be selected as candidate for the vice-presidency of the United States in 2000.

“A man of such calibre, sets an example for each and everyone of us to follow.”

This will be Lieberman’s first international tour since retiring from public office recently.

The Cyril Karabus saga goes on and on...

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Over the past week, there has been positive movement but also indications of further delay in the situation with Cape Town’s Professor Cyril Karabus, a paediatric oncologist who was, in absentia, 10 years ago accused, tried and found guilty of medical error resulting in the death of a three-year-old child from leukaemia, who he had treated while doing a locum in Abu Dhabi.

Changing planes in Dubai on his way home from his son’s wedding in Canada, on August 18 last year, Karabus was arrested on charges of committing a medical error that led to the child’s death and falsifying a prescription to hide his mistake. He is currently out on bail, but unable to leave the country as the Abu Dhabi Criminal Court has not yet granted him a trial.

Latest news reveals the prose-

cution for the case reported back to the courts confirming the first charge against Karabus of forgery is not sustainable. Says attorney Michael Bagraim representing Karabus: “This was the more serious charge, as it attracted three years in jail when Prof was found guilty in his absentia. The charge of manslaughter under UAE rule only attracted six months.

“We strongly believe that without the first charge, the second charge can’t stand.”

But the court has postponed the hearing once again to February 27. “I’m not sure why this delay is so long,” said Bagraim, “but interestingly, the end of February brings to closure the six month period Karabus would have got if he had gone to jail for manslaughter.”

The case has been postponed many times as the prosecutor has not been able to produce the child’s original medical record.

MORE NAMES FOR ABE KROK’S OBITUARY

Some names of surviving members of Abe’s Krok’s family were omitted from his obituary in last week’s Jewish Report. He is survived by his wife Rosie, his twin brother Solly, brother Nathan Krok, sisters Bessie Berkman and Bella Beinart, sons Maxim, David and Mark, daughters Elana Pincus, Shelley Croock and Simone Krok, Rosie’s children Jessica Glass, Jasmine Nathan and Nadine Reicher and his grandchildren.

Community Columns

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Ripple effect of Holocaust still felt today



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

This week, commemorative events were held the world over to mark the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. This day of remembrance, which falls on January 27, was instituted by the United Nations eight years ago.

In South Africa, commemorative events were held in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town, as usual held under the auspices of the SA Holocaust and Genocide Foundation in partnership with the United Nations Information Centre.

This year’s theme was “Rescue During the Holocaust: The Courage to Care”, and focused on courageous individuals who risked their lives to save Jews and other victims of Nazi persecution during the Second World War. I was involved in the Durban function in my capacity as director of the Durban Holocaust Centre. We were privileged to have Paul Goldreich as the keynote speaker at all three venues. In 2001, along with his brother Amos, Paul was in South Africa to accept the SAJBD Human Rights Award on behalf of their late father, the legendary anti-apartheid activist Arthur Goldreich.

Paul, a psychologist by profession, is past deputy-director of the Holocaust/Shalvata, and has worked extensively with first and second generation survivors

and run the Hidden Child group in the UK.

He has been brought to South Africa by the Liliesleaf Trust to speak about second generation Holocaust survivors and second generation descendants of anti-apartheid activists, and the similarities and differences in living with those respective legacies.

Fittingly this event, as well as his address at the Holocaust memorial event, took place at the historic Liliesleaf heritage centre, headquarters of the underground anti-apartheid resistance in the early 1960s and during which time Paul and his family actually lived on the premises.

In introducing Paul, I referred to his many years of working both with survivors of the Holocaust and with their children in the UK. With his professional expertise and hands-on experience, he was in a position to speak with considerable insight and authority into the trauma that both groups have to work through.

Hearing Paul speak, and having further had the opportunity of spending much time with him in between his engagements, I learnt a great deal of the very complex, difficult and in many ways unique emotional and psychological issues that survivors and the succeeding generation must grapple with on a continual basis.

Through commemorative events like these, we learn not just about the depths of cruelty that people can descend to, but also the heights of heroism they are capable of attaining. We also come to realise how for those who lived through it, the Holocaust never really ended but to some extent is with them every day of their lives. Recognising this and doing whatever we can to assist is a challenge incumbent on all of us.

This column is paid for by the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

TA Nursery School commemorates Tu B'Shvat

RACHEL PELS

Shaya Unterslak, with his bobba Sandra Goldstein, planting seedlings at Torah Academy Nursery School in honour of Tu B'Shvat last week.



Hirsch Lyons Boys High - IEB

Rabbi Steven Krawitz, principal of Hirsch Lyons Boys' High, is justifiably proud of his school's good matric results. The 2012 matriculation class achieved excellent results in the IEB examinations, with nine candidates achieving 31 distinctions, an average of 3,4 distinctions per learner. Three learners achieved six distinctions each and one achieved five. The class, on top of studying for matric, learned Torah on the highest levels throughout their matric year.

"Mazeltov to all our students and teaching staff on these great achievements."

- Unfortunately we did not receive the Hirsch Lyons results in time for our matric supplement.

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Tu B'Shvat - a time of new beginnings

KAREEN SANDLER

Tu B'Shvat is a Jewish holiday, occurring on the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Shvat, literally meaning "New Year of the Trees".

It is an appropriate time at King David Victory Park to welcome the new children to our school. Tu B'Shvat is a time of starting fresh and of new beginnings.

For the grade 1s of 2013, it is the start of their formal education; the door has opened to the beauty of learning and the wealth of knowledge both in Yiddishkeit and the world in general.

It is the start of their journey to wisdom and to discovering that they are all special Neshamot from Hashem.

They all have the potential to flourish, to become leaders and proud Jews. Children and

staff all wore jeans and a green T-shirt to celebrate this special day.



Ilan Fainman; Daniel Shapiro; Daniel Hyman; Ethan Lewis; and Jayden Arenson. Front: Ethan Goodman.

Tu B'Shvat the Minnie Bersohn way

The children at Minnie Bersohn Pre-Primary School in Johannesburg, celebrated Tu B'Shvat by wearing green and planting vegetables and flowers.



'Unmasked Judeophobia' explores resurgence of Jew-hatred

The SA Jewish Board of Deputies and Zionist Federation in Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and Durban, hosted visiting American filmmaker Gloria Greenfield for screenings of her 2011 film, "Unmasked Judeophobia: the Threat to Civilisation".

The film explores the global resurgence of lethal Jew-hatred, with a particular emphasis on the Arab world, Europe and university campuses.

Following each screening, Greenfield explained to mixed Christian and Jewish audiences how she went about making the film, which comprised 70 interviews with leading international experts on anti-Semitism, 49 of whom appear in the film.

Greenfield, who lives in Boston and is president of DocEmet Productions, produced "The Case for Israel: Democracy's Outpost" in



Cape Board Chair Li Boiskin; film director Gloria Greenfield; & SAZF (Cape Council) Chair Ben Levitas.

2008, which was based on Alan Dershowitz's well-known book "The Case for Israel".

"Unmasked" and "The Case for Israel" are available in Cape Town at the Gitlin Library and can be purchased at the SA Jewish Museum Gift Shop.

- For more information on Greenfield's films, visit www.unmaskedthemovie.com and www.thecaseforisrael.com

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What's On

Today, Friday (February 1)

- UZLC is hosting Rabbi Robert Ash, who will speak on his impressions of 5 Years in South Africa. The venue is Our Parents Home, time: 12:45 - 14:00. For details contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.
- United Sisterhood has its book sale at the Benmore Gardens Shopping Centre. Unwanted books and magazines donations are gladly accepted. Contact: (011) 646-2409, fax (011) 646-4654.

Sunday (February 3)

- RCHCC shows the acclaimed documentary, "Bill Cunningham, New York," directed by Richard Press. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium Time: 19:30. Donation: R70 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378), after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rhcce@telkomsa.net, or rene.s@telkomsa.net, or www.greatpark.co.za
- Roni Lea sings and plays

the keyboard in "Jewish and Israeli Live Music", with songs of Eretz Israel, Yoram Gaon and Army Bands. Venue: Kosher Mi Vami in Glenhazel. From 13:00 till 15:30. Free entrance. Contact: tel (011) 440-4933.

- UJW CT's Simcha Group has arranged an afternoon of music and song. Venue: Stonehaven, 7 Albany Road, Sea Point. Donation: R40 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: 083-439-8006 or (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

- Second Innings hosts Tali Frankel who will speak on "Women Conquer Mountains". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Monday (February 4)

- UJW adult education division hosts Wendy Kahn, national director of the SAJBD, who will talk on "New horizons or new horizons". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time:

09:30. Donation: R30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

- Great Park Synagogue's Jewish Learning Institute is introducing a new course, titled: "Living with Integrity". The course starts today and continues for six weeks. Time: 19:30. Each session covers a different area, and is self-standing so you don't have to attend them all to benefit. All are welcome regardless of background and level of Jewish education. The cost for all six sessions is R250 and includes a course book as well as additional readings. Alternatively, R50 per lesson. Bursaries are available and nobody will be turned away. The first lesson is free. To reserve a spot at the course or for more information, contact Rabbi Shmuel Simpson at shmuelsimpson@gmail.com or 079-106-4777, or visit www.greatpark.co.za.

Tuesday (February 5)

- Morris Rutstein - SAZF evening Hebrew ulpan course starts today and terminates on Tuesday, June 11. Venue: Yeshiva

College (in the classrooms), cnr Long Avenue and Ridge Road, Glenhazel. Times: Every Tuesday night from 19:00 – 21:15. Registration: Monday, February 4, at 18:30. Enquiries: SAZF, (011) 645-2531 (office hours).

- UJW presents "Santa's Story" with Aviva Pelham. Venue: Theatre on the Square, Sandton. Time: 20:15. Donation: R180 per ticket. Booking: Margot 083-383-2986 or Barbara (011) 645-2591.

Wednesday (February 6)

- UJW adult education division has arranged a visit to the Soweto Theatre. Transport to the theatre will be arranged according to the number of people who express interest. Meet at UJW House at 09:15. Time: 10:00. Booking: UJW office, (011) 648-1053. Cost of transport to be announced.

- UJW CT's adult education division hosts pathologist Dr Len Anstey, who will talk on "Medial Ethics and Religions". Venue: Stonehaven, 7 Albany Road, Sea

Point. Enquiries: 083-439-8006.

Sunday (February 10)

- Aish Women present "A Journey to your Soul" with Rachel Factor, the creator of the musical hits JAP and Not Even Normal. An evening of dance and inspiration, featuring local SA dancers. Venue: Eden College School Auditorium, 48 - 62 Johannesburg Road, Lyndhurst. Times: 14:00 and 19:00. Tickets: Adults R150, students R100. For advanced bookings call office (011) 485-2985, or Shelley Willis, 079-989-3773, or Fruma Ziskin, 082-689-2961.
- Second Innings hosts geriatrician, Dr Stanley Lipschitz, who will speak on "Memory Loss and Memory Disorders". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Monday (February 11)

- UJW hosts Jonathan Hur-

witz, ballet historian and tour guide, who will talk on "The Future of Ballet in South Africa". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (February 12)

- JWBS is hosting Aviva Pelham's "Santa's Story" as a fundraiser at the Sandton Theatre on the Square on Tuesday. Time: 20:15. Tickets cost R180. Information: Contact, gloria@jwbs.co.za, or tel (011) 485-5232, fax (011) 485-5232.
- UJW hosts Estelle Sher who will present the first of two sessions on "Debussy - His Life and Works". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.
- Second Innings hosts Ernie Saks who will speak on "The Anglo Boer War and the Seven VCs won at Colenso". Venue: Our Parents Home, Orchards. Time: 14:00 for 14:30. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

Dean Furman’s exploits create Bafana fan base



ROCKING THE BOAT
Jack Milner

This last weekend has been a fascinating time for sports fans. Top of the pops had to be the two-time comeback of Bafana Bafana to win through to the quarter-finals of the African Cup of Nations – the first time in 11 years.

Before responding with some derisory remark, let us be honest. Many of us did not believe they would go this far.

When the team could only manage another goalless draw against lowly Cape Verde – the total population of Cape Verde is only 500 000 - many of us were coming up with the “well, what do you expect, they are hopeless” comments. Don’t deny it, most of us were African Cup deniers. Maybe a lot of us couldn’t really care a hoot.

Not until the second match at least, when Bafana beat Angola 2-0 and the hero of the match was Dean Furman, a young Jew, the only “mhlungu” or white face in the team. The day after the match I received a number of calls asking me if he was Jewish. From total lethargy in the African Cup of Nations, the northern suburbs of Johannesburg suddenly erupted into a fan base for the South African team.

The night after the match Talk Radio 702 had a discussion on the soccer which was almost totally devoted to finding a nickname for Furman, with probably “Dean, the mean machine” winning the day.

Dean was accused early on in his career of being too defensive, but he exploded that myth last week when he proved himself to be an explosive midfielder, who provided the midfield spark Bafana so desperately needed. He marshalled his troops like a general on the battlefield and his work ethic on the field was remarkable.

What I found most significant was a remark he made after being declared man of the match, and that is that he was able to play his game. I might be reading into his words something that was not meant to be there, but I had the impression that his “over defensiveness” had been part of a game plan instituted by coach Gordon Igesund.

I have been a great fan of Igesund over the years and he has achieved some amazing results with a number of clubs. He undoubtedly deserved his job as Bafana

coach and I hope he does well. If he was erring on the conservative side I’m sure he had his reasons, but once Dean was allowed a bit of freedom, he was extremely imposing.

I was particularly impressed with his perception on the field. He is constantly aware of what is going on around him and positioning himself accordingly. He is able to read the game superbly.

His match last Sunday was probably not as striking as the Angola encounter - it was much tighter - but that was always going to be a tough act to follow.

Hopefully the good run continues and Bafana can still go a lot further. This weekend will provide many answers.

One also has to feel for Dean who must have had divided loyalties on Sunday. While he was in action in South Africa, his club team in England, Oldham Athletic, caused a major upset in the FA Cup when they defeated much-vaunted Liverpool 3 - 2.

The tennis front made for another pot-boiler, with the completion of the Australian Open and the 2013 champions turned out to be the same as the 2012 champions – Viktoria Azarenka and Novak Djokovic. Djokovic became the first player in the Open era to win three consecutive Australian Opens - Roy Emerson won five in the amateur days - and he is now eyeing the French Open. That is the one Grand Slam title he has not been able to win - yet.

However, a lot will depend on whether Rafael Nadal will be fit, well and in action.

And what is a sporting weekend without some reports on doping... There could be a lot of Spanish sportsmen and women shaking in their boots right now with the start of the trial of Dr Eufemiano Fuentes, accused of masterminding a doping ring in cycling. He appeared in court on Tuesday where he admitted that he also had clients in other sports including football, tennis, athletics and boxing.

Fuentes and four others are appearing before a Madrid judge almost seven years after police seized anabolic steroids, trans-fusion equipment and blood bags.

The trial has attracted close international scrutiny because anti-doping authorities, who are represented in court, are hopeful it will finally lead to evidence of wrongdoing by athletes in sports other than cycling. Legal experts say it could also change the way doping issues are dealt with by criminal justice systems around the world.

Fuentes, who denies doping, was due



Dean “The Mean Machine” Furman has singlehandedly turned the Johannesburg northern suburbs into staunch soccer supporters.

to be cross-examined on Monday on the trial’s opening day but his testimony was delayed as Judge Julia Santamaria dealt with procedural issues.

She also said she would consider a request from the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) for access to the blood bags, giving them three days to provide a written justification. If they are allowed access to the blood bags, it could be very embarrassing for some top international sportsmen.

Finally the J&B Met will be run at Kenilworth on Saturday and I have a sneaking

fancy for jockey Anton Marcus to bring home Bravura for trainer Joey Ramsden. Bravura was just pipped in last year’s race by superstar Igugu who is due to make her first appearance in debut in a couple of weeks’ time.

Bravura carries less weight than last year and as there is unlikely to be a hot pace, it could be Marcus who decides to go off to the front. The tactic almost paid off last year and as I do not believe there is an Igugu in this line-up, the 16-1 on offer about Bravura looks mouth-watering.

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