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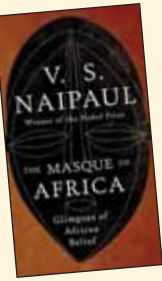
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Friday, 11 February 2011 / 7 Adar I, 5771

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Israel watches anxiously as US rethinks aid for Egypt

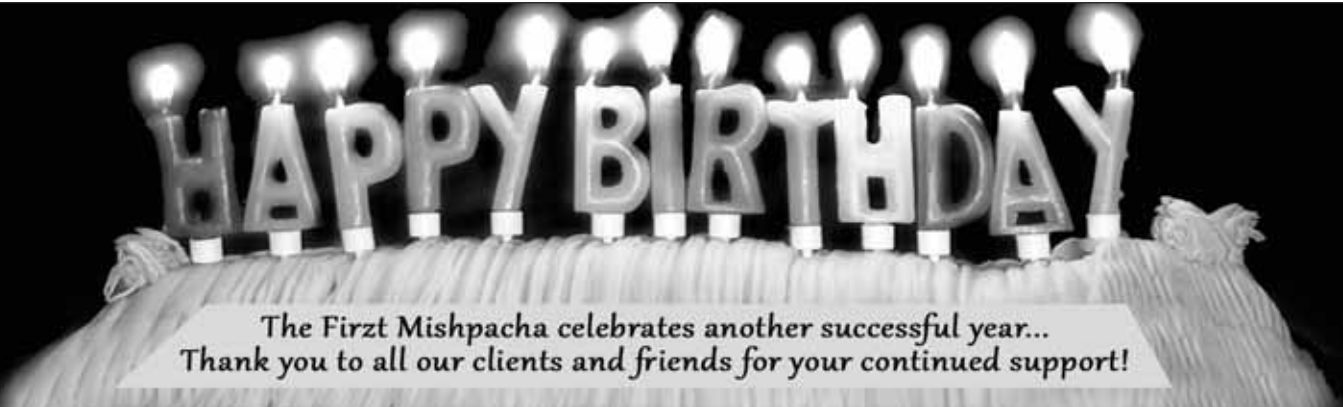
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WILL EGYPT- ISRAEL BORDER TRANQUILITY PREVAIL?

An Egyptian flag flies from an army outpost on the Egyptian side of the border with Israel near the moshav of Kadesh Barnea. Israelis hope the relative calm that has prevailed on its southern flank will carry over in any "regime change" in Egypt. The peace deal negotiated with Anwar Sadat in 1979 has endured turbulent times, but the border has remained quiet. However, no crystal ball can predict the final outcome of the Egyptian uprising. Israel waits with bated breath. (PHOTO: DINA KRAFT)

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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

Creating a better world for all of us

IT IS always fascinating to understand the composition of our brilliant Jewish calendar - the calculations of the new moon, and especially the way the festivals fall within a particular year.

So many principles are taken into account, so many facts and features all converging on a conclusive and very clever system of perfection.

One of the fascinating facts within the calendar's composition is that Yom Kippur may not be on a Sunday, a Tuesday or a Friday. Never can be and never will be! Because of that, our festivals fall into a certain "grid" of days of the week upon which they can occur, and all of them can only fall out on four days of the week, not seven!

Why should Yom Kippur not be on a Sunday, a Tuesday or a Friday? We often think that this has to do with Shabbos, for instance. we don't want to go into



PARSHAT TETZAVEH

Rabbi Michael Katz
Chabad Illovo

Shabbos fasting, and we don't want to leave Shabbos fasting. However, Yom Kippur can be on a Shabbos itself and the fast of Tisha B'Av can be on a Sunday and that of Asara B'Tevet can be on a Friday!

The Talmudic reason for Yom Kippur not occurring on those particular days dates back to Creation. If we carefully study what Hashem created on each day of the week, there is a particular synergy between Sunday, Tuesday and Friday in that it was on those days, and only on those days that the features of our world that could conduct impurity were created!

So, our holy day of Yom Kippur, which is the day of cleansing and purity must, of necessity, not have any link whatsoever with impurity. We don't even want it celebrated on a day on which a conduit to impurity was created!

In this week's Torah portion - Tetzaveh - we read of all the garments and preparations for the Kohanim, the priests, as they went to work in the Holy Tabernacle and Temples.

They needed to be pure; they needed purity of body, of mind, of soul and even had to be clothed in special garments!

We, the Jewish people are called a "Kingdom of Priests". We are meant to be a nation that represents morality, purity and G-dly behaviour within everything that we do.

Often it is clear that there is something blatantly wrong and we know to stay away from that

SHABBAT TIMES

February 11/7 Adar 1
February 12/8 Adar 1

Tetzaveh

Starts	Ends	
18:15	19:26	Johannesburg
18:20	20:18	Cape Town
18:15	19:20	Durban
18:20	19:38	Bloemfontein
17:51	19:49	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:38	East London

particular action or realm of life, but often there is something hidden, a foundational "impurity" not immediately recognised, but lurking in the proverbial shadows or in the foundation.

Like Yom Kippur, like the Kohanim, like a Kingdom of Priests we need to guard ourselves against involvement in that realm, retain our "purity" and with that, our role in this world - bringing G-dliness into the world and making it a "Mishkan" - a place where G-d can dwell - a far better world for us all.

Like good wine, these WIZO stalwarts improve with age

RITA LEWIS
PHOTO SUPPLIED

WORKING FOR the community is often a thankless job, yet eight members of WIZO who have spent their lives working for the organisation, are not only still there but are active and productive – despite being aged 90 and over.

At a tea in their honour, WIZO Johannesburg's Zee Bergman paid tribute to all the nonagenarians for their devotion and loyalty calling them true "Ayeshet Chayils".

"Sylvia Berzack, honorary life president of WIZO South Africa and a life member of the World WIZO executive, has been an active member for 73 years, starting as a young girl with her aunt in the Hillbrow branch.

"At 93 she still attends council meetings and WIZO functions and does an excellent job canvassing for campaign and membership.

"Beccy Flekser at 90 is still the treasurer for 'Elise' the WIZO gift shop in Fairmount and has been since its inception many years ago.

"Stella Greenberg (96) is the oldest active member of WIZO Johannesburg.

"Until recently she worked in WIZO's WIZE Buys, second hand shop, but had to give it up when she stopped driving three months ago.

"Jane Levitas was born in London in the same year that WIZO was founded. She is a true Jewish intellectual, and as the travelling organiser for WIZO South Africa, has travelled the length and breadth of the country, bringing all facets of Israel and WIZO to the main cities and remote parts of South Africa.

"In her heyday, she was a sought after speaker. She edited 'News and Views' and took on the portfolio of council's hasbarah chairman. She is now chairman of Meier-Szold.

"Jenny Nowitz is 92 and for over 60 years has devoted herself to the Cyrildene branch. Her home has been the venue for many exciting functions.

"Esther Batzofin (92) hails from Bloemfontein. Her father was the first chairman of the Port Elizabeth Zionist Society in 1901, when he lived there.

"After moving to Johannesburg five years ago, she joined the Bramley branch where she is a valued member.

"Lottie Nathan (90) is a founder member of the Parkview-Parkwood branch. She is now at Waverley and has become synonymous with the book sales. She has raised thousand of rands for WIZO and still continues to do so.

"Matla Sarkin (91) is an actress, beautician and raconteur par excellence. For over 70 years she brought Jewish history, culture and knowledge to WIZO through the drama group."

Back: Jenny Norwich; Sylvia Berzack; Beccy Flekser and Jane Levitas.

Front: Stella Greenberg; Ester Batzofin and Matla Sarkin.



AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

MASSIVE FLOODING DAMAGES JEWISH INFRA-STRUCTURE IN MELBOURNE

SYDNEY - Mass flash flooding triggered by Cyclone Yasi, caused severe damage to Jewish community buildings in Melbourne.

Floods stormed through several suburbs heavily populated by Melbourne's Jewish community of 50 000 on the evening of February 4, prompting the closure of the Sephardi Synagogue on Shabbat.

At least two Jewish schools also were flooded, with Bialik College - one of the largest Jewish schools in the country - reportedly closing for two days last week due to damage. The offices of the Australian Jewish News also were partially flooded, according to Yossi Aron, the newspaper's religious affairs editor.

"The streets were like rivers," Aron told JTA. One house in a low-lying area of his street was completely flooded, he said, adding: "The water was waist high."

Driving rain and wind gusts of up to 130 km per hour battered Victoria, ripping roofs from buildings, felling trees, and closing roads, schools and other premises. Some suburbs received more than 150 mm of rain in 24 hours, according to the Bureau of Meteorology.

The flash flooding was caused by the tail end of Yasi, a category 5 storm that ripped through Queensland on February 3, just weeks after rampant floods deluged the state, claiming at least 35 lives. (JTA)

AUSCHWITZ SIGN STEALER TRANSFERRED TO SWEDEN

KRAKOW - A Swedish neo-Nazi leader who organised the theft of the "Arbeit Macht Frei" sign from Auschwitz, was transferred to Sweden to serve his three-year prison sentence.

Anders Hogstrom was handed over to Swedish officials on Monday at Krakow Airport, according to reports.

A Polish court last December sentenced Hogstrom, who acted as a middleman between a neo-Nazi buyer and five Polish thieves, to 32 months in prison as part of a plea bargain. Hogstrom faced up to 10 years in prison.

The iron sign, which measures about five metres across and means "Work makes you free", was stolen from the former Nazi concentration camp on December 18, 2009 and recovered elsewhere in the country 72 hours later. It was found cut into three pieces.

Hogstrom, who was arrested in February 2010 in Stockholm and extradited to Poland in April, founded the National Socialist Front, a Swedish neo-Nazi movement, in 1994. (JTA)



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Israel’s Embassy, SA communal leadership: Can this damage be repaired?

OWN CORRESPONDENT

A SHOCKING document purporting to describe an acrimonious meeting between the Embassy of Israel and South African communal leaders before the doomed Tzipi Livni visit to South Africa, was surreptitiously delivered to the Jewish Report, labeled “minutes from the meeting.”

The document was pushed under the door of SA Jewish Report editor Geoff Sifrin’s apartment at the weekend in the dead of night, even though the building has a 24 hour security guard and his address is not listed in the telephone directory. Besides it appearing to be on an Embassy letterhead, there is no indication who delivered the document or who authored it.

From the wording in the document, it appears that a lot of fence-mending will have to be done to get relations between the embassy and the communal leadership back to a semblance of normality. Some of the utterances quoted were distinctly undiplomatic.

According to a particularly ugly section of the document, the Embassy was also apparently threatened with closure, as it was said that one of the main reasons it was here was only because of the community.

The background, in a nutshell: The SA Jewish Board of Deputies and the SA Zionist Federation, led by brothers Zev and Avrom Krengel, saw the painstakingly planned high-profile visit to South Africa they had arranged for Tzipi Livni, leader of the Kadima Party in Israel – and also leader of the official opposition – scuppered by a labour strike involving Israeli Foreign Affairs personnel worldwide.

It was claimed that without the assistance of Ambassador Dov Segev-Steinberg and his personnel, the visit, which would have been a coup for the communal leadership, could not take place. The Krengels put pressure on Segev-Steinberg and his personnel to ignore the strike and assist with the arrangements of the visit.

The ambassador told them his hands were tied, that it was a worldwide strike that his embassy could not break, but he was pressurised to assist with the proposed visit.

Segev-Steinberg also expressed his concern over a threat by Palestinian activist groups to have Livni arrested in South Africa for purported “war crimes” for what they perceived as her role in the Gaza war’s Operation Cast Lead. On this score the Krengels said they had spoken to the National Prosecuting Authority who had assured them they had no intention of arresting Livni. The Krengels were proved correct when the NPA later issued a state-

ment confirming that they had no intention of arresting Livni.

At the meeting of January 16 were the two Krengels as well as Segev-Steinberg and his deputy Yaacov Finkelstein.

Segev-Steinberg and Finkelstein were told: “We are the only ones who managed to organise a visit of a senior Israeli figure in the last few years. Two former ambassadors didn’t manage to organise that.”

“A certain opportunity was made possible here; it will be hard to create the same circumstances again. For the community it will be hard without the support of the State (of Israel). If this visit doesn’t happen it will create irreparable damage to the relations between the community and the Embassy. It will be hard to keep the community Zionist.”

The ambassador was told that “we were taught from a young age that Israel will always be there for us. This shows us that this is not the case. You don’t want to tell us minimal things that can help us with this visit.”

When the Ambassador pointed out that it was a worldwide labour action, not confined to the embassy in South Africa, he was told: “For the Israeli security (of Livni) our contacts are not good enough, they said they need the Embassy. Your union has made an exception with (Foreign Minister Avigdor) Lieberman to go to London.”

Regarding the pressure on the Ambassador and his deputy to break the strike to assist with Livni’s visit, Finkelstein remarked: “I will be cutting the branch on which I sit. I support the right cause of the strike, to enable us to represent Israel with dignity, so that good and talented people would like to join and stay in the Ministry and by doing so to save the Israeli Foreign Service.”

One of the Krengels commented: “It will be an irretrievable breakdown in the relations. It will be seen by the community as a betrayal...”

The acrimony is obviously far from assuaged. In another “unkept” secret, an e-mail is doing the rounds showing how the SAZF invited the Ambassador to a function, then “disinvited” him and again “after serious consideration”, invited him again.

This unseemly spat, shown in the fact that such great effort was made to deliver such an inflammatory document anonymously to the editor of the Jewish Report, is doing untold damage to the community and putting enormous strain on the relations between the communal leadership and Israel’s Embassy, as representatives of the State of Israel.

• See editorial on page 6

Celebrating 25 years of freedom for Natan Sharansky



NEW YORK (JTA) -- Feb. 11 marks 25 years since Natan Sharansky crossed the Glienicke Bridge from East to West Germany and became a free man. Countless stories have been told about Sharansky’s defiance of the Soviets and his courageous actions during his more than nine years of imprisonment.

Sharansky is one of many heroic prisoners of Zion. But it is through his wife, Avital, that the world came to know him during his years of incarceration in ways that we did not know the others.

Avital and Natan were married in July 1974. The next morning Avital was ordered out of the Soviet

Union with a promise that Natan would soon follow. It was not to be. Four years later, the Soviets accused Natan of spying for the United States and sentenced him to 13 years in prison. It was during this period that Avital undertook the worldwide campaign that led to her husband’s release.

In the picture, Avital Sharansky addresses the Prime Minister’s Council at General Assembly of the Jewish Federations of North America in New Orleans on her struggle to achieve the release of her husband Natan Sharansky, right, from the Soviet gulag, Nov. 7, 2010. (Photo: The Jewish Agency for Israel).

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

QUAYLE CALLS FOR JONATHAN POLLARD RELEASE

WASHINGTON - Dan Quayle has urged President Barack Obama to release imprisoned spy-for-Israel Jonathan Pollard.

Quayle, who was US vice president from 1989 to 1993, is the highest-ranking former official to call for the release of Pollard, the civilian US Navy analyst who was sentenced to life in 1987.

"I believe that a life sentence for the crime committed is very extreme," Quayle wrote in his January 31 letter, which was made public on Monday. "Though his crime was very serious, I hope you will once again look very carefully at this pending request."

Quayle's letter also is significant because it adds to the growing list of former Republican government officials who have asked for Pollard's release, among them George Schultz, the secretary of state when Pollard was captured, and Michael Mukasey, the last attorney general in the George W Bush

administration.

Such voices are significant because sitting congressional Republicans have resisted joining a recent call led by Representative Barney Frank (Democrat Massachusetts) to release Pollard. Democrats generally have been more receptive to the case for the release of Pollard, who reportedly is ill.

It has been 25 years since Pollard was captured and jailed, and there has been a renewed push in recent months for his release. Frank got 38 Democrats to sign on in part by suggesting that Pollard's release would soften Israeli opposition to peace concessions with the Palestinians.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu recently formally requested Pollard's release. (JTA)



Jonathan Pollard

FORMERWHITE HOUSE ATTORNEY REQUESTS POLLARD'S RELEASE

WASHINGTON - Another former White House official has called for clemency for spy Jonathan Pollard.

Bernard Nussbaum, White House counsel under President Bill Clinton, sent a letter to President Barack Obama on February 5 saying that keeping Pollard in prison is a "miscarriage of justice".

Nussbaum opposed pardoning Pollard, a civilian US Navy analyst who was convicted for spying for Israel, when he served in the White House. He said in his letter that he studied Pollard's file "extensively" and believed it was time for Obama to commute his life sentence.

"I, too, believe that Jonathan Pollard has been appropriately punished for his conduct, and that a failure at this time to commute his sentence would not serve the course of justice' indeed, I respectfully

believe, it would be a miscarriage of justice," Nussbaum wrote, according to The Jerusalem Post.

In January, Obama received a letter from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu requesting clemency for Pollard. Also, in recent weeks, others have written separate letters to Obama requesting clemency, including US Secretary of State George Schultz; Michael Mukasey, the most recent Republican US attorney general; and Harvard Law School professor Charles Ogletree, director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard.

Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee, a likely Republican candidate for the 2012 presidential nomination, during a visit to Israel last week called on the United States to release Pollard. (JTA)



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SOCIAL SCENE

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Playing poker can be a lot of fun.



At the roulette table are Trevor Friedman, with his wife Alice (MD of Yad Aharon) with their daughter Yael and Hanni, Deena and Gavi Ress.

Yad Aharon raises funds the fun way

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

THERE IS something about the atmosphere in a casino. The air of anticipation, expectancy and tension that pervades the area with each person filled with the hope that “tonight will be my lucky night”. It was the same – if not more so – when Yad Aharon held their Vegas Nights at the HOD Hall in Johannesburg recently. Roulette tables, crap tables, poker tables... all together with their experienced, well-turned out croupiers, were spaced out around the hall. Whether you were a “Rich Man” or a “Poor Man”, it didn’t matter, because everyone who came was given several thousand rands of

“funny money” to play with. For many, the “funny money” was sufficient for the evening, but for the “big punters” the money didn’t last too long – and that’s where the rub came in because the next hand-out of money had to be paid for in “real rands”. The organisers of the function, fundraisers Laureen Shalpid and Sonya Margolias, as well as Yad Aharon’s MD, Alice Friedman, were of course all rubbing their hands with glee and laughing all the way to the bank as the money is much needed by their organisation to feed the growing number of indigent people who rely on them for their daily and weekly Shabbat meal. At the moment the number is around 450 families.



Watching the spinning ball and keeping their fingers crossed are Nachi and Adi Kay from Octagon Finance.



Yad Aharon’s events organisers, Laureen Shalpid and Sonia Margolias, with MC Elana Afrika.



Lauren Swartz, Lana Meltz and Adi Kay place their bets at the roulette table.

COMMUNITY BUZZ

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ROBERTSON

This town is in the Breede River Valley, 180 km north-east of Cape Town, near Worcester. It was named after Dr William Robertson, a minister of the Dutch Reformed Church, first in Clanwilliam and later in Swellendam.

From Marc Kopman:

“On the road again, this time to visit one of my client’s (and oncologist’s) wine farm situated at Robertson in the Western Cape. “So, at the crack of dawn on December 3 last year, leaving Krugersdorp, my wife and I headed out for Lanseria, bound for Cape Town and on landing at Cape Town airport, we promptly picked up the hired car and made off for Robertson, travelling via Worcester. “Around an hour and a half later we cruised through Robertson, deciding to do the business end first and view this delightful wine farm - which we did most enjoyably. “Around two hours later, time to head back to Robertson town to do my usual Jewish connection exploration and, after a quick call to Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, landed up at the Robertson Tourism/Information office, who advised me that the shul building was now in use as a dance studio and situated in Adderley Street and that the Jewish cemetery was right down at the end of White Street. “Arriving at Adderley Street, driving through pleasant suburbia, we found the shul, closed but in 100 per cent nick and still looking every bit much like a shul. I proceeded to take several photographs from every angle for the record. “Under the Hebrew inscription in white letters at the top of the shul’s entrance, stands ‘5656’, translated to the secular year 1895, making the congregation 115 years old (just one year older than Krugersdorp where I live).”

DAME VERA LYNN

From Peter Feldman:

“ I received an e-mail from your reader Raphael Jacob, whom I put in touch with Helena Nossel about her aunt, Dame Vera Lynn (the Forces’ sweetheart).

CANADA

From Professor S Rachman and Dr H C Philips:

“Johannesburg - born Prof Rachman was a student and lecturer at Wits University in the 1950s. He became a professor at Maudsey College (London University) and moved on to Vancouver where he was attached to the University of British Columbia. He is now psy-

chology professor emeritus there. “He writes: ‘It is extremely unfamiliar, but we have at present here in Canada a prime minister of principles. It loses him some votes, but he is strong and principled, as you will see from the following letter from the Prime Minister of Canada: “Dear Professor Rachman and Dr Philips. Thank you for your correspondence regarding my address to the second annual conference of the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism. I appreciated receiving your words of support. “It was an honour to speak to parliamentarians from around the globe as they met to discuss the struggle against hatred and intolerance. Canada was very proud to host this meeting. “Please be assured that our government is committed to standing against those who threaten the Jewish people and to combating the spectre of anti-Semitism as it spreads. We have a solemn duty to defend the vulnerable, to challenge the aggressor, to promote human rights and to defend human dignity at home and abroad. “Once again, thank you for sharing your thoughts regarding my speech.” Signed: The Rt Hon Stephen Harper, PC Prime Minister of Canada.

MUIZENBERG

Hyman Jocum continues on the Exhibition at the Labia:

“Another section of the exhibition is captioned ‘War Years at Muizenberg’ and included a photograph of the two Greek princesses who found sanctuary in Newlands after the Nazi occupation of their country in mid-1941. “Both young princesses are photographed in SAWAS (SA Women’s Auxiliary Service) uniforms at the opening of the SAWAS Bumper fete which was held during December 1941 and was known as Seaside Splash. “In the photo display is a portrait of Max Sonnenberg M.P escorting Prime Minister Jan Smuts along the various stores. “Younger viewers at the exhibition may recognise their grandmothers in photos of the Muizenberg Jewish Womens’ Sewing Circle and the local Bnei Bnoth Zion Association.”

PORT ELIZABETH

Rollo Berman continues:

“Most Yiddishe boys furthered their studies by going to Grey High School which was the second oldest school in South Africa and very prestigious. In the fifties about 20 per cent of the boys were Jewish. “Many of them were above average sporting types. The gymnastic team had Leon Morris and Sammy Poland and me. One of its most famous sons was Leon’s brother, Cecil Morris. “Some of the other sportsmen were Phil Abrams who competed

in the first gymnastic team and also played first team rugby. “The famous Springbok centre, Wilf Rosenberg, spent two years at Grey High School. Ronnie Franklin who was at the school, was the Eastern Province under-19-100 yards champion. “The late Cecil Morris played first team cricket and rugby and was a member of the first team gymnastics. He was a senior student officer in the cadets and also vice-head boy, which was a great honour for a Yiddishe boy.”

LONDON

From The Zionist Record, December 2, 1949:

Gerald Kersh is one of Britain’s leading novelists. He is a proponent of the “tough novel school”, best exemplified by “The Song of the flea”. He got a flea in his own ear the other night, though; he was a guest at a Jewish wedding in London. Asked to propose a toast to Israel, ill-manneredly, Kersh tossed a wad of notes on to a table, offering to pay the fares for anyone who wanted to go there. His speech ran thus: “It is incredible nonsense for me to reply to this toast. My allegiance is to Britain, not to Israel. It is easy to support this new country from the comforts of your arm-chairs. But I will make an offer. I will personally pay the fares of anyone of you prepared to leave for Israel tonight.” There were no takers. A few minutes later Kersh was ushered out of the front door. He told newspapermen: “I was given the b*ms rush merely because I believed in Britain.” • Kersh was the author of 40 books, novels and short stories. He died in 1968 aged 57.

LONDON

Rachel Corrie was an American girl, aged 23 who went to Gaza for The Islamic Solidarity Movement, crouched in front of an Israeli Defence Force bulldozer and was killed (March 2003). She wanted to engage the Israeli military. She immediately became a heroine of the anti-Israel agitation around the world. A play, written by an American, Simone Bitton, was made, called “My Name is Rachel Corrie”. It became a cause célèbre among the ranks of the “Not in my Name” movement. However, the act was also dubbed “naïve” and “stupid”. English journalist, Chas Newkey-Burden, wrote: “When I went to see the play, ‘My Name is Rachel Corrie’ in London’s West End I sat in an audience littered with white Englishmen and -women wearing keffiyeh scarves, some wearing Hamas badges. “I see these people and the marching Hamas-wannabes as terror groupies: ‘We are all Hezbollah now’ - these are the ‘Not in my Name’ people who fall under French author, Andre Gide’s definition ‘The true hypocrite is the one who ceases to perceive his deception, the one who lies with sincerity.’”

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Sad farewell to community leader Ivan Levy

DAVID SAKS

THE JEWISH community was deprived of a devoted communal leader and the Johannesburg law fraternity of one of its most distinguished members by the passing of Ivan Levy on February 5. Levy, who, had been ill for quite some time, was 72.

Among other important communal leadership positions held, Levy was a national vice-chairman of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies (2001 - 2005); SAJBD Gauteng Council chairman (2000 - 2003); and chairman of the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists - SA Chapter (1991 - 1998).

Levy's extensive pro bono work for Jewish organisations included serving as honorary legal adviser to MaAfrika-Tikkun, the SAJBD, Operation Hunger and the Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre. He was further the director of the To Life Charitable Trust.

When the SA Jewish Times was closed in late 1997, Levy was prominently involved in the establishment of a new national Jewish newspaper to replace it. This became the SA Jewish Report, launched in May the following year, with Levy as the first chairman of its board of directors.

An attorney by profession, Levy was appointed as CEO of Levy, Feinsteins & Associates Inc, one of the city's leading law firms, on December 1, 1994 and served in this



capacity until his passing. During this time, he was also one of the non-executive directors on the board of JD Group, for which the Feinsteins were the corporate legal advisers.

Levy was a stalwart campaigner against anti-Semitism and made both his own professional skills and the resources of his firm freely available in this regard. It was largely through his efforts that the notorious anti-Semitic forgery The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion was banned in South Africa, a status which remains to this day.

In its obituary notice for the general press, the SA Jewish Board of Deputies described Levy as "a proud, deeply committed member of our Jewish community, which to the end was continually enriched by his formidable intellectual gifts, professional skills and strong leadership qualities".

JD Group's chairman, David Sussman, commented: "During Ivan's distinguished career as a corporate lawyer, he enjoyed only the highest esteem among all his colleagues and peers in the legal and corporate business fraternity."

Levy leaves his wife, Barbara, and four children, Grant, Gina, Adam and Daniel. Rabbi Dovid Hazdan of the Great Park Synagogue, of which Levy was a long-standing member, officiated at the funeral at West Park Cemetery.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

JIMMY CARTER SUED OVER BOOK ON PALESTINE

NEW YORK – Five readers have filed a class-action lawsuit against former President Jimmy Carter for his book "Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid".

His publisher, Simon & Schuster, also was named in the lawsuit over the book published in 2006.

The lawsuit, Unterberg et al v Jimmy Carter et al, was filed on February 1 in US District Court for the Southern District of New York. It alleges that the book contained "numerous false and

knowingly misleading statements intended to promote the author's agenda of anti-Israel propaganda and to deceive the reading public instead of presenting accurate information as advertised," according to The Washington Post.

The five plaintiffs are asking for at least \$5 million in compensatory as well as punitive and exemplary damages for the \$27 book, according to the Post. Their suit charges Carter and Simon & Schuster with breach of contract,

unjust enrichment and deceit.

The named plaintiff, Stephen Unterberg, is one of two dual US-Israeli citizens living in New York and Israel pressing the suit. The others are from New Jersey, Minnesota and California.

Adam Rothberg, a spokesman for Simon & Schuster, called the lawsuit "frivolous" in a statement issued on February 2.

"It is a chilling attack on free speech that we intend to defend vigorously," he said. (JTA)

JEWISH THEMES ABOUND AMONG BOOK AWARD FINALISTS

NEW YORK - Jewish themes abound among National Book Critics Circle award finalists.

Among the five fiction finalists are Israeli author David Grossman's "To the End of the Land" and "Comedy in a Minor Key", by Hans Keilson, a German-born Jew now living in the Netherlands.

The awards will be handed out in New York on March 10

"The two books complement each other, as Keilson tells the story of a young Dutch couple hiding a Jewish boy during the

Second World War and Grossman flashes forward to contemporary Israel, where a woman whose son is in the army, refuses to wait at home for bad news and instead hikes in the Galilee.

Another finalist is Jonathan Franzen's "Freedom", a family drama that treats, among other contemporary themes, Jews in the neoconservative movement.

Israeli author Tom Segev's biography of Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal, "The Lives and Legends", is among five biography finalists.

ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS IN BRITAIN REMAIN HIGH DESPITE LARGE DROP

LONDON - Anti-Semitic incidents in Britain fell significantly from their record high, but the number was the second most in a year since records were kept, according to an annual report

Figures released on February 3 by the Community Security Trust showed that 639 anti-Semitic incidents were reported throughout

the country in 2010.

The year 2009 had the record number of anti-Semitic incidents in the country with 926 in large part because of fallout from Israel's war with Gaza.

Included in the reported incidents of 2010 were 114 assaults, 83 incidents of damage and desecration of Jewish property, 385 inci-

Among the five autobiography finalists are Kai Bird's "Crossing Mandelbaum Gate: Coming of Age Between the Arabs and Israelis, 1956-1978", about a childhood spent as the child of a US diplomat in divided Jerusalem, and "Hitch-22", in which essayist Christopher Hitchens discusses his discovery in adulthood that his mother was Jewish.

The National Book Critics Circle, comprising 600 reviewers, was founded in 1974 at New York's legendary Algonquin Hotel. (JTA)

dents of verbal abuse, anti-Semitic graffiti and hate mail cases, 32 direct threats, and 25 cases of mass-mailed anti-Semitic leaflets and e-mails, according to the Jewish Chronicle.

The Community Security Trust has been documenting anti-Semitic incidents since 1984. (JTA)

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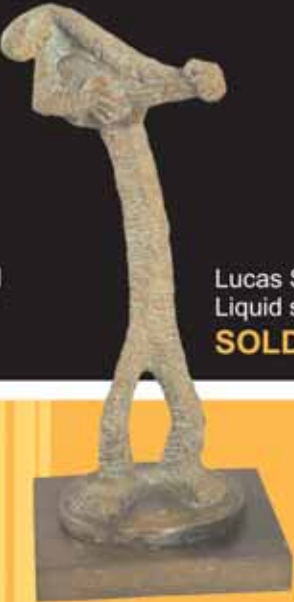


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Jew-on-Jew feuds

A FRACTIOUS environment pitting Jew against Jew has developed recently in the South African Jewish community, triggered by several simmering disputes. These include the Baal Shem Tov Shul’s argument with communal leaders – particularly the SAJBD - over their response to the “anti-Semitism” quarrel with ANC Councillor Christine Walters; the cancellation of Israeli politician Tzipi Livni’s visit because of a labour strike in the Israeli foreign ministry and resulting acrimony between Jewish leaders and the Israeli embassy; petitions for and against Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu mounted by different Jewish groups, each claiming the moral high ground; and others.

None of these issues are trivial. They warrant focused, clear discussion. Different factions of South African Jewry, however, have been turning on each other with such rancour that it makes one cringe. Dignity seems to have gone by the board among some of the callers and writers to radio stations, websites and newspapers – ours included.

As a newspaper presenting an open forum for diverse opinion, the Jewish Report faces the dilemma of potentially being converted into a battlefield for these ad hominem attacks, or drawing a clear red line regarding what material will be published.

Many letters received are published; others aren’t because of their ugly tone (or sometimes we edit out the harsher comments before publishing). It is a search for the golden mean - allowing robust, even heated debate and giving people a medium for their own voice, yet keeping a sense of decorum and dignity.

It would be wrong to sanitise the letters or other pages. Stifling healthy argumentation or virulent views would be to insult the energetic minds of readers. Yet an unbridled free-for-all is unacceptable. It could only lead to anarchy.

In many respects South African Jewry is a model community imbued with the best of Yiddishkeit. But there is also unfortunately an ugly side to it, brought out by the passions of disputes such as these, where both sides believe they have right on their side - or are driven by their egos, perhaps - and feel no compunction in attacking others in a hurtful, devastatingly personal way, sometimes questioning their very “Jewishness” or even calling them “Nazis”.

While attempting to allow a meeting-ground for all viewpoints, the primary concern is the well-being of the South African Jewish community. Therefore the animosity and intolerance some members are showing each other is cause for tremendous unease.

The story in this issue about the harsh exchange between heads of the SAJBD and SAZF and the Israeli ambassador and deputy ambassador, is a case in point. Or accusations flung in all directions by communal leaders and the leadership of the Baal Shem Tov Shul. Perhaps it has reached the point where a professional mediator should be called in.

The instinct to argue and question are qualities at the core of Jewish genius and originality. We do not ever march in lock-step. But the principles of derech eretz are also fundamental, indeed intrinsic and necessary, if we are to survive as a thriving community.

It is all very well to go for the jugular today, but tomorrow we have to work together. Words have meaning and do in fact hurt; they can’t merely be retracted without leaving ugly scars.

The old story is still relevant about the Jew marooned on a desert island who, when he was finally located, showed his rescuers that he had built two shuls instead of one, so he could point to one of them and say: “That is the shul I refuse to go to”.

In a more positive vein, an American Jewish poet once declared that the Jews are definitely the eternal people, because there is not enough time in the universe to finish their arguments.

The appeal is not for South African Jewry to become a “Pollyanna” community – or one on Prozac. But playing the ball more and the man less, is definitely likely to lead to a better outcome.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

About Jewish Settler roots in Eastern Cape

CYNICAL AS Churchill’s remark that history is written by the victors sounds, it is undoubtedly true. How true struck me anew whilst revisiting recently various aspects of the history of the Eastern Cape, specifically those relating to the 1820 Settlers and their escalating confrontations with the indigenous Xhosa peoples.

At least up until the 1960s, what officially held sway was the notion that the Settlers were the victims of “Kafir” barbarism, decent, hard-working people whose wholesome efforts to put down roots in a harsh, alien land were undermined by the bloody-mindedness and duplicity of the neighbouring black population.

The official account of the first major conflict between the two - the Sixth Frontier War of 1834 - 1836 - typified the official Eurocentric interpretation of the day. Whites were depicted as innocent victims of an unprovoked mass attack by bloodthirsty primitives, “The Irruption of the Kafir Hordes” as a contemporary history was entitled.

In one of the war’s most notorious episodes, the Gcaleka Chief Hintza was made a prisoner and then shot and killed while trying to escape. According to the Euro-friendly versions, the brave Settler lad George Southey was forced to shoot him after he attempted to throw an assegai at him.

The old texts I consulted, dating to around the 1940s, failed to record that the chief’s ears were afterwards cut off as souvenirs.

Long before the eventual transition to democratic rule, the old white supremacist myths had been undermined by a new Afro-centric narrative that detailed at last what the Xhosa grievances had been, revealed how greatly their depredations had been exaggerated to justify their wholesale dispossession and laying bare the apparently bottomless venality of the White invaders.



BARBARIC
YAWP
David Saks

We know now that Hintza was seized under pretence of entering into negotiations and shot in cold blood while he was unarmed and trying to surrender.

Perhaps inevitably, though, the pendulum has sometimes swung too far the other way. One of the current academic theories is that the Sixth Frontier War was really an elaborate Settler-Colonial plot aimed at justifying the wholesale seizure of Xhosa land through deliberately exaggerating the extent and impact of their incursion.

Conspiracy theories are usually associated with those on the right, but from what I’ve seen, leftists are just as prone to believing in them.

When first learning about all of this as a student in Grahamstown, heart of the old Settler country, I assumed as a matter of course that Jews had nothing to do with any of this since no Jews had as yet found their way to this part of the world.

I was wrong, of course. The original party of 1820 Settlers included three Jewish families and several individuals as well, numbering perhaps 20 souls in all. It may have been an exceedingly small proportion of the 4 000 men and women who came ashore at Algoa Bay, but that small group of men, women and children made no less an impact, and indeed probably more, on the unfolding Settler saga than their Christian neighbours.

Benjamin Norden was the most prominent of the Jewish Settlers, setting himself up as a successful trader first in Grahamstown and later in (then) Natal.

After relocating to Cape Town, he took

a leading role in organising the tiny Jewish community there and in 1841, the first-ever Jewish religious services took place in his home, on Yom Kippur.

Norden subsequently became the first president of the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation, and as such can be regarded as the founder of the South African Jewish community.

Benjamin’s brother, Joshua Davis remained in Grahamstown, became the commanding officer of the Grahamstown Yeomanry and was killed at the head of his men early in the Seventh Frontier War.

Also killed in that war was Lewis Norton, from another Jewish Settler family. Many years before that, the third of the Jewish families, headed by Morris Sloman, had been the first to lose one of its members to native assegais. He was Mark Sloman, killed while herding cattle at the ripe old age of seven.

The Jewish 1820 Settler destined to win the greatest fame, or notoriety at least, was Joshua Abraham Norton. Just two years old when he arrived in South Africa, he left for California to become a “Forty-Niner” in the 1849 gold rush there, went bankrupt and then proclaimed himself to be Emperor Norton I of the United States of America (later taking Mexico into his “protectorate”).

I don’t know if by then he had gone completely meshuggah and actually believed this, or whether it was intended as a benign scam but at any rate, his fellow Americans bought into the joke and supported him to the end of his life.

Writes Hazel Dakers (a descendant of Benjamin Norden), the City of San Francisco “even provided him with a new Emperor’s uniform with plumed hat each year, railways provided free travel and restaurants entertained him as befitted one of his ‘status’”.

I regret very much not finding all this out while I was still a student in Grahamstown. During that time, and much as I loved the town and the Eastern Cape in general, I always felt that, as a Jew, I didn’t really belong. It would have helped a great deal to have known that Jews, too, had roots in the area going back almost to the beginning of European settlement.

US rethinking \$1,3 billion annual aid to Egypt



Protesters pray in front of a tank in Cairo's Tahrir (Liberation) Square, on January 30. (PHOTOGRAPH: IMAN MOSAAD)

RON KAMPEAS
WASHINGTON

IN THE wake of massive unrest that could unseat Egypt’s autocratic leader, the question emerging is whether sustaining aid to the current regime would advance democracy or squelch it.

The Obama administration, speaking after the outbreak of the protests, initially said it would “review assistance” to Egypt. But now the White House seems

to be quietly backtracking as long as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak’s regime transitions toward greater democratic freedoms.

It is a debate pro-Israel groups will be watching closely.

Assistance to Egypt is rooted in the 1979 Israel-Egypt peace deal and has become a cornerstone of preserving the quiet along Israel’s southern flank. The question Israel and its allies in Washington will be considering as the Egyptians shape a new government, is whether

continuing such assistance sustains the peace treaty or bolsters its detractors, chief among them Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood.

The assistance to Egypt, along with years of training by and alongside US forces, has created a military loyal to US interests. For US forces, Egypt waives the restrictions on travelling the Suez Canal imposed on other nations. Without Suez access, the US might otherwise have to double its naval presence around Africa.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

How the hard left, by focusing only on Israel, encouraged Arab despotism

PROF ALAN M DERSHOWITZ

NOW THE hard left is finally talking about torture and other undemocratic abuses in Egypt and Jordan, as well as the despotism of virtually all Arab regimes.

Do you recall any campus protests against Egypt or (Hosni) Mubarak? Do you recall any calls for divestment and boycotts against Arab dictators? No, because there weren't any. The hard left was too busy condemning the Middle East's only democracy, Israel.

Radical leftists and campus demonstrators, by giving a pass to the worst forms of tyranny, encouraged their perpetuation. Now, finally, they are jumping on the bandwagon of condemnation, though still not with the fury that they reserve for the one nation in the Middle East that has complete free speech, gender equality, gay rights, an open and critical press, an independent judiciary and fair and open elections.

The double standard is alive and well on the hard left, and its victims include the citizens of Arab regimes who suffer under the heel of authoritarian dictators. Even more important, they include victims of genocides, such as those perpetrated in Rwanda, Darfur and Cambodia - victims who did not prick the consciences of the hard left because the perpetrators were Arabs or Communists, rather than Americans or Israelis.

The same must be said for the United Nations, which rewarded Arab despots by according them places of honour on human rights bodies that devoted all of their energies to demonising Israel. In a recent op-ed, Amnon Rubenstein, the conscience of Israel, has pointed out that the UN Human Rights Commission, to which both Egypt and Tunisia were elected, has gone out of its



way to compliment both regimes.

Egypt was praised for steps it has "taken in recent years as regard to human rights..." Tunisia was lauded for constructing "a legal and constitutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights".

Israel, on the other hand, was repeatedly condemned for violating the human rights not only of Palestinians, but of its own citizens as well.

Nor do I recall Bishop (Emeritus Desmond) Tutu urging the Cape Town Opera to boycott Egypt, Tunisia or Jordan as he urged them to boycott Israel. I do recall (former President) Jimmy Carter, who has falsely accused Israel of apartheid, embracing some of the Arab world's worst tyrants and murderers. Many who claim the mantle of human rights, ignore or even embrace the worst human rights violators and direct their wrath only against the Jewish nation.

The anti-American and anti-Israel hard left is a topsy-turvy world where the worst are declared the best and the best are condemned as the worst. This topsy-turvy view has become a staple of higher education, particularly among Middle East study programmes in many colleges and universities.

Among many on the hard left, where the only human rights issue of concern seems to be Israel's treatment of the Palestinians, the views of convicted terrorist Marwan Barghouti are preached as gospel. This is what Barghouti, who is serving a life sentence for planning terror attacks against civilians, but who remains among the most popular Palestinian leaders, recently said about Israel: "The worst and most abominable enemy known to humanity and modern history."

It is this skewed view of modern history that runs rampant through the hard left and that gives exculpatory immunity to Arab and Muslim tyrants.

There is only one acceptable standard of international human rights: The worst must come first. Under that universal standard, any person or organisation claiming the mantle of human rights must prioritise its resources.

It must list human rights violators in order of the severity of the abuses and the ability of its citizens to complain about those abuses. It must then go after the worst offenders first and foremost, leaving right-left politics out of the mix.

This standard must be applied by individuals, such as Bishop Tutu, by organisations, such as the United Nations, by the media and by everyone who loves human rights. Until that standard is universally applied, despotism will continue, interrupted only occasionally by revolutions such as those taking place in Tunisia and Egypt.

The irony, of course, is that in the most repressive regimes, such as Iran, revolution is well-nigh impossible. Revolution is far more likely to occur in moderately despotic regimes, such as Tunisia and Egypt, where at least some basic liberties were preserved.

It is the citizens of the most despotic regimes who need the most help from human rights activists. But don't count on it because too many so-called "human rights" leaders and organisations misuse the concept of "human rights" to serve narrow political, diplomatic or ideological agendas.

Unless we restore human rights to its proper role as a neutral and universal standard of human conduct, the kind of tyranny and despotism that stimulated the current protests will continue.

• Prof Dershowitz is professor of law at Harvard University.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. WON'T INTERFERE IN EGYPTIAN TRANSITION, WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAYS

WASHINGTON - - A senior White House official told Jewish leaders that the United States did not deal with the Muslim Brotherhood but would not interfere in the Egyptian transition process.

Dan Shapiro, the senior National Security Council official dealing with Israel and its neighbours, briefed Jewish leaders on February 2 as forces loyal to President Hosni Mubarak unleashed violence against protesters seeking to unseat his 30-year autocracy.

Alan Solow, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, asked Shapiro to elaborate on comments earlier in the day by White House spokesman Robert Gibbs, who had said that "meaningful transition must include opposition voices and parties being involved in this process as we move toward

free and fair elections. But that process must begin now."

Solow asked if the White House included the Muslim Brotherhood among "opposition voices and parties."

"That's something that will be determined by the Egyptian people," Shapiro responded. "The United States will not be an arbiter."

He added that it is US policy not to deal with the Muslim Brotherhood, a group that rejects Israel's existence and maintains relations with groups such as Hamas, designated by the United States as terrorist.

Shapiro condemned the violence that erupted last week Wednesday and said that the Obama administration had reassured Israeli leaders that its commitment to Israel was "rock solid". (JTA)

BUSH CANCELS KEREN HAYESOD APPEARANCE IN GENEVA

WASHINGTON - Former President George W Bush cancelled a planned appearance at a Keren Hayesod fundraiser in Geneva because of planned protests

Bush was to be the featured speaker at a February 12 dinner for the group, the daily Le Tribune de Geneve reported on February 5.

Keren Hayesod, also known as the United Israel Appeal, said reports that some groups planned to

call for Bush's arrest as a war criminal were not a factor; Switzerland had promised him immunity.

"We didn't want to put people and property in Geneva at risk," Robert Equey, the group's lawyer, told Le Tribune de Geneve.

Bush reportedly charges \$150 000 to speak. Past Keren Hayesod Geneva speakers have included Bill Clinton, Al Gore and Rudolph Giuliani. (JTA)

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AVA Gallery, Cape Town:
“The Space Between”, by
Dale Washkansky, until
February 18, (021) 424-7436.

Heritage Theatre, Durban:
Grant Bell and Barry
Thomson in “Neil Diamond:
The Jazz Singer” until
February 27, (031) 765-4197.

Emperor’s, Kempton Park:
“Combat” by Nataniël opens
February 17, (011) 928-1000.

**Everard Read Gallery,
Rosebank, Johannesburg:**
“Earth and Ink”, new work
by Thea Soggot, until March
9, (011)788-4805.

**Art Gallery, Wembley,
Cape Town:** “To Skip the
Last Step”, an exhibition by
Beth Armstrong, in honour
of the late Mark Hipper, until
February 23, (021) 424-5150.

**Linder Auditorium,
Parktown:** February 16, 17,
JPO performs works by
Mozart, Haydn and
Beethoven. Soloist: Georgi
Anichenko (‘cello),
Conductor: Emil Tabakov,
(011) 789-2733. Anichenko
opens 2011 for the JMS with
works by Faure, Poulenc,
Hanmer and Shostakovich on
February 19, (011) 728-5492.

Market, Newtown: In the
Barney Simon, James
Ngcobo’s “Sunjata”, ends
March 6. In the Laager,
Fugard’s “Sizwe Banzi is
Dead”, directed by Monageng
Motshabi, ends February 20,
(011) 832-1641.

Montecasino, Fourways: In
the Pieter Toerien,
“Fascinating Aida”, until
February 13; in the Studio,
“Mass Appeal” directed by
Alan Swerdlow, until March
27, (011) 511-1818. In Teatro,
“Riverdance” until February
20, (011) 510-7472.

**Old Mutual Theatre on the
Square, Sandton:** “Casual
Sax” with Barbara-Anne
Puren until February 19. The
Friday concerts feature
Malané Hofmeyr-Burger
(flute), Andrea Erasmus
(viola) and Ventura
Rosenthal (harp) on February
11; Hofmeyr-Burger, Miro
Chakaryan (violin), Susan
Mouton (‘cello) and Lady
Hester Martin (piano) on
February 18, (011) 883-8606.

**Sandton Convention
Centre:** Chabad’s Miracle
Drive features world-
renowned sand animation
artist from Israel, Ilana
Yahav, with “Sand Fantasy”,
a demonstration of her
unique technique, on
February 16. Call Sharon,
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Wits, Braamfontein: O-
week, February 14-18,
includes “Boys from the
Ashes” based on Israel
Gurwicz’s Holocaust memo-
ries and directed by
Courtneigh Cloud (Theatre);
“Ask Walter”, directed by
Aimee Goldsmith
(Amphitheatre), and “My
Uncle Oswald”, directed by
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JMS offers mouth-
watering fare for 2011

PAUL BOECKKOOI

THE JOHANNESBURG Musical
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forms of communication will be
revealed, apart from certain pianists
who will also spotlight the virtuoso
aspects of their repertoire. Three of
the 10 concerts will be piano recitals.

The 2011 season will commence
already next week and closes on
November 12 with the annual Percy
Baneshik Memorial Concert. Here
follows more detail on each individ-
ual concert:

**Saturday February 19 (20:00) –
Georgi Anichenko, ‘cello and
Anastasya Terenkova, piano.**

Anichenko, who won the gold
medal in the ‘cello section of last
year’s Unisa International String
Competition, has been performing
with Terenkova since 2004. Their
programme: Elégie, Sicilienne and

Après un rêve (Fauré), Elegy: 24
Maraisburg (Paul Hanmer), ‘Cello
Sonata (Poulenc), Five Melodies,
Opus 35 (Prokofiev) and ‘Cello
Sonata (Shostakovich).

**Saturday March 5 (20:00) –
Natalia Lavrova, piano.**

Moscow-born Ms Lavrova is a
graduate of both the Moscow
Conservatory and the Juilliard
School of Music. She is also the piano
duo partner of Vassily Primakov
who gave an engrossing recital for
the JMS in 2010. Her programme is
made up of works by Clementi,
Shostakovich, Liszt and Prokofiev.

**Saturday April 2 (20:00) –
Ching-Yun Hu, piano.**

This Taiwanese pianist and win-
ner of many prestigious internation-
al prizes, has already performed in
famous concert halls around the
world, including Carnegie Hall and
Kennedy Centre in the USA, Am-
sterdam’s Concertgebouw and the
Salle Cortot in Paris.

**Saturday May 14 (20:00) –
Andrey Baranov, violin and
Maria Baranova, piano.**

Winner of important international
competitions, Baranov, who plays a
Guarneri violin, is a frequent guest
at festivals – among them the
Salzburg Summer Academy, the
Lausanne Academy and the Bad



‘Cellist Georgi Anichenko, one of the soloists in the season’s first con-
cert. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.KZNPO.CO.ZA)

Kissingen Summer Festival. His sis-
ter, Maria Baranova, is his duo part-
ner of choice.

**Sunday June 12 (17:00) –
Odeion String Quartet and
Green-Harrold Piano Duo.**

The return of the Odeion String
Quartet is welcomed. They’ll per-
form piano quintets with Australian
pianists Coady Green and Leigh
Harrold who will also feature as a
duo in this annual Nabarro
Chamber Concert.

**Saturday July 30 (20:00) – Trio
Fibonacci.**

This Canadian trio – piano, violin
and ‘cello – has risen to internation-
al prominence in the last half-
decade and are currently the ensem-
ble-in-residence at the University of
Quebec.

**Saturday August 20 (20:00) –
Duo Salzburg: Yvonne Timoinu,
‘cello and Alexander Preda,
piano.**

Timoinu, a former Gold
Medallist at a Unisa String

Competition, and Preda, her long
time duo partner, have built a career
that takes them around the globe.

**Saturday September 10 (20:00) –
Calefax Reed Quintet.**

Five Dutch gents plus five reeds –
oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet
and saxophone – will present exqui-
site sounds and a spontaneous
approach... guaranteed.

**Sunday October 16 (17:00) –
Alessandro Taverna, piano.**

One of the foremost Italian
pianists of our day, Taverna partici-
pates in European and Canadian fes-
tivals and concertises throughout
Europe and America.

**Saturday November 12 (20:00) –
Peter Bruns, ‘cello and Annagret
Kuttner, piano.**

This German husband and wife
duo will close the year with a stimu-
lating programme and superlative
playing, as Bruns already demon-
strated during previous visits.

• For JMS membership enquiries,
phone (011) 728 5492 or 083-228-2917.

‘Multi-tasking’ Swerdlow is up to everything theatrically!

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
CHRISTINA KENNEDY

ALAN SWERDLOW (pictured) is liv-
ing proof that men can, actually,
multitask! One of South Africa’s
most highly regarded theatre practi-
tioners, he currently has several pro-
ductions on the boil - but rest
assured he won’t skimp on quality.

You know what they say: If you
want to get something done, give it to
a busy person.

Swerdlow recently wrapped up a
short return season of Mitch
Albom’s “Tuesdays With Morrie” at
Daphne Kuhn’s Old Mutual Theatre
on the Square, and Graham Hopkins
has just been nominated for a Naledi
Award for his role as the sage profes-
sor. Not one to ease into a new year
gradually, Swerdlow has launched
straight into directing Bill C Davis’s
comedy-drama “Mass Appeal” at the
Studio at Pieter Toerien’s
Montecasino Theatre - starring, once
again, the venerable Graham
Hopkins. Both plays will also be
touring to the Theatre on the Bay in
Camps Bay.

Swerdlow and Hopkins have been
working together for nigh on 25
years - and even acted together as
members of PACT many years ago.
Muses Swerdlow: “We work well
together and I think I understand
his strengths as an actor.”

Like “Morrie”, “Mass Appeal” (on
in Johannesburg until March 27)
features a mentor/protégé element
– only this time, the setting is the
Catholic Church where a set-in-his-
ways priest learns lessons from a
trailblazing young seminarian with
radical ideas. Several years ago,
Toerien staged “Mass Appeal” with
Rex Garner and Eckhard Rabie, and
in the current, updated production
Hopkins plays Father Tim Farley,
with Clyde Berning as his rebellious
charge.

Another project Swerdlow is busy
with is “Streets of Gold”, at Gold
Reef City’s Lyric Theatre, from
March 25 to April 3. This home-
grown original musical has an
interesting genesis: it was commis-
sioned by AngloGold Ashanti.
Swerdlow says it’s encouraging that
a South African company is spon-

soring a large-scale theatre
production, “at a time when
big corporations are divesting
themselves of arts patronage.
It’s a positive step toward
stimulating the industry and
creating work.”

Director/choreographer
Vicky Friedman has assem-
bled a top-drawer team, sign-
ing up the likes of Fiona
Ramsay, Mark Richardson, Amor
Vittone, Samantha Peo and Shaun V
to star. Swerdlow has written the
script, members of pop-rock act
Cassette have penned the music,
Bryan Schimmel has done the orches-
tration and Denis Hutchinson is
responsible for the lighting.

“It’s set in a parallel universe,
where gold has been removed from
circulation to support a new digital
currency - the screenback,” explains
Swerdlow. “But people want their
gold back, and the Gold Liberation
Front arises.”

Finally - although there are even
more projects percolating as we
speak - Swerdlow will also be direct-
ing a farce called “Perfect Wedding”



for Toerien’s theatres, open-
ing in Cape Town in March
before moving to Johan-
nesburg from April 12.

“I had such fun doing
“Boeing Boeing” - and so did
the cast and audiences - that
we wanted to do another one
that hadn’t been performed
in South Africa before,” he
says. In Robin Hawdon’s

“Perfect Wedding”, a hungover
groom-to-be wakes up on his wedding
day with a strange naked woman
beside him in bed. This bedroom
farce will reunite Alan Committie
(also up for a Naledi for best comedy
actor) and Robert Fridjhon, who
made a hilarious pairing in “Boeing
Boeing” and who Swerdlow reckons
are “a new Rex (Garner) and Gordon
(Mulholland) in the making”.

Despite having to bounce from
small, intimate play to lavish musical
with more dexterity than the door-
slamming, bed-hopping players in
the farces he does so well, Swerdlow
is a master at keeping his wits about
him. Catch his name in lights soon -
at a theatre near you!



FELDMAN
ON FILM

Peter Feldman

PICK OF THE WEEK

The King’s Speech

*Cast: Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush, Helena
Bonham Carter*

Director: Tom Hooper

“The King’s Speech” is one of the few films
around today that one cannot praise enough - a
truly exceptional production that will leave you
quite speechless at the end.

It has already garnered a host of Oscar nomi-
nations, including one for best actor.

Tom Hooper’s film is based on a true, but lit-
tle known story of how England’s King George
VI overcame his stammer with the help of a
maverick Australian speech therapist, Lionel
Logue.

During a remarkable relationship with Logue,
he was given a voice with which to lead the
nation into war.

The beauty about this film is that it’s not
merely a superb period-piece, but it’s also a
heartfelt study of courage, duty and friendship
with warmly funny moments and some of the
best dialogue I’ve heard in ages.

Not only has Hooper created a superior his-
torical document, but the emotions evoked
here are of a powerfully personal nature, as
well.

Colin Firth is brilliant as the king who was
thrust into a role he didn’t want, and there’s an
equally impressive Geoffrey Rush as Logue. The
screenplay, which contains two of the best-writ-
ten roles I’ve seen in ages, delivers an engross-
ing human drama without sacrificing historical
accuracy.

When we meet Bertie, as he was known to his
family, he has been asked by his father, King
George V, to deliver a speech at the closing of
the Empire Exhibition in 1925.

That’s when we see the agony on his face and
the awkwardness he feels as he has to read the
speech, which is also being broadcast across

the nation.

His stammer became a massive challenge to
overcome later when the realisation set in that
his older brother, Edward VIII (Guy Pearce),
was preparing to give up the throne rather than
break off his relationship with a divorced
woman, and he, Bertie, would be king.

George took his kingly duties deeply serious-
ly. He realised he needed a voice to rule in the
age of radio and, therefore, sought help for his
speech impediment.

There are moments in Firth’s interpretation
that will linger long, one scene where he feels
the weight of kingship on his shoulders and col-
lapses in tears. It’s intimate and revealing and is
shaped by the actor with a mixture of delicacy
and firmness.

Geoffrey Rush crafts the Lionel Logue charac-
ter as a total opposite, from his scruffy Harley
Street office, to his unusual teaching methods.
But he was a caring and gifted man.

The supporting cast, too, excel; Helena
Bonham Carter as George’s supportive wife,
Elizabeth, Michael Gambon as his brusque
father, George V, and Guy Pearce as the Duke of
Windsor. It’s a winner in every respect.

Medical Matters

Compiled by Marlene Bilewitz. Contact (011) 023-8160, Cell 083-475-0288 or e-mail: marlene@sajewishreport.co.za

Medicine in a host of alternative forms



Ein Gedi Waterfall.

MARLENE AND BARRY
BILEWITZ

IN ORDER for us to live happy productive lives, we need to be healthy. In this supplement we wish to remind you of the different options available to us to encourage, maintain or cure the various ailments which plague us.

Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is the term for medical products and practices that are not part of standard care. Standard care is what medical doctors, doctors of osteopathy and allied health professionals, such as registered nurses and physical therapists, practice.

Alternative medicine means treatments that you use instead of standard ones. Complementary medicine means nonstandard treatments that you use along with standard ones. Examples of CAM therapies are acupuncture, chiropractic and herbal medicines. (Wikipedia).

Types of therapy regarded as standard medicine in certain parts of the world have reduced - or no - formal acceptance in others, for instance Shiatsu is regarded as main stream medicine in Japan and alternative treatment in the US and Europe.

Ozone therapy has only recently been unbanned in certain states of the US, but has been a valid complementary topical treatment

in Europe since the 1850s.

Non-standard treatments often originate as traditional healing systems from various regions of the globe, for instance there are records of acupuncture - the practice of inserting thin needles into specific body points to improve health, well-being and the reduction of pain - being practised in China since before 200 BCE.

Aromatherapy is a form of alternative medicine that uses distilled plant materials - essential oils - and other aromatic compounds for the purpose of altering a person's mood, improving memory and health, among others. Tea tree for example has anti-bacterial effects.

Chiropractic, the third largest health profession behind medicine and dentistry, is a health-care discipline and profession that emphasises diagnosis, treatment and prevention of mechanical disorders of the musculoskeletal system, especially the spine.

Treatment also includes exercises and health and lifestyle counselling. Chiropractors in South Africa are not licenced to write medical prescriptions or perform surgery.

Osteopathy or osteopathic medicine is very similar to chiropractic in that it emphasises the role of the musculoskeletal system in health and disease.

In the United States a trained Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, is legally and professionally

the equivalent to an MD. Outside of the United States, osteopathy has been considered a form of complementary medicine, emphasising a holistic approach.

Hatha Yoga as predominantly practised in the West, consists mostly of physical and breathing exercises. It is also recognised as a stress-reducing practice. Pranayama, the breathing exercises of Hatha Yoga, is practised to develop mental, physical and spiritual strength. Though the beginner's Pranayama is relatively harmless, safely progressing to more advanced stages requires the guidance of a knowledgeable teacher.

Hydrotherapy or hydrotherapy is the generic term for water therapies. It uses a whirlpool bath, hot Roman bath, hot tub, jacuzzi, cold plunge and mineral bath and showers.

These treatments use physical water properties, such as temperature and pressure, for therapeutic purposes, to stimulate blood circulation and treat the symptoms of certain diseases.

The therapeutic benefits of using water as a means of applying heat and cold to the body, have long been recognised as has its complementary treatment of rheumatic diseases. It also continues to be widely used for burn treatment.

Continued on page IV

Yoga for health and well-being

CONTRARY TO popular belief, the practice of yoga does not require the student to be flexible, nor does it require a religious belief. Anyone can practice yoga especially if it is taught as it should be by an authentic professional such as Swami Yogasagar who teaches an integrated class in progressive levels of practice.

The definition of Asana is a calm and relaxed poses where you are aware of the relaxation. Yoga stretching and postures should be relaxed and enjoyable. The stretching and holding of the body in a calm and relaxed way allows all of the systems and functions of the body to relax on a very deep level.

This relaxation extends to the emotional and mental energies of our personality. The breathing techniques of yoga release deep-seated emotional tensions and prepare the mind for a meditative experience.

Yoga Nidra is a deep relaxation technique for the complete personality of body and mind. Twenty minutes of Yoga Nidra is equivalent to four hours' sleep.

The techniques of yoga can be applied as a remedial therapy for the safe management and healing of many common health disorders. All stress-related ailments and complex emotional/physiological disorders such ADHD can be

treated successfully with yoga. The science of yoga is a personal and inner exploration of self-awareness. You can feel good in the body and mind by the regular practice of yoga postures, breathing and deep relaxation techniques.

Swami Yogasagar spoke at the Limmud Conference in 2009 on Chakras, and was very well received.

The Satyam Yoga School offers general classes in yoga and private remedial yoga sessions suitable for students who may require a personalised class. Enquiries can be directed to Swami Yogasagar by tel 081-360-0679 or e-mailing satyam@yoga.co.za





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MEDICAL MATTERS

Premier Cosmetics – from Dead Sea to your fingertips

PREMIER SOUTH AFRICA'S CEO Mason Schneider is the retailer, wholesaler, and distributor in South Africa. Mason not only sold Premier cosmetics abroad, he has also spent time with Premier Israel, and has attended all their training programmes. He travels around South Africa spending time at each store, as well as searching for new locations for Premier.

Premier Dead Sea Cosmetics uses the most advanced purification processes in the cosmetic science world, Premier exclusively captures the unique benefits of the Dead Sea, the world's largest spa, and creates the finest skin-care in the world –from the Dead Sea to your fingertips. All Premier products originate at the Dead Sea and are manufactured in Israel.

Premier Dead Sea Cosmetics is operating globally and has distribution centres throughout Israel, Jordan, the United States, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and over 18 countries throughout Europe. Our products are also being used in Canada and South America and now in South Africa.

With this international product comes experience you can count on from setups to successful sales. There is continuous research on the products for product development as well as diversifying the product range.

Premier Dead Sea Cosmetics, vary from natural Dead Sea face products to full-body products, hair shampoos, body butters and salt scrubs from head to toe.

Each product offers 26 minerals that are only found in the Dead Sea. The extracts are prepared with bio-organic, 100 per cent natural ingredients.

The entire range is affordable for people of all stripes and our highly-trained professionals will take the time to advise customers - within the price range they can afford - which product or packages would be most suitable for them.

Mason knows that with his natural skill, the support of the Jewish community and the right product, he will make the South African venture a resounding success. Not only is his staff complement predominantly Jewish, they put the focus in their interactions with people on changing mindsets and teaching people that Israel is a place of peace and of huge growth potential.

You can visit the stores in Eastgate, Rosebank, Bedfordview, The Glen, in Johannesburg; Gateway and Pavilion in KwaZulu-Natal; the V & A Waterfront, Tygervally, Canal Walk, Cavendish Square and Sea Point in Cape Town. For more information go to www.premierdeadsea.com or call 0861 AGELESS.



Mason Schneider, CEO of Premier Cosmetics.

Restore and revitalise with Israel's natural remedies



BARRY BILEWITZ

DAK TRAVEL will take you to the Dead Sea, the lowest spot on earth, where nature has created thermo-mineral springs with healing properties found nowhere else. This is where you will find the Ein Gedi hot springs.

The temperature of the water in this spa is a constant 38°C. The high concentration of salts in the water, 10 times greater than anywhere else, creates the Dead Sea's famous floating effect, providing a sense of weightlessness and soothing warmth.

The Ein Gedi Spa has the highest percentage bromine in the world, both in the air and in the water, which reduces blood pressure and relaxes the nervous system.

Due to the low altitude, there is a high percentage of oxygen which opens the respiratory system and makes physical exertion easier. The Ein Gedi hot springs are rich in sulphur, magnesium, calcium, sodium and potassium. These penetrate and detoxify the blood stream, leaving your body cleansed, relieved of pain, revitalised and calm.

The black mud, sold worldwide as a very effective cosmetic treatment, is available at the Dead Sea naturally and directly from the source. The mud absorbs toxins, invigorates circulation, makes you feel wonderful and strengthens your hair.

The spa itself has massage facilities, a safe bathing beach, fresh water pool (during the season), a picnic area and restaurant.

Another health resort with hot springs is Hamat Gader in northern Israel near the Sea of Galilee. It is one of Israel's prettiest and most popular tourist attractions. There are naturally flowing hot mineral springs and a range of other facilities, including treatments and massages, a water park, restaurants, and a crocodile farm with other animal exhibits.

Bathers enjoy the benefits of five hot springs ranging in temperature from 28°C to 52°C. Habbossem Spring, the most popular of the baths, has a constant temperature of 42°C and contains sulphur and other minerals with therapeutic qualities that include enhancing the metabolism, renewing cells, relieving aching joints and disorders of the urinal and digestive systems.

The water is constantly and naturally changing with no recycling necessary. The central baths are equipped with Jacuzzi beds and seats, water cannon for pain relief, a pampering whirlpool, a huge waterfall and intimate wooden cabins for treatments and massages.

• If you want to visit any of the above, or any other "health-spot" of the world, Dak Travel will organise your trip for you. Contact them on tel: (011) 440-5980.




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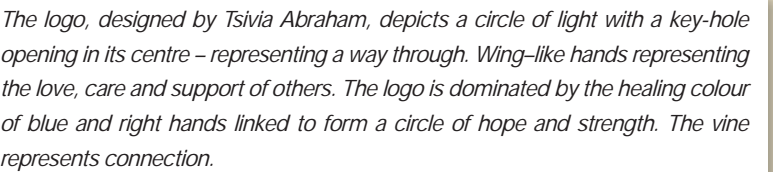



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MEDICAL MATTERS

Come smell the roses at Willowbrook



COME TO beautiful Willowbrook Retirement Village, to smell the roses, eat delicious food (regret non-kosher), and join in all the activities.

Whether you like daily walks or stretching exercises, a twice weekly trip to the shops or special outings to theatres or the countryside, you could be having a wonderful time right now.

For the less energetic, we have various games, arts and crafts, guest speakers and varied entertainers. It will also be a golden opportunity to socialise and enjoy life to the fullest.

Join us as a long-term resident, or come temporarily to recover from an illness or operation. The sisters and care workers are all experienced and kind -and are only too pleased to assist.

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the Day Care Unit.

Day Care allows you to participate in all the daily activities, develop new hobbies and best of all, make new friends. You can have your hair done or have a pedicure in comfort as well as enjoy outings or a good show. You have all the benefits that permanent residents enjoy, then go home in the evening pleasantly tired with lots to talk about.

Whatever you decide, you will have plenty of fun things to do as well as having first class nursing care available, should you need it.

Remember that Willowbrook Retirement Village has a semi frail and a frail-care unit with a higher than usual staff ratio. This means that there is peace of mind for the [hopefully distant] future.

Please feel free to phone or visit us without obligation. You can speak to Matron Pauline, Penny or Elizabeth, who are always there for you.

Medicine in a host of alternative forms

Continued from page 1

An example of an alternative type of treatment that is accepted in standard medicine since the 1950s is hypnotherapy, which is often applied in order to modify a subject's behaviour, emotional content, and attitudes, as well as a wide range of conditions including dysfunctional habits, anxiety, stress-related illness, pain management, and personal development.

Mixed results have been obtained for its efficacy in relation to the treatment of addictions, an area where high relapse is common.

There is evidence from several studies that hypnosis' inclusion in a weight reduction programme may significantly enhance outcome.

Music has been shown to affect portions of the brain. Part of music therapy is the ability of music to affect emotions and social interactions. Research has shown that music therapy is associated with a decrease in depression, improved mood, and a reduction in state anxiety. Additionally, it was found that music therapy had a positive effect on social and behavioural outcomes.

Current research also suggests that when music therapy is used in conjunction with traditional therapy, it improves success rates significantly.

Although omega-3 fatty acids have been known as essential to normal growth and health since the 1930s, awareness of their health ben-



efits has dramatically increased in the past few years.

The health benefits of the long-chain omega-3 fatty acids - DHA and EPA omega-3 - are the best known. These benefits were discovered in the 1970s by researchers studying the Greenland Inuit tribe. They consumed large amounts of fat from seafood, but displayed virtually no cardiovascular disease.

The high level of omega-3 fatty acids consumed by the Inuit reduced triglycerides, heart rate, blood pressure, and atherosclerosis.

People with certain circulatory problems, may benefit from such supplements containing EPA and DHA which stimulate blood circulation and have been shown to reduce blood pressure.

A 2007 systematic review found evidence that oral n-3 fatty acid supplements benefit cancer patients, reduce cardiovascular deaths, promote neuronal growth and have a role as non-prescription treatment for certain psychiatric and mental diagnoses.

Genetic conditions: Are you at risk?

SHELLEY MACAULAY AND
PROF AMANDA KRAUSE

MANY ARE aware of the increased risks for Tay-Sachs disease among the Jewish community, due to the Jewish population descending from a small number of ancestors and therefore sharing genetic information.

However, besides Tay-Sachs disease, there are a number of other inherited conditions for which the Ashkenazi Jewish people are at increased risk, due to their common origins. These include Canavan disease, cystic fibrosis, Fanconi anaemia, familial dysautonomia, Niemann-Pick, glycogen storage disease type 1a, mucopolidosis IV and Bloom syndrome (among others).

All of these are incapacitating and fatal conditions that affect young children, and for which sadly, there is no cure.

The conditions are inherited in an autosomal recessive manner. To have an affected child, both parents need to carry a faulty gene. Carriers are healthy individuals who do not have any symptoms and unless genetic testing is performed, would be oblivious to their genetic status.

Each time two carriers have a baby there is a 25 per cent (one in four) chance of having an affected child.

Individuals need to know their risks and understand the implications to enable them to make informed choices.

Genetic carrier testing for nine Ashkenazi Jewish diseases is available. The Division of Human Genetics, National Health Laboratory Service and the University of the Witwatersrand, perform the "Full Ashkenazi Test".

The testing procedure, approved by the Johannesburg Beth Din and supported by the Southern African Rabbinical Association, involves a simple blood test, and most medical aids do cover the cost.

Adult Ashkenazi Jewish individuals should consider testing to clarify their carrier status. If you are found to be a carrier of any of the nine conditions, it would be important to test your partner and genetic testing should ideally be done before planning a pregnancy.

If both partners are carriers, a genetic counsellor would discuss the implications, risks and options regarding planning a family. Halachic authorities could also be consulted.

In addition to the severe childhood conditions discussed above, there are other genetic diseases prevalent among the Ashkenazi Jewish population, like Gaucher disease and inherited breast and/or ovarian cancer syndrome.

Gaucher disease is also an autosomal recessive condition and carrier testing is available. Inherited breast and/or ovarian cancer is passed on in families in a dominant manner where one affected parent has a 50 per cent chance of giving the faulty gene to his/her children.

Genetic testing is available for high-risk families (families with a history of breast and/or ovarian cancer, particularly if the disease has occurred at a young age or in multiple individuals).

In accordance with international guidelines, genetic testing for inherited breast and/or ovarian cancer syndrome is only performed after an individual has attended a genetic counselling consultation.

Understanding your genetic risks is imperative to the well-being of your family. Having the necessary knowledge and facts assists individuals in making informed decisions.

- For any queries, please contact the Division of Human Genetics, NHLS and the University of the Witwatersrand on (011) 489-9223 or e-mail shelley.macaulay@nhls.ac.za or amanda.krause.nhls.ac.za

Article supplied by Genzyme. For more information contact (011) 996-3860.

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Going on holiday with the family for a week or more, will allow you peace of mind that your mom and dad are taken care of at Willowbrook, allowing them a home away from home.

To visit without obligation, please call Matron Pauline on 084-509-5594. Also Elizabeth and Penny on (011) 884-7305. They will be delighted to show you around.

TAPESTRY

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Belief systems worth more than a fleeting visit

The Masque of Africa: Glimpses of African Belief by VS Naipaul (Picador, R201)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODDBREY

NOBEL LAUREATE Sir Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul has long had a troubled relationship with religion. His previous books, almost without exception, have tussled with what he sees as its deleterious influence on developing countries battling to improve their quality of life, whether these criticisms were directed at Islam, Christianity or his own people’s Hinduism.

Now, in what purports to be an enquiry into the “nature of African belief” in the course of his travels to Uganda, Ghana, Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, Gabon and South Africa, he brings the same cynicism to bear.

The problem, however, is that achieving an understanding, in any depth, of the structure and function of a belief system - whether in Africa, Asia or elsewhere - depends on more than a brief visit using a foreign viewpoint as a prism.

Any anthropology student knows better than to attempt to isolate a belief system from its tribal or cultural context and, worse, judge it as an independent entity. And when such an inadvisable exercise is undertaken with jaundiced preconceptions, there is little hope for anything substantial from the visitor’s fleeting “glimpses”, as the book’s title attests.

Then, too, Naipaul’s physical discomfort during his journey through the continent exacerbates his disenchantment. Temperatures are intolerably high; the flies are oppressive; guides, and porters are unreliable and greedy; roads are rutted and garbage-strewn.

Like most travellers to Africa, Naipaul’s vision is fixated on its present squalor and its often violent past. In particular, his attention is focused on the apparent barbarity and cheapness of life in reli-

gious ritual in countries like Uganda.

“Apparent” because to an uninformed observer - which Naipaul, for all his erudition and acuity, surely is - it is dangerously easy to make value judgements based on Western/Eastern standards.

So he gives us repeated, detailed passages of prescribed human sacrifices or executions, citizens abusing animals and each other; the prominence of churches and mosques in dilapidated, infrastructurally poor villages and the seemingly unquestioning allegiance of the population to nominal religious leaders.

He explores, too, the inter-pollination of traditional African and foreign faiths, and the seditious effects of Christianity and Islam on the integrity of tribal integrity.

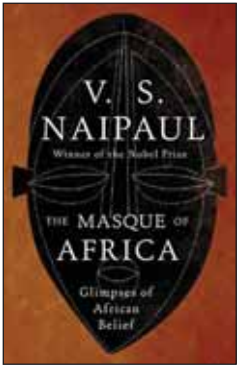
“With the new religion, people became insubordinate,” a Bugandan prince tells Naipaul.

“And that, of course, would have been true for both Christianity and Islam. To belong to either was to be part of a great world faith, approved and organised, with a great literature and famous solid buildings; the temptation to look away from the much smaller thing, of grass, that was one’s own was great.”

He notes, too, the repetition of tyrannical regimes among tribal African peoples, one despot emulating another through the centuries. “Amin and Obote have a kind of ancestry. The British colonial period, with law and without local wars, has to be seen as an interlude.

“But how do Africans live with their African history? Perhaps the absence of a script and written records blurs the past; perhaps the oral history gives them only myths,” he muses.

Indeed. The cosmologies of African peoples - constantly reinvented and elaborated upon in order to explain past abuses of their



traditional lifestyles - illustrate this clearly.

Intercessionaries in the form of witchdoctors, oracles and diviners - not unlike the role of prophets - straddle the ancestral realm and the modern world to ensure that developments and calamities in one can be compensated for in another.

Achieving this balance is what sustains ancient African faiths in the face of increasingly corrosive modern forces.

In Nigeria, soaring crime levels - due to uncontrolled rates of urbanisation, together with centuries-old tribal rivalries and modern-day political corruption which reinforce and play on each other - charismatic Christian churches exist uneasily alongside Yoruba gods and goddesses. Both have an unassailable place.

Yet Naipaul is told: “Even the pastor of the church will go very quietly, if he can, to the traditional priest and the shrine... The average African is very afraid of the pagan... Muslims and Christians practise forgiveness and cannot harm you. In the pagan religion, there is no forgiveness. It is a tit-for-tat religion. There are rules you have to follow very strictly, and if you go against them, you either die or go mad.”

He avoids wholesale condemnation of what he sees and hears, but the subtext is unmistakable.

In fairness, though, there are moments of wonder. His fascination with, for example, the hallucinogen-powered, astral journeys of Gabon’s Fang people, forces him to concede the ingeniousness of certain rituals. His distaste for religion, its encumbrances and anomalies, does not wholly blind him to its often overwhelming beauty.

And, for all his cynicism, Naipaul has a knack for locating flaws in structures which others invariably miss, a good many of them gleaned

from casual interviewees. Yet he accepts at face value whatever those interviewees tell him.

Someone in Gabon - a “foreign, but well-placed source” - claims that hundreds of people were ritually murdered for the funeral of President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. Naipaul accepts it as fact. While this is a common enough practice among travel writers recording their first (indeed, only)

impressions, it hardly makes for credibility.

The wisest approach to take to this book is the cautious one: treat it as a very subjective account of traditional religions in Africa and simply enjoy Naipaul’s effortlessly fluid and beguiling writing, for it occasionally transcends his rancour and palpable sadness, and casts light on an otherwise heavily adumbrated work.

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L’Afrique exhibition on until end February



Curator, Nessa Leibhammer.
(PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER)

ROBYN SASSEN

L’AFRIQUE, a tribute exhibition at MuseumAfrica to the late art historian Maria Stein-Lessing and her husband Leopold Spiegel, curated by Nessa Leibhammer and Natalie Knight, reviewed in these pages in 2009, was originally pegged to be open until December 2010. Extended

until February 28, it was relaunched recently, for the launch of the Stein-Lessing/Spiegel Bursary for art history study at the University of the Witwatersrand.

Spiegel bequeathed R20 000 for the bursary, per year, over 10 years, to be awarded on the basis of merit and need. For more information: (011) 717-4611.

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IN THIS INSTANCE A RECIPROCAL PUNISHMENT IS NEEDED

RECENTLY THE Media Review Network (MRN) and the Palestinian Solidarity Alliance (PSA) falsely accused (Kadima Party leader) Tzipi Livni and South Africans who participated in Operation Cast Lead (the Gaza war) of “war crimes” similar to that of dictators Charles Taylor, Omar Bashir and the Nazis. Sentences for such crimes could be life imprisonment or death.

While South Africa’s National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) could find no grounds for such prosecutions, Tractata Makkos, in Seder Nezkin (Deuteronomy 19:16-21), defines such people as

CRUELTY INHERENT IN FACTORY FARMING IS AN OBSCENITY

OVER A year ago (Jewish Report Rosh Hashanah edition 2009), Drs Menache, Picker and myself argued that the cruelties inherent in factory farming render not only meat and chicken unkosher, but also battery eggs and milk.

We asked the Beth Din to justify how they could endorse the maiming of chickens, whose beaks and toes are often cut off, without anaesthetic, in order to facilitate their being crammed into cages so small they can never spread their wings.

Male chicks, a by-product of the egg industry, are routinely ground up alive. Not only do these barbaric acts contravene the Torah injunction of tsa’ar ba’alei chayim - the prevention of suffering to living creatures - but they almost certainly contravene the Noahite Law not to remove flesh from a living animal.

The Beth Din, by condoning barbaric practices forbidden even to non-Jews, are betraying the Jewish community. The kosher hechsher does not

LOOK AT BA’ATA FOR EXAMPLE OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

AFTER RETURNING from Israel, I have decided to share my voice on the debate raging in the paper.

I visited a village called Ba’ata which is situated right on the green line, in fact the green line cuts directly through the village making half of it an Israeli village and the other half a Palestinian one. The only thing separating them is a little ditch in the road.

Amazingly the people in Ba’ata live peacefully together, businesses flourish on both sides of the city, schools a stone’s throw away fly separate flags, yet the children play sport together after school.

This situation here is a clear microcosm of the term two-state solution, with neither side at war with each other. There is no need for boycotts as Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu calls for. There is no need to add more wood to the fire; what the Archbishop is doing, is simply adding more wood to the fire, increasing the tension - the final squeeze before the blister of turmoil pops.

Moreover, I looked into the African refugee problem Israel is currently experiencing. People from Sudan and Eritrea are coming to Israel seeking asylum. Are they being turned away?

No. They are firstly being healed by the army,

NOT ‘GOOD’ ENOUGH? THEN KD SCHOOLS DON’T WANT YOU

I HAVE only been reading your paper for a couple of months, so it was with some interest that I read the articles of the last few weeks discussing the high matric pass rate at Jewish schools, which recalled my bitter experience of the same, and when I read the article on the Wolf brothers, I felt I had to comment:

In 1981, in standard 7, having been at King David School Linksfield since grade 1, my parents and I were called in by Elliot Wolf for a meeting in which he voiced his concern over some of my marks and gave his recommendation that my parents remove me from King David and send me to a trade school, as I would have little or no chance of passing matric.

Despite my promises to try harder, he remained adamant. I subsequently was enrolled at Studywell College, where I attained a most satisfactory matric in 1984, and today, after study in several fields I am the MD of a multimillion-rand turnover business.

I felt that comment was called for, as it was then a little-kept secret that certain schools maintained their high pass rate record for matric by carefully weeding out those learners who appeared as though they might spoil the school’s advertised “record” of a 100 per cent pass-rate.

I do not deny that there were teachers and subjects I had problems with, but a professional intervention could clearly have remedied this, as my later experience under headmaster Henry Blumenthal of Studywell was to prove.

To Mr Wolf I want to say that it should be borne in mind that young psyches are sensitive and his decision left me with a feeling of inferiority that

Zomemin Witnesses where an individual wilfully makes a false statement to a court of law (purgery).

My understanding of this Jewish law would suggest that the MRN and PSA should therefore be punished with the very consequences that they had planned to have inflicted upon the “victims of their plot” - a reciprocal punishment - and not the bland refusal by the NPA to prosecute, with no legal consequences.

Mark Wade
Johannesburg

make an item kosher - it merely confirms that it is. Since the cruelties inherent in factory farming are clearly an obscenity in any moral society, battery eggs are treif, and any Jew who brings treif products into his/her kitchen is defiling his/her home.

Even if the Chief Rabbi, who, ironically, prides himself on his sensitivity to the suffering of the innocent, does not deem animals worthy of his moral concern, he should at the very least be concerned about the kosher status of his congregants’ kitchens, let alone his own.

The Chief Rabbi of Israel will no longer label certain imported meats as “kosher”, given the cruelties involved in the slaughtering process. Surely the South African Beth Din can turn its attention towards issues of this kind?

Dr Elisa Galgut
Cape Town

after being shot by Egyptian border police while trying to flee the country. They are then dropped off in southern Tel Aviv, where they are met by the African Refugee Development Centre (ARDC) where they are given a clothing bundle and some food to start them off in their new country.

The ARDC also gives classes in Hebrew, making it easier for the refugees to be absorbed into their new country while their asylum status is being processed. This is the side of Israel I saw - not a blood-thirsty human rights abuser, but rather a country of peace-seeking people.

What is needed is for people to look at Ba’ata as an example of a way in which harmony and peace can be achieved. Israel is not the blood-thirsty country people make it out to be. Stop the call for boycotts; allow the Israelis and Palestinians to sit down and talk together without the whole world interfering.

I believe that those two groups of people can sit down and talk and discuss peace without outside intervention needed and there can be a Jewish state and a Palestinian state side by side in the Middle East.

Ori Tobias
Glenhazel, Johannesburg

took some years to overcome, and it alienated me from the Jewish community, as I felt betrayed by being found wanting by the school I looked up to. And I still feel somewhat bitter today on being reminded of the incident, while reading the Jewish Report.

As things are, it was a better path I took as Studywell exposed me to a broad range of ethnic groups and it better prepared me for my future than King David could have done.

In point of fact, I have not been an active member of the Jewish community these last 25 years, due largely to the alienation I felt after Wolf’s judgement and I have only started re-attending shul and taking part in Jewish affairs recently, as a result of moving to Krugersdorp, where Gerry Lange and Marc Kopman “headhunted” a newly-arrived Jewish family and convinced me to join services at the shul, where Rabbi Danny Dworcan and the rest of the wonderfully friendly Krugersdorp congregation showed me how welcome I was.

I now attend most services during the week, as the Krugersdorp Jewish community has welcomed me with open arms - the first time that I have a sense of religious “place” within the broader Jewish community, since I was at primary school.

I wonder if the practice of “streaming” still exists today, as I have heard through the years from others that my situation was far from unique. I wonder what the long-term implications were for others with similar experiences to mine.

Jonathan Kaicener
Noordheuwel, Krugersdorp

SAJBD RESPONDS TO STANLEY LUNTZ’S LETTER IN THE SAJR

STANLEY LUNTZ’S letter of February 4 (“Board is in state of denial regarding Baal Shem Tov Shul”) is just the latest broadside in what has for some reason been allowed to escalate into an exceptionally acrimonious, damaging and divisive controversy.

While any further response from the SAJBD, far from allaying certain people’s concerns, is likely only to provoke further abusive comment, some of the specific accusations Luntz levels do require a brief response, if only for the record.

- Most seriously, the SAJBD is accused of turning “a deaf ear to reports and evidence of (Councillor Christine) Walters’ rabidly anti-Semitic actions”. In fact, as it does with all claims of anti-Semitism (especially when attributed to public figures), the Board, with its legal advisers, investigated the allegations very thoroughly indeed.

Our conclusion was that the available evidence was insufficient to either confirm or refute accusations of anti-Semitic behaviour, and that no constructive purpose would therefore be served by proceeding along those lines.

Mr Luntz is free to disagree with that conclusion, but this does not justify his baseless accusation that the Board failed to deal with the matter.

- Luntz’s allegation that SAJBD Director Wendy Kahn “lied” when saying she had never met with Ms Walters when in fact the Board’s chairman, Zev Krengel, had done so, is unjust and uncalled for.

The truth is that Mrs Kahn had indeed never personally met with Walters and understood the question to be directed at herself. At worst, therefore, this was a case of “crossed wires”, but Luntz chooses rather to depict it as a case of deliberate dishonesty.

Has the writer further considered just what the Board had to gain by concealing the fact that it had met with Walters? Far from putting it in a bad

BEWARE WHEN OZONE LAYER OF HUMAN PROTECTION GOES

I RECENTLY spent two very pleasant weeks in South Africa having emigrated 25 ago to Sydney, Australia.

I have been back numerous times and have been pleasantly surprised at some of the positive integration that has occurred.

Fortunately the blood baths and anarchy that some people predicted did not occur.

What astounded me was how disgustingly the white people talk to the black people in all walks of life, especially noticed at kosher counters in supermarkets where I heard my fellow Jews, including Israelis, abusing attendants as if they were animals.

These people were not afforded the privileged education that we received for generations and have had to struggle their way into the jobs that

CONVERSIONS NOT AN OPTION TO STRENGTHEN JUDAISM

JARED JOEL makes some interesting and valid points in his letter “SA Jews can strengthen position through alliances, conversions“. In terms of “alliances”, this is already indeed a “work in progress”.

The many charitable activities constantly undertaken by the Jewish day schools and various organisations, are regularly featured in the Jewish press.

However, this is not sufficiently featured in the general media. Why not? Should we not be letting all South Africans know how we “hold hands” with these wonderfully generous and bonding endeavours?

Regarding “conversions”: This worthy suggestion, dear Joel, is sadly “pie (or perogen) in the sky”!

Considering that candidate convertees often endure many years of grilling and investigation lest any, however small, nuance of observance

light, such a meeting shows how it exercised its initiative in trying to resolve the situation on behalf of the shul.

- Contrary to claims that the Board has ignored the Baal Shem Tov issue we have been regularly involved in trying to resolve it for over a year now. During this time, we offered our assistance, input, support and guidance every step of the way, with these offers ultimately being declined.
- Finally, it is simply not true that the Board prevented the BST Rabbi from appearing on ChaiFM, something the station manager, Kevin Fine, will readily verify.

BST representatives have had extensive coverage both in the print and electronic media, and while our belief remains that fighting this case in the media is counter-productive, we have never and will never try to prevent them from following this route.

Probably, none of the above will satisfy those who are determined to believe that the SAJBD is in denial about anti-Semitic threats to Jewish institutions and is bent on hindering rather than helping when it comes to safeguarding the BST’s future.

However, I hope that the community at large will recognise that even if one disagrees with the stance the Board has taken, all its actions have been informed by a sincere belief as to what is the most sensible and effective way of addressing the situation.

After 108 years of fighting anti-Semitism, I think we can claim to have at least a basic working knowledge of the when, where and how of addressing anti-Semitic behaviour. That we can undeniably point to an impressive track record in this regard is in no small measure due to knowing when a case is strong enough to be followed through to a successful conclusion and when it is not.

David Saks
Associate Director SAJBD

David Evian
Sydney, Australia

Sonja Bulkin
Highlands North, Johannesburg

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



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Avrom Krengel
Chairman

A column of the South African Zionist Federation

POLITICAL EVENTS in and around Israel since the 2006 46th SA Zionist Federation Conference have had major impacts on Jewish communities around the world, specifically the kidnapping of Gilad Shalit in June 2006, the second Lebanon War the following month, the Annapolis Conference in 2007, Operation Cast Lead in 2008, the release of the Goldstone Report in 2009 and the Gaza Flotilla incident in 2010.

But Israel is not only political; and during the same time we celebrated the Nobel Prize in Chemistry won in 2009 by Prof. Ada Yonath, the first Israeli woman to win a Nobel Prize.

We also noted with pride that only one day following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, 220 Israelis, comprising teams of doctors and rescue and relief workers, were already on their way to offer much needed assistance.

The country's economy has grown steadily, with Israel officially joining the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 2010; and there has been a noticeable increase in aliyah figures from South Africa.

The devastating fires in the Carmel Mountains at the end of last year, left 40 Israelis dead and millions of trees destroyed, but Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority, among others, offered much-needed help to the country as she reeled under the shock of this immense tragedy.

Throughout all these happenings, the SA Zionist Federation has been at the forefront of defending Israel and promoting the truth. We have fought for the right to present the facts as they are, and to support Israel in her ongoing

‘Footsteps to the future’

ing battle against the world's hostility and attempts to delegitimise her.

Towards the end of March this year, the SA Zionist Federation will be hosting its 47th Conference - "Footsteps to the Future" - bringing Israel to our community.

We have a magnificent line-up of guest speakers and we urge people not to miss the opportunity of hearing firsthand astute and perspicacious analyses of much of what has happened these past four years.

On Saturday night March 2, the gala opening event will be addressed by John Howard, prime minister of Australia from 1997 – 2006, and a great friend of Israel; and Professor Alan Dershowitz, Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard Law Schools, whose books on Israel are required reading for anyone needing or wanting to know the country's true history and political background.

On Sunday March 27, the different sessions will be addressed by a number of international and local speakers. Among the former is Col Richard Kemp, commander of the British Forces in Afghanistan in 2003 and one of those who gave evidence to the Goldstone Commission on the morality of the IDF; while Tim Hughes of the SA Institute of International Affairs, is another of our guests.

...

This Conference will give audiences some excellent insights into Israel, the Middle East and the future, both of that region and of our relationship as a strongly Zionist community going into the next decades with Israel.

Booking is essential; and the nominal fee of R50 per person will go to the rehabilitation of the Carmel Forests.

Phone bookings can be done on (011) 645-2541; or e-mail Sharon@beyachad.co.za

This column is paid for by the SAJF



ABOVE BOARD
Zev Krengel,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

IVAN LEVY, who sadly passed away last Shabbat, epitomised the SAJBD's zero-tolerance stance towards anti-Semitism. An outstanding lawyer, who headed one of the country's leading law firms, he continually put his considerable skills at the disposal of our community to assist in combating anti-Jewish prejudice in all its manifestations. He further provided pro bono assistance to a range of Jewish communal organisations.

At the time when I first became involved at the SAJBD, Ivan already occupied a senior position within its leadership structures. He went on to become chairman of the Gauteng Council and national vice-chairman, and after stepping down from these positions continued to serve on the Board's legal subcommittee.

The acumen, industry and devotion to safeguarding Jewish well-being that he unfailingly displayed throughout his communal career will be greatly missed. On behalf of the SAJBD, I extend my sincerest condolences to his wife, Barbara, children and family.

‘BDS’ – the latest strategy to delegitimise Israel

The strategy of boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel is often claimed by its proponents to be no more than a way of pressurising Israel to change its "unjust" policies vis-à-vis the Palestinians.

Looking just a little way beneath the surface, however, we quickly find that what is at issue is not this or that particular Israeli policy but the very right of Israel to exist at

Remembering Ivan Levy

all. The phenomenon has manifested in various ways in South Africa – most recently in the publicity attracted by the visiting music group Faithless' professed refusal to visit Israel – and we can expect it to continue to surface for some time to come.

To date, Jewish organisations have worked together in confronting these attacks in every way possible, be it the attempted boycott of Ahava products, the attempt to prevent Cape Town Opera from visiting Israel and the campaign to bring about the severance of ties between the University of Johannesburg and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

We will continue to join forces in confronting this pernicious tactic, which masquerades as a human rights campaign but is in reality a dishonest, hypocritical and manipulative attempt to drive Israel out of the family of nations.

University exams – pleasing successes

Over the past couple of weeks, we have been able to successfully deal with problems relating to the writing of university exams close to Shabbat at Unisa and the scheduling of a Wits graduation ceremony on Shabbat.

This resolution was made possible by the very accommodating and understanding approach of those institutions, for which we are extremely grateful. We will continue to work closely with the various universities to ensure that observant students are not prejudiced by timetable clashes.

To assist us in this, we urge that those facing such difficulties contact us at the first opportunity so that we can take those cases up as timeously as possible.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD



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Helen Raff (second from right) with her daughters Miri Raff (left), a 2010 matriculant from Torah Academy Girls' High, and Tovi Steiner, a Kodesh teacher at the GHS and Helen's father Ben Bader.

Faygie and Moshe Montrose with their son and daughter-in-law Shmuel and Rivkie, granddaughter Tali (in front) and son Yossi (back, left).



TA bids farewell to two of its stalwarts

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUZANNE BELLING

LONGSTANDING STAFF members of Torah Academy, Faygie Montrose, Boys' High School secretary for the past 27 years, and Helen Raff, social worker for the past 17, had gone beyond their duties and the "daily grind of responsibility" and were among the "true heroes who do it themselves", said TA dean, Rabbi Dovid Hazdan.

He was speaking at a farewell reception in their honour at the school late last year.

"A lot of seasons have come and gone, generations of past pupils are now grown men and you have worked with many personnel," Rabbi Hazdan said.

He drew the gathering's attention to a midrash that highlights the importance of the verse "Shema Yisrael" that proclaims our faith and the verse "veahavta lereacha kamocho" ("you shall love your neighbour as yourself") that teaches us to love our neighbour.

It continues to say that the verse teaching the daily consistent sacrifice super-

sedes the above verses. He mentioned that Faygie and Helen had always been an example of faith in Hashem and love and concern for people, but beyond that, they mastered the fulfilment of daily duty, commitment and dependability for so many years.

Faygie, who has over the years worked for a number of principals of TABHS, said she had mixed feelings about leaving and would not retire from working "as the Rebbe did not believe in retirement".

She said the 27 years she had worked represented "zach" (which meant pure) and Helen's 17 stood for "tov" (good).

Helen reflected on her years working with learners from "different Jewish backgrounds" including the gifted to those with emotional or physical disabilities.

"Change is not always easy, but it is necessary." She advised the young and new educators "to take the baton from the older educationists" in ensuring continuity.

Rabbi Hazdan made presentations on behalf of the school to Faygie and Helen.

2 KDVP Primary School teachers retire

CINDY MORRIS AND SEFFIE BECKER PHOTOGRAPH: SHIRA TOLLMAN

TZIPPY DAMELIN has been associated with the King David family for many, many years She has always been totally accepted and part of our special, caring family at King David. She first started teaching here in 1991.

Her dedication to teaching is much to be admired. She is kind, loving and a second "mommy" to all the children she has taught. She is eager to share her knowledge of Yiddishkeit as can be seen and heard in davening every morning, as well as the heart-warming grade 2 siddur ceremony.

Dynamite comes in small packages. As small as she is "Mrs D" exudes much professionalism and integrity and is a true lady to her fingertips. A true Eishet Chayil! All at King David Victory Park Primary thank you for all your dedication and service and wish you all the best in your new venture.

Maureen Slabe left the school after having served there for 35 "short" years. She has touched the lives of generations of young and old.

Maureen has helped build the very foundations that has made this school what it is today. Many children have been fortunate to experience her endearing, kind, compassionate and most of all nurturing ways.



Maureen Slabe and Tzippy Damelin.

The versatility of Maureen is evident in the fact that she has taught many different grades and age groups.

For those of you who know her well, will know that her passion definitely lies with the little ones. She has the ability to inspire the quietest child to speak. On behalf of all the staff and children, go well. Enjoy your own children and grandchildren. Good luck for all your endeavours. Behatzlacha!

YOUTH TALK

Alison Goldberg youthsajr@global.co.za

YC learners attend a high-profile US seminar

OWN CORRESPONDENT. PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

AS A forerunner in South African Jewish education, Yeshiva College in Johannesburg constantly strives to bring new, innovative ideas and programmes to the Jewish schooling culture of the country.

Every year, Yeshiva University of New York hosts a Model United Nations programme aimed at unifying and educating Jewish youth from the Americas and Canada in international affairs.

This year, the three-day seminar ran from February 6 - 8 and hosted debates covering topics such as human rights issues, world health and warfare, among others. For the first time in the history of the Yunmun programme, South African learners participated.

Yeshiva College sent a delegation of four learners to take part in this year's seminar, pioneering what will hopefully become an eligible, distinguished programme open to all Jewish day schools across South Africa. This year's Yeshiva College delegation



Zac Feldman; Raphi Feldman; Sarah Levin; and Naomi Shear.

will return to initiate a permanent South African participation in this phenomenal programme. The learners who represented Yeshiva College were Zac Feldman, Raphi Feldman, Naomi Shear and Sarah Levin. They were accompanied by principal Denese Bloch.

Mitch Braff highlights role of Jewish partisans

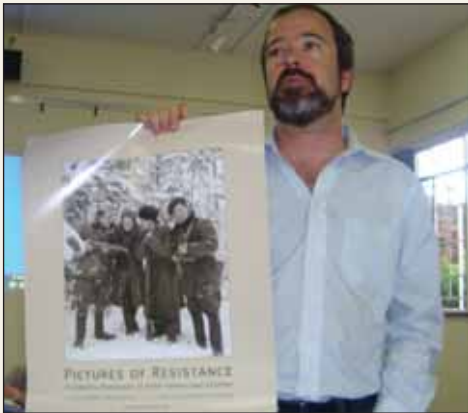
RONNIE MINK PHOTOGRAPH: GARY BLOCK

ON WEDNESDAY, February 2, King David High School (Linksfield) played host to the renowned Holocaust educator, Mitch Braff.

Braff, who lives in San Francisco, is the founder and director of the Jewish Partisans Educational Foundation whose aim is to collect, record and disseminate testimony from surviving Jewish partisans who waged a desperate struggle for survival against the Nazis during the Shoah.

This struggle has been vividly and accurately portrayed in Edward Zwick's successful movie "Defiance", which highlighted the role played by the Bielski brothers' partisan unit in the forests of Belarus. Braff was a consultant in the making of this movie.

Braff gave a fascinating hour-long multimedia presentation to the grade 11 classes, and also conducted a seminar for teachers



Mitch Braff giving his presentation.

in the afternoon, where his organisation's teaching units were discussed.

Through Braff's work, the true role of the partisans have gained the recognition they so richly deserve.



Ryan Lang's family, Rachel, Jenny and Clive Lang. His mom, Jenny, reads out a poem to the group.

KDHL remembers passing away of Ryan Lang

KEREN ZWICK PHOTOGRAPH: GARY BLOCK

THE MORNING of February 7, witnessed a sad occasion at King David High School Linksfield when the school held a memorial service for Ryan Lang, a grade 12 learner, who passed away earlier this year.

Ryan's tragic death was a traumatic loss to the grade, the school and the Jewish community as a whole.

His family joined the school in the morning for a prayer service and a memorial ceremony. Friends Ashlee Zlotnick, Gabriel Smith and Myra Rosin, addressed the school, reminding everyone to commemorate the

incredible tenacity and spirit of Ryan.

Subsequent to this, the family, friends, staff and grade 12 learners planted a tree in Ryan's memory in the courtyard outside the admin block. The tree and its plaque will serve as a constant reminder of Ryan's legacy in the school. He will always be lovingly remembered here.

Ryan was in fact a pupil of mine for the past two years and I was eagerly looking forward to teaching him for his final year at school. His incredible curiosity and courage were always an inspiration to me and his determination to succeed in every moment of his life, made him an inspiration to everyone with whom he came into contact.



Six week course to put greater meaning to life

RABBI ARI Kievman, known for his work with the community’s seniors, is spearheading a six week course under the auspices of Chabad, entitled “Towards a Meaningful Life: A Soul-Searching Journey for Every Jew” The course starts in February, Tuesday, 15th at 09:30 at Chabad House and at 19:45 at Chabad at Village Walk; Thursday, 17th at 19:45 at Chabad at Torah Academy; Tuesday, 22nd at 09:30 at Savoy, and lastly Gallo Manor; Thursday, 23rd at 19:45. In a media release Rabbi Kievman calls it an “intellectually stimulating, hands-on learning experience that addresses the fundamental aspects of life

and looks at how you can breathe more meaning into the life you currently lead.”

He describes it as being “designed to equip and empower you to make paradigm shifts in your life and set your life in the direction you’ve always wanted it to go”.

Including writing your own personal mission statement, developing healthy attitudes toward love and relationship and learning how to balance work and personal life, as well as the pursuit of money and how to find meaning in it all, the course is “not a simple matter of ‘don’t worry, be happy’, but of seeing the big picture and refocusing, and infusing daily life with the

timeless wisdom of Judaism - at all levels of observance”.

Developed by the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute, Chabad Lubavitch’s adult education arm, the course is offered through 300 Chabad affiliates, including the Chabad branches in Savoy, Johannesburg; Village Walk and Gallo Manor, Sandton; the Torah Academy Shul in Oaklands, Johannesburg; and in Umhlanga Rocks and Cape Town.

Heavily endorsed by writers, radio talk-show hosts, professors and other highly qualified professionals, including Jewish luminaries like historian Sir Martin Gilbert Alan Dershowitz, Simon Wiesenthal and many others, this series of six 90-minute sessions is designed to help you break the cycle of existential anxiety and to begin to really live life the way it’s meant to be lived.

• To register, call Chabad House: (011) 440-6600 or e-mail rak@chabad.org.za or visit www.JLI.com

Jewish Learning Centre offers life skills course

THE GREAT PARK Synagogue in Johannesburg is offering an exciting six-week course, entitled “Toward a Meaningful Life”. The venue is the Clive M Beck Auditorium at the Great Park Synagogue and the dates are six consecutive Mondays beginning February 14 to March 21, at 19:45 to 21:15. Cost for the entire course is R200. Bursaries are available.

“The objective of this course is to teach and empower individuals of all backgrounds with new life skills based on traditional Torah thought, thereby enabling them to transform the way they view their daily lives”, according to a media release from the Jewish Learning Centre in Johannesburg.

During the course “we will examine the spectrum of life, personal growth, relationships, home, work, special challenges, and the role of G-d and faith in daily existence. Participants will be invited to challenge their current views and consider more meaningful approaches to these topical subjects.”

Each lesson is presented with interactive PowerPoint and video presentation as well as an accompanying textbook. In addition, each self-contained lesson will conclude with a toolbox of exercises and guidelines to help students make full use of the ideas and strategies that will be discussed.

Like all previous JLI courses, Toward a Meaningful Life is designed to appeal to people at all levels of Jewish knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public.

Rabbi Ziegler joins Cyrildene Shul

CYRILDENE SHUL invites the Jewish community and in particular present and previous members who have been associated with the shul for some 70 years, to participate in the inauguration of Rabbi Yochanan Ziegler as the spiritual leader of the congregation.

Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein will officiate at the inauguration which starts at 08:30 on Sunday, February 20.

The service will be followed by a breakfast in the shul hall. RSVP Rhona (011) 616-3312.

ChaiFM’s Keep it Clean campaign gets going

THE CHAIFM Keep it Clean campaign got going at the James Ethel Gray Park in Birdhaven, Johannesburg, last Sunday.

The community station said in a media release its appeal to the community to clean up the polluted river at the park was heeded by more than 100 people of all ages.

The station says the campaign is aimed at creating awareness of the impact of a clean and healthy environment and to be the station that leads by example.

Marketing Manager Maayan Steele focuses on the community as agents of change and ChaiFM prides itself in being the protagonist for all communities. Says Steele, “The Keep it Clean park clean-up is just the first of many initiatives and we are now looking to partner with the Alexandra community to clean up the Jukskei River.”

THE JEWS of DISTRICT SIX

While District Six has today become an international symbol of apartheid’s inhumane forced removals policy, few remember that it was once home to thousands of immigrant Jews who were escaping poverty and Tsarist oppression. Mainly from Lithuania, they established a vibrant community within a uniquely multi-ethnic neighbourhood in early twentieth century Cape Town.

To ensure that this important facet of the Jewish experience in South Africa is not lost, the Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies at UCT is preparing an exhibition on the *Jews of District Six* in 2012.

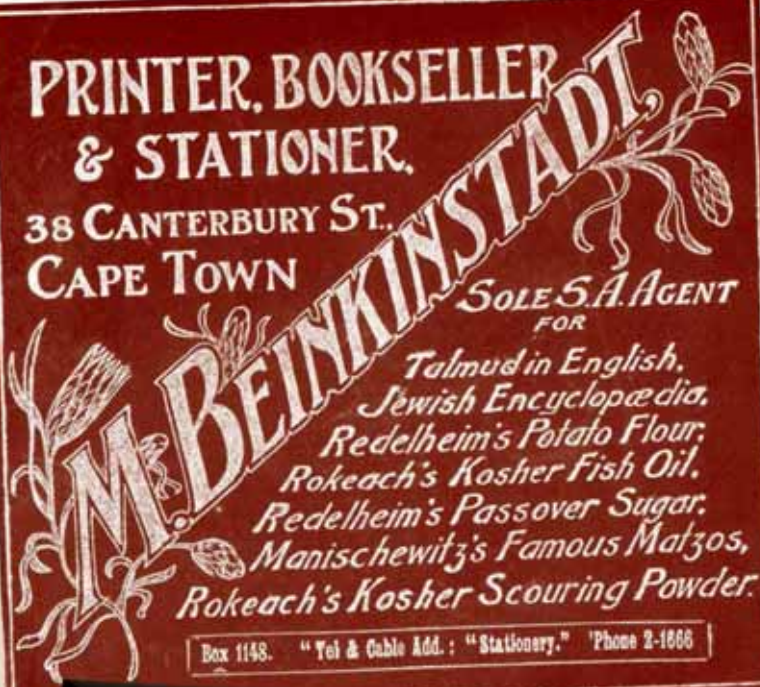


We are therefore appealing to the public to assist in our search for any of the material listed below that will enhance the quality of the exhibition:

- Photographs and Films
- Newspapers/newspaper clippings
- Posters
- Business records of any kind such as invoices and inventories
- Barmitzvah and wedding invitations
- Theatre and musical programmes
- Diaries, letters, memoirs (any language)
- Minute books/correspondence of societies
- Personal or family recollections

Please be assured that all material will be immediately scanned and returned.

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Millie Pimstone
021 438 6901; mapimstone@telkomsa.net

Adrienne Folb
021 438 3464; adyfolb@iafrica.com

Janine Blumberg
021 650 3062; Janine.Blumberg@uct.ac.za

We look forward to hearing from you.

Prof. Milton Shain
Director: Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, UCT

WHAT’S ON

Barry Bilewitz barry@sajewishreport.co.za

NOTE: Deadline for all entries is 12:00 on the Friday prior to publication.

Today Friday (February 11)

- **UZLC** presents Ivor Davis on “Why we Write Letters to the Press”.

Sunday (February 13)

- **Big Band Music Appreciation Society** is meeting in the Jeffrey Auditorium, St John’s College, St John’s Road, Lower Houghton at 14:15. Contact Dave on (011) 885-3525 or Barney on (011) 615-3412.
- **Second Innings** hosts “Fascinating Aida” at the Montecasino Theatre. Cost: R100. Meet at 15:00 at the theatre or 13:00 at Oxford Shul parking for the bus (extra R50).
- **RCHCC** and **JHGC** present the free exhibition, “Pictures of Resistance” at 18:30, followed by the screening of “Saved by Deportation” at 19:30 - donation R50.
- **Monday (February 14)**
- **UJW Johannesburg** presents Phillip Altbeker on “Going to the Movies” at 09:30.
- **Jewish Learning Centre** is starting a course “Towards a Meaningful Life” on six consecutive Mondays. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium – Great Park Synagogue. Time: 19:45 – 21:15. Fee: R200 for

entire course. Bursaries are available. For reservations please contact Rabbi Simpson on 079-106-4777 or e-mail shmuelsimpson@gmail.com

Tuesday (February 15)

- **Bnoth Zion Association Wizo AGM** at Albow Centre, Cape Town at 09:30. Guest speaker is Mervyn Smith, chairman African Jewish Congress.
- **RCHCC** and **JHGC** present the free exhibition, “Pictures of Resistance” at 18:30, followed by the screening of “Jerusalem in the Woods – The Bielski Brothers” at 19:30 - donation R50.

Wednesday (February 16)

- **SFCC** presents Prof Pinki Sarelli on “The Latest Achievements in the World of Medicine - an Update”.
- **UJW Cape Town** presents Prof Solly Benatar on “The Limits of Medicine: Making End-of-Life Decisions”.

Friday (February 18)

- **UZLC** presents Naomi Musiker, on “Jewish Newspapers and their Role in South Africa”.

Sunday (February 20)

- **Second Innings** presents Bronwyn Feldwick-Davis and Angie Pape on “Reach for a Dream”.
- **RCHCC** presents “The Jews of Japan” by Hugh Raichlin at 19:30. Cost R70.

Tuesday (February 22)

- **WIZO Fortnightly Forum** hosts a special tea to honour 4 Jewish women who have made a difference to the community – Marlene Bethlehem; Edna Freinkel; Sylvia Glasser; and Natalie Knight at 09:30 at Beyachad. All welcome. To book phone (011) 645-2515.

Wednesday (February 23)

- **Second Innings** outing to Hakunamatata Health Spa. Meet at Oxford Street Shul at 08:30. Cost: R330, includes the bus, your choice of treatment in special surroundings, and a full lunch. Book with Helen Wolfson by no later than February 20.
- **UJW Cape Town** presents David Bloomberg, former mayor of Cape Town on “Cape Town Jewish Mayors”.
- **Balfour Park Parkinson’s Disease Support Group** meeting will be held in the Lighthouse Hall, St Luke’s Anglican Church, High Road, Orchards, at 10:00. Norman Doidge, MD, will speak about the discovery that the brain is neuroplastic, and that it can change its structure and function. People with Parkinson’s Disease, their families, friends and caregivers are welcome. Contact Rosemary Burke on (011) 640-3919 or burke.rosemary1@gmail.com
- **Sunday (February 27)**
- **Second Innings** presents Tali Nates on “Portraits of Moral Choices: Perpetrators, Bystanders and

- Upstanders during the Holocaust”.
- **Society of Israel Philately** meeting at 10:00 in the boardroom of the Waverley Synagogue. All welcome. Refreshments. Free entry. Contact M Daniels 082-385-9736.
- Wednesday (March 2)**
- **SFCC** presents Lance Metz on “Reaching the Summit of Everest”.
- Sunday (March 6)**
- **Second Innings** presents Andre Hattingh on “Change Your World”.
- Wednesday (March 16)**
- **SFCC** presents Prof Celine Bernstein on “Hormone Replacement - is it Necessary?”
- Wednesday (March 23)**
- **Second Innings** presents Bobby Godsell on “Renewing the South African Dream”.
- Saturday evening (March 26)**
- **SAZF** is holding their 47th conference today and tomorrow. Guest speakers: Harvard academic Prof Alan Dershowitz; John Howard - former prime minister of Australia; and Col Richard Kemp - former commander of British forces in Afghanistan. Enquiries: (011) 645-2510 or sazf@beyachad.co.za.

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE by Jeff Sapire

EXPERTS ALWAYS like to run off their long suits when short of a trick or two for their contract. Sometimes it may not help at all, but on many occasions it’s amazing what problems it can cause. Discarding is one of the toughest areas of defence, where often the defenders are simply not sure what to hang on to, or what to signal - it’s a thin line between assisting partner with one’s discards while at the same time giving declarer vital information.

Firstly, note South’s opening bid of 1NT (15-17). South dealer, EW vul.

NORTH

WEST

EAST

SOUTH

West North East South

P 2C P 1NT

P 3NT All pass 2H

Opening lead: D6

In days gone by most people would have opened this hand 1C, rebidding 1H if possible, or else 2C over a 1S response. But the modern style now is often to begin with 1NT instead, even though the hand is semi-balanced.

The thinking behind this is that a) it avoids having to rebid a five card suit and b) it hides the shape of the hand from the opponents.

Partner can still use Stayman if necessary, but sequences like 1NT – 3NT are always much tougher to defend. Opening 5422 hands 1NT is a big winner, but it’s a good idea to have at least one of the doubletons stopped.

On to the play: Declarer put up the king of diamonds and weighed up his chances. He could try leading a heart to sneak his ninth trick, which would work against many players (East would have to avoid the routine “2nd hand low”) but as this was an expert game the chances of getting away with it were slim - the defenders would surely grab the ace of hearts and take four diamond tricks.

So he decided to run the club suit to see if anything would happen. Well, it did - East had to find four discards. The first three were easy – the nine of hearts followed by the three (signalling the ace) and then the queen of spades (showing the spade sequence).

But on the fifth club East was in big trouble, squeezed in three suits. He had to hang on to the ace of hearts, and a second spade discard would have given declarer four tricks there.

So he discarded a small diamond, but now declarer could play on hearts, with the defence only able to take another three diamond winners.

The late Terence Reese once commented about playing off one’s long suit. He said that even if there wasn’t material gain - as was here - one could often gauge what was troubling the defenders.

Every Tuesday (Intermediate) and Wednesday (Advanced) I run bridge workshops from 10:00 – 12:00 at the Great Park Shul – alternating play hands one week and a bidding lecture on the other. Corner Glenhove Road and 4th Avnue, Houghton. For more information, e-mail me at jeffshirl@telkomsa.net

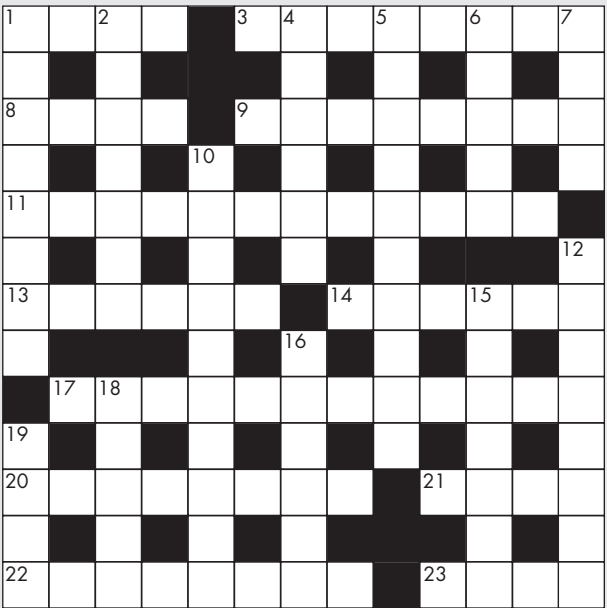
CROSSWORD NO 197

BY LEAH SIMON

- ACROSS:**
1. Dogs upset by idols (4)
 3. Admirer in palace finds premier SA golf resort (8)
 8. Los Angeles returns like this, too (4)
 9. Envy makes Joely use this badly (8)
 11. It made 17 Across go to war on 7 December 1941 (5, 7)
 13. Good man beams – but wanders off (6)
 14. The rat disturbed by one who makes headgear (6)
 17. Altogether, conditions for a country (6, 6)
 20. Appears to pur before harbours (8)
 21. Get a French refusal soon (4)
 22. Er, energy found in foliage (8)
 23. Bad case for champions (4)
- DOWN:**
1. It certainly supports one’s aims (4, 4)
 2. Some French couple in anguish (7)
 4. Spare nasturtiums conceal demarcated sports grounds (6)
 5. Northern bracelets broken by participants in ritual (10)
 6. Freedom for Swahilis (5)
 7. Story loses right to playthings (4)
 10. Avoid publicising theatre - especially “Much Ado About Nothing”! (4, 2, 4)
 12. Gifts for attendance, we hear (8)
 15. Bird destroys Cain on famous shipwreck (7)
 16. Nothing tried by head of newspaper (6)
 18. Rosen upset by Scandinavian language (5)
 19. Skyline Propane Users’ Group (abbrev) (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 196

ACROSS: Pubs; 3. Lumbered; 8. Nabs; 9. Stashing; 11. Safe and sound; 13. Estate; 14. Sniper; 17. Landing strip; 20. Distaste; 21. Inez; 22. Ringside; 23. Apes. **DOWN:** 1. Punished; 2. Baby fat; 4. Untidy; 5. Bassoonist; 6. Reign; 7. Digs; 10. Parted ways; 12. Trapezes; 15. Parsnip; 16. United; 18. Arson; 19. Oder.



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Our very deepest sympathy to Barbara, Grant, Gina, Adam and Daniel on the very sad loss of your beloved husband and cherished father

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Come, show your iron in Eilat’s Israman

MARK WOLFF
JOHANNESBURG

I LAST year was placed 11th overall and third in January in Israel’s Ironman - Israman - category in Eilat, in the third toughest Ironman competition in the world.

Chosen as one of the top ten best Ironman distance races by Triathlete Magazine, Eilat in Israel hosts what has well become known as one of the toughest 70.3 and full Ironman distance races in the world.

The event which has been running every January for more than 10 years, has seen some great names putting their endurance abilities to the test, including Eddie Merckx and most recently Lothar Leder the first man ever to break eight hours for an Ironman event. It’s a very well organised event and the atmosphere is absolute magic.

The event offers two courses which are along the same route, one being a 70.3 distance and the other a full Ironman.

The swim starts at first light in batches along the shores of the Red Sea, Ironman distance going off first.

The swim finishes with one of the longest runs into transition I have ever experienced, being around 450 metres into T1. There are two transition zones for this event, the first being out the swim, and T2 lies 21 km away at the top of a mountain in the desert.

The ride is the most gruelling part of the event, it edges into a steep 19 kilometre climb, averaging between 6 - 8 per cent from Eilat into the mountains, going from sea level to 700 metres above sea level.

The remainder of the ride takes place in the rolling hills of the mountains that overlook Eilat and the Arava valley, a region known for heavy gusts of winds that can reach up to 60 kilometres per hour.

Only the top athletes will achieve a sub 3 hour time for the 70.3 bike leg, and this year only six out of an entire field of hundreds of competitors managed a sub 3 hour.

The turnaround point of the race for the 70.3 is at

54km. It’s the most challenging point, as the turn brings you into strong headwinds for 36 km back to transition and there is no escaping this.

Aside from the strong desert winds on the way back the climbing just seems never-ending and it becomes a real mental test of determination. T2 awaits at the top of one last long steep climb and it’s a pleasurable sight to know you are on the final leg home.

The run course is beautiful, starting at the top of a mountain and descending quite steeply for 15 km into the port of Eilat.

With the sea and Jordan mountains in the back-ground, the pain disappears for a while, with this breathtaking view. Run times can be extremely fast due to the gradient, but very tough on the quads due to the downhill gradient. The run flattens out for the last six km or so and then heads towards the sea.

This is recommended for South African triathletes because:

Firstly it’s a brilliant test of strength and an excellent base in gearing towards Ironman South Africa as the event takes place in January each year.

From a cost perspective, El Al Israel Airlines do not charge for bicycle shipping; it’s FREE and they allow 20kg of overweight.

It’s only an eight and a half hour flight into Israel and to Eilat an easy drive or very cheap flight.

Accommodation includes ALL meals, so no additional costs

It’s a solid well supported and well organised event, and its growing each year.

This was my second Israman. Last year. I managed a podium. This year was much tougher in the 40+ category. I am age 40.

I can highly recommend the event; it’s the most beautiful desert scenic race you could ever do, with the biggest challenge thrown in.

The bike and run course, definitely require a reconnaissance beforehand; otherwise it will be a total shock to the system. It’s such a beautiful race but needs to be experienced first hand. I will be making this a regular on my race calendar.



Levy coaches Sela as new Israeli tennis star emerges

JACK MILNER

ISRAEL’S DUDI Sela had a reasonable tournament at the SA Tennis Open played at Montecasino last week. The Israeli No 1 reached the second round of the singles draw and along with Slovakian Karol Beck, made the semifinals of the doubles.

The one thing he could say about his week in Johannesburg is that in both singles and doubles, he ended up losing to the eventual champions. In the singles he bowed out to South Africa’s Kevin Anderson, to whom he had not lost in two previous meetings. This time, especially at altitude, he failed to handle the South African’s booming serve and went down 2-6 4-6.

Doubles partner Beck was ironically Anderson’s next victim but the Slovakian/Israeli combination fared far better in the

doubles. In the opening round they defeated second seeds Dustin Brown of Germany and Rogier Wassen of France 6-3 7-5 and then won through to the semifinals with a 6-7 (1-7) 6-3 12-10 (champions tie-break) victory over India’s Somdev Devvarman, the singles finalist, and American David Martin.

In the semis they went down to the American and Canadian combination of Jamie Cerretani and Adil Shamasdin 6-7 (4-7) 4-6 but they no doubt rue the chances they had in the 10th game of the opening when they had three set points but failed to convert. With the opening set in the bag anything could have happened.

It is interesting that Sela teamed up with Beck as last year the Slovakian played with Harel Levy to win the tournament. Levy tried to get in to this tournament but lost in the opening round of the qualifying event.

Maccabi Junior Soccer trials success

THE FIRST round of the Maccabi Gauteng Junior Soccer trials staged at Balfour Park in Johannesburg last Sunday, proved to be a great success with some 200 youngsters turning up for the event.

The trials, for under-10, under-12 and under-14 boys, were set up in order to select one team per age group for the upcoming provincial tour to Cape Town. Maccabi WP has also selected its teams.

From the initial 200 the squads will be trimmed to a maximum of 26 boys per age group and those youngsters will be returning to Balfour Park this Sunday (February 13) for the final trials where 16 players will be named in each team.

The u-10s and-12s will play from 08:30 to 10:00 and the u-14s are from 10:30 to 12:00.

The support and enthusiasm from across all of the community was outstanding and it definitely bodes well for Maccabi’s sporting future. Maccabi SA Chairman Cliff Garrun summed up the day by saying: “The re-launch of Maccabi in our community is well under way.”

Convener of selection and convenér of Maccabi senior football, Ryan Kalk, said: “I knew we had talent but today was such a wonderful surprise. The future of Maccabi SA soccer is well looked after for a long time.”

The final teams will be announced next week.

FOR THE RECORD

SOCCER TRIALS START AFTER SABBATH ON FEB 26

An editing mistake in a sports story in last week’s Jewish Report, has caused embarrassment all round. Announcing the times for the Maccabi soccer trials (18+) it was stated that it will take place on February 26 – a Saturday – from 08:00 until 21:30. In fact the trials on the Saturday start at 20:00, which is AFTER the Sabbath. We regret the error.



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