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SOUTH AFRICAN

Jewish Report



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Friday, 11 March 2011 / 28 Adar I, 5771

Volume 15 Number 9

S African Navi Pillay is slammed for UN hypocrisy on Libya, Israel

SEE PAGE 6



EMERGING FROM BEHIND THE US FOREIGN POLICY CURTAIN

President Barack Obama's choice to be the new US ambassador to Israel, Dan Shapiro (41), centre, with goatee, the National Security Council's senior director for the Middle East and North Africa, with the president and other senior staffers in the Oval Office in a photograph taken on September 1, 2010. Next to Shapiro is Dennis Ross, special assistant to Obama and senior director of the Central Region at the National Security Council; Secretary of State Hillary Clinton; and George Mitchell, US special envoy for Middle East Peace. Shapiro's appointment as US ambassador to Israel is expected to be made official this week. He has long been regarded as one of President Obama's most trusted Middle East confidants. (PHOTOGRAPH: PETE SOUZA / THE WHITE HOUSE)

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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

When to be humble



PARSHAT
VAYIKRA

Rabbi Ari Shishler
Chabad of Strathavon

A COUPLE of years ago, my wife and I were in London for a simcha. We took a Sunday visit to Covent Gardens in central London, a diverse and entertaining place where you never quite know what you will encounter.

We stepped off the underground and into the human sea on the pedestrian mall. Buskers vied for our attention as we made our way through the colourful crowd.

We noticed a man who had dyed his hair purple, standing off to one side. Figuring my children would find that intriguing, I planned to surreptitiously snap a photo of him, without attracting his attention. My brother-in-law, who is far more audacious than I, strode over to Purple Hair, offered a loud American “hello” and asked if the two of them could pose together for a photo.

Politely, our model agreed, but I could not help but think that he probably looked at our beards, tzitzis and yarmulkes and figured: “Boy, these guys look strange.”

We continued on past jugglers, mimes and musicians, while the “how do we look to them” complex bounced around in my head as we walked.

Then, an unusually creative busker caught our eye. He sat under a table, with his head protruding into a dog travel-box (the type they use to take dogs on planes) and his face painted Fido-like. Two paw-gloves and a fluffy tail sticking out of the box topped off the costume.

The guy in the dog-box teased passersby, sang and made every-one smile. Seeing us, he asked: “Are you Loob’evitch?”

I’ll admit, I was surprised. “I like the Loob’evitch,” he continued, “they’re cool!”

Now, I was truly gobsmacked. Purple Hair had given me a frum-appearance neurosis, but Guy Dogbox restored my perspective.

This Shabbos we start reading the third book of the Torah, Vayikra. The first word, Vayikra, is spelled with a shrunken letter Aleph. It is unusual for a letter in the Torah to be enlarged or minimised, so when it happens, you need to pay attention and learn something.

Elsewhere, the first word of the book of Chronicles starts with an enlarged letter Aleph. There it is the first letter of the name “Adam”.

Vayikra describes how G-d communicated with Moses, while Chronicles talks about Adam who was the first human. Adam’s task was to improve the world, to make it a better place.

Between the two Alephs we learn a powerful lesson. Aleph is the first letter of the word “Ani”, the personal pronoun in Hebrew. When you deal with G-d, as Moses did, you need to shrink your Aleph and stand humbly before Him, ready to receive His instruction.

When you face the world, ensure that your Aleph stands tall and proud, so that the world will respect who you are and learn from you.

Unfortunately, we tend to get our Alephs mixed up. When it is time to listen to G-d, we voice our opinions and reservations and imagine that we know better. When we look the world in the eye, we shrink away, thinking we are ill-suited to really make a difference. Ironically, the small Aleph of submission to G-d empowers you to have the large Aleph of taking on the world.

Luckily, Hashem sometimes sends us reminders - in the most unexpected ways - to reset our Aleph perspective.

We continued down the cobblestone, while the dog-box guy struck up a lively “Hava Nagilla”, clearly moved by just seeing a group of proud Jews walking the streets.

Shabbat Shalom.

SHABBAT AND FAST TIMES

March 11/5 Adar 2
March 12/6 Adar 2

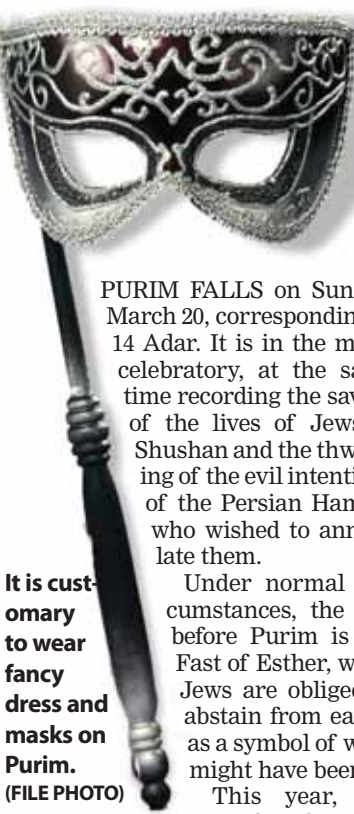
VaYikra

Starts	Ends	
18:11	18:59	Johannesburg
17:53	19:43	Cape Town
18:01	18:50	Durban
18:20	19:08	Bloemfontein
18:00	19:14	Port Elizabeth
18:14	19:04	East London

March 17/11 Adar 2

Fast of Esther

Starts	Ends	
05:01	18:41	Johannesburg
05:32	19:21	Cape Town
04:46	18:30	Durban
05:06	18:49	Bloemfontein
05:04	18:52	Port Elizabeth
04:55	18:43	East London



It is customary to wear fancy dress and masks on Purim.
(FILE PHOTO)

It’s time to get ready for Purim again!

PURIM FALLS on Sunday, March 20, corresponding to 14 Adar. It is in the main, celebratory, at the same time recording the saving of the lives of Jews of Shushan and the thwarting of the evil intentions of the Persian Haman, who wished to annihilate them.

Under normal circumstances, the day before Purim is the Fast of Esther, when Jews are obliged to abstain from eating as a symbol of what might have been.

This year, the Fast of Esther falls on a Shabbat, for this reason, the Fast of Esther is on Thursday, March 17, corresponding to 11 Adar.

Part of the Purim celebrations includes the making of as much noise as possible when the name of Haman is read out during the reading of Megillat Esther.

Jews are also obligated to eat a special meal called Seudat Purim, which comprises bread, meat and wine.

It is also customary to buy three-cornered buns filled with poppy seeds or sometimes cream cheese called Hamantaschen, to remember the distinctive three-cornered hat

worn by Haman.

The customs of Purim also include giving gifts to the poor. These are called matanot la’evyonim and it is customary for these to be given out during the day and not at night.

The gifts may consist of money, food and/or clothing - provided that whatever they consist of can be used on the actual day of Purim.

It is also an obligation to give a gift consisting of two types of food to at least one person. These gifts are called Mishloach Manot and must be made up of foods that do not need preparation. Several organisations annually make up Mishloach Manot to be sold as part of their fundraising activities.



A silver Purim gragger, or noise-maker - to “erase” the name of Haman when it is read out loud in the megillah. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY ODEDJUDAICA.COM)

• Listing for Purim events appear on page 5. If we have omitted yours, please send them to us by Friday March 11.

WHERE MISHLOACH MANOT ARE AVAILABLE IN JOHANNESBURG:

- Elise Gift Shop, Genesis Centre, Fairmount: Priced from R45 to R400. Delivery for bulk orders only. (011) 640-2760.
- Emunah, Houghton has two depots in Glenhazel. Prices from R45. Some of the mishloach manot are made by Achusat Sara, the children's home in Israel. There is no delivery service. (011)-483-1005.
- Jewish Women's Benevolent Society, Sandringham Gardens has made beautifully packed bags of different sweets, drinks, crisps etc, at R45. Contact Robyn Kahlberg on 082-338-0865 or JWBS on (011)-640-5232.
- Selwyn Segal Gift Shop, Sandringham. In addition to Mishloach Manot, priced from R45 (or R65 with a bottle of wine included), they're selling Purim masks, hats and other novelties. Delivery is available at between R10 and R30. (011)-640-6413.
- Torah Academy Girls' High School, Orchards: The girls are packing mishloach manot priced between R25 and R750. Presented in hand-painted boxes they include Israeli teas, sweets, chocolates, nuts and whiskey. Deliveries for orders over R500. Call Lee (011) 485-3871 or email girlshigh@torahacademy.co.za

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SANDRINGHAM: NEW RELEASE

VIEW BY APPOINTMENT

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SYDENHAM: NEW RELEASE

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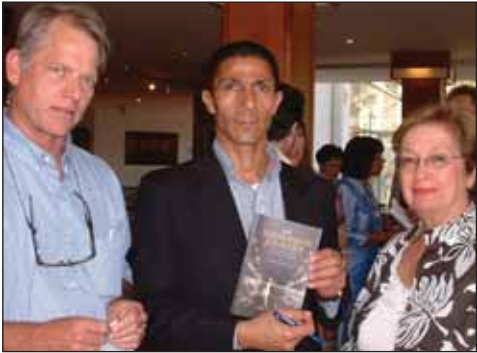
Israeli Bedouin diplomat flies flag for Jewish State

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

THERE WAS something missing with South Africa's younger generation who had a "misperception" about Israel, Ishmael Khaldi, adviser to Minister of Foreign Affairs Avigdor Lieberman, told a media breakfast held under the auspices of the South African Zionist Federation (Cape Council).

Khaldi, Israel's first Bedouin diplomat, who served as deputy consul in San Francisco, appealed to the media to "stick to (the) facts", saying it should not restrict itself to politics. "We will solve the problem with the Palestinians - we know we have a problem," he said.

There was a "huge difference" between what appeared in the media and the actual situation. "You have a moral responsibility to bring the pure facts so that the younger generation can know



Assistant editor of the Cape Argus, Michael Morris; Israeli diplomat Ishmael Khaldi; and Cynthia Maresky, SAZF (Cape Council); at a media breakfast.

and judge.

"The media plays a role in teaching," he added, referring to "good news" stories concerning developments in agriculture and medicine that didn't see the light of day. "People are influenced by the media, my friends," he stressed, drawing particular attention to the role of the new media such as Twitter and blogs

in upheavals across the Arab world.

Referring to "shocking" accusations levelled against the Jewish State, he said: "If Israel was an apartheid state, I wouldn't be standing here as a Bedouin Muslim (representative). I can do whatever any other Jewish citizen can do if I have the talent and the skill.

"We have discrimination within communities in Israel," he conceded, "but to compare us to a racist state - that's not fair."

He questioned whether one could even talk in terms of apartheid when there were two nationalities involved. "Israel wants to see a two-state solution with Palestinians living in dignity in their own state and we'll be there," he said.

"The Palestinians know they have only one neighbour, Israel, who'll help them more than Saudi Arabia and Iran, to build their country," he maintained.

Referring to Israel's "apartheid

wall", he said it was a security fence, not a wall. "That's your responsibility, my friends," he said, addressing himself to the media representatives present.

"That is wrong, wrong, wrong. Instead of building relations, it builds tension.

"If you keep screaming, you are betraying the moderates on the Palestinian side and in the Israeli state," he added.

Khaldi slammed a pamphlet distributed about him when he visited Wits a few days previously, saying it constituted anti-Semitism and incitement. "This is Germany of the 1940s," he commented.

Speaking from the floor, an impassioned Rhoda Kadalie, anti-apartheid activist and political commentator, said she wished to apologise for the pamphlet, claiming: "Academics, when it comes to Israel, suspend their intellect, so students are misinformed.

"The media is very politically correct in this country," she charged. "I called (Emeritus Archbishop Desmond) Tutu bigot-

ed - then I became the villain.

"We set up icons in this country who can never be wrong. Just because Tutu was involved in the Struggle, doesn't mean he can't make mistakes.

"I appeal to the media to start educating themselves about Israel."

Assistant editor of the Cape Argus, Michael Morris said it "seems almost as if you regard a Palestinian state in a fatalistic way", without having practical steps on how to attain it.

"Things don't happen overnight," Khaldi replied.

"Who do you talk to, Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas) or Hamas?" he asked. "Who guarantees that if Hamas takes control of the West Bank, they'll keep those agreements (with Abu Mazen)?"

"The road (to) peace is not easy. The Arab countries have to stop the Palestinians and force them to have one leadership," he declared.

Khaldi records his story in "A Shepherd's Journey: the story of Israel's first Bedouin diplomat."

Israel lauds role of Chabad as base for travelling Jews



JERUSALEM - Israel's Knesset committee for Immigration Absorption and Diaspora affairs recently held a special meeting to discuss increased co-operation with Chabad worldwide.

The committee chairman member of Knesset, Danny Danon of Likud said: "Any Jew who arrives in any remote area in the world knows he has a place to stay and eat for Shabbos and Yomtov and to use as a base."

He called for increased assistance to Chabad: "Chabad is indispensable to Israelis visiting remote places around the world."

Jewish Agency Chairman Natan Sharansky reiterated Danon's words and added that in places where Israel did not have representation they relied on that Chabad emissary to lead the struggle for Israel.

The meeting was attended by 15 Chabad representatives and leading members of Knesset.

In the photograph: (from left) Rabbi David Masinter and Martin Glatt from South Africa; Rabbi Chaim Hillel Azimor from Cyprus; Rabbi Nechamya Wilhelm and Rabbi Yosef Chaim Kantor, both from Thailand. (photograph supplied)

Footsteps to the Future



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Professor Alan Dershowitz
Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law, Harvard Law School

Guest Speakers: Sunday

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Colonel, British Army, 1977-2006; Commander of British Forces in Afghanistan

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SYDENHAM-HIGHLANDS NORTH HEBREW CONGREGATION

SMILEMAKERS

SOCIAL SCENE

Rita Lewis jont@global.co.za

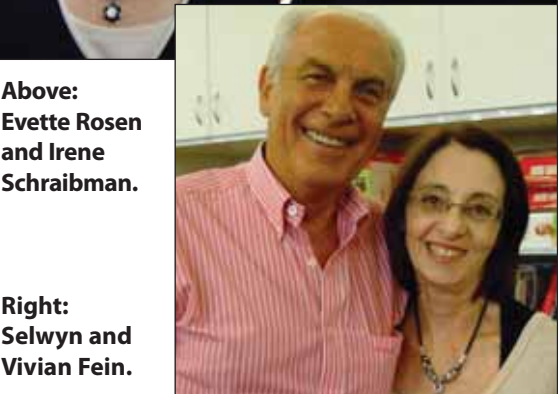
Revamped Gift Shop a tribute to dedication



Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein fixes a mezuzah to the doorpost of the revamped Selwyn Segal Gift Shop in Sandringham.



Above: Evette Rosen and Irene Schraibman.



Right: Selwyn and Vivian Fein.



The Chevrah Kadisha's CEO, Michael Sieff addresses the gathering.



Maish Kaplan with some of the maintenance men.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

THE SELWYN Segal Gift Shop which is one of the main sources of revenue for Selwyn Segal, has revamped its premises so that it is not only fitted out with more practical and appealing cupboards and shelving, but the showroom is now far more spacious than it was before.

At the recent opening, the Chevrah Kadisha's CEO Michael Sieff, welcomed everyone saying that Selwyn Segal needed R21 million annually to keep it to the standard that people were used to.

"We are therefore dependent on everyone's help for us to continue to run our Gift Shop, which is a wonderful fundraiser for Selwyn Segal."

He spoke of the garden outside where a water feature constantly reticulates and compared the fountain with director of the Gift Shop, Joan Bloch's consistency which is like "a steady flow of water - and this also applies to her team".

Prior to putting up a mezuzah on the door, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein said it was a joy to be a partner in the dedication of the new shop and wished Joan, and her co-workers Evette Rosen and Irene Schraibman much success for its future.

Bloch spoke of the "giving" that ran through the shop. "Our success is due to our loyal customers who 'give' us frequent orders: Our efficient suppliers who 'give' fantastic service; our wonderful volunteers who 'give' so much time to the shop; our fantastic staff who 'give' so much of themselves and our friends at the Chev who 'give' so much help and support.

She said: "It is not how much we give, but how much love was put into the giving. We are truly blessed to be surrounded by so much love."

She said that in almost 40 years, the Gift Shop had grown "from a tiny basement belonging to the late Jessica Emdin, to this huge professional enterprise".

She thanked everyone who had made the project possible: Michael Sieff, Saul Thomson and Ovadia Kampf for giving the go-ahead for the project; to Stan and Cheryl Rothbart. "the backbone" of the Gift Shop; and last but not least, her Evette Rosen and Irene Schraibman who had devoted their lives to the Gift Shop.

"Without your hard work, endless hours and passion, the shop simply wouldn't be.

The project had been Irene's vision, and it was wonderful to see her dream come true."



Joan Bloch holds up a certificate presented to her in recognition of her work.

COMMUNITY BUZZ

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BULAWAYO

From Shulamit Kagan:

"Kappie was a member of the Red Cross and sometimes came to meetings in a Red Cross uniform. At other times she wore mauve.

"One day she decided that I must teach her Hebrew. She thought that all she had to do was to learn one thousand words. No matter how I tried to convince her that that however many words she knows, she also had to learn how to connect them into a coherent sentence. Needless to say, she never learnt to speak Hebrew.

"Kappie's son was a well-known plastic surgeon who worked in Beersheva where he operated on a great number of wounded soldiers. Kappie and her husband joined him there. The Magen David Adom Committee fell apart after she left."

To be continued.

JOHANNESBURG

Russell Sadowsky continues:

"Years later, Sarah Aaronson and Solly Aronowsky founded the London International Orchestra which today still raises funds for various charities.

"Sarah's passion for charities started at an early age when her mother, Rachel, took Sarah to play at old age homes in South Africa.

"Queen Elizabeth has appointed Sarah Aaronson an Order of the British Empire for her services to music and charities.

"Other recipients of such a prestigious honour at Buckingham Palace were: David Beckham, Judi Dench, Liam Neelson, Nigel Mansell, JK Rowlings and South African lyricist Herbert Kretzmer, who wrote the lyrics to 'Les Miserables' and the English lyrics of 'I Dream a Dream' from the musical which was sung in 2009 by Susan Boyle.

JOHANNESBURG

The trial of Jewey Cooke:

"Jewey Cooke was charged with rape and had contacted Harry Morris to represent him. His friend, Jack Silverstein who was accused when in fact he was not present, was represented by Dr H Krause.

"However, a man whom Cooke had met had given him the worst possible advice ever. He told Cooke that the fact that Cooke had given the girl a six penny coin which had been gilded and passed off as a gold halfpound, was a far more serious crime than rape.

"Therefore he told Cooke not to mention this during his trial. Cooke did not take Morris into his confidence and never mentioned the coin incident to him. He protested his innocence.

"The trial opened in February 1907 and became a cause celebre in Johannesburg. Crowds flocked to the courthouse. "Mr Justice Curlewis ruled that details of the trial could not be printed - but the general feeling was one of sympathy for the two accused who were both considered victims of circumstances.

"Morris and Krause cross-examined the girl vigorously and she showed herself to be uneducated and rather stupid. Morris was unable to suggest that the girl had been a willing participant and and at all times in the dock she was vague and quite obviously ill at ease.

"However when the district surgeon gave evidence he said that he knew the girl and that she had (dubious) moral habits. After he had examined her he said that there were signs of intercourse but no signs of injuries.

"Under cross-examination by the prosecutor, Mr E Wingfield Douglas, he said that he believed that she had been overcome by Cooke who was helped by Silverstein."

To be continued.

HANDEL'S 'JUDAS MACCABEUS'

On April 16, 1746, the English army under the command of the Duke of Cumberland, defeated Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie's) attempt to overthrow the King of England of the Royal House of Hanover.

Frederic, Prince of Wales, commissioned Georg Frederick Handel to write the oratorio, Judas Maccabeus, to celebrate the victory. Handel's text was based on the first book of the Maccabees and Josephus's "Antiquities of the Jews," presented in London at Covent Garden in April 1747.

The exploits of a Biblical hero provided for England an all too rare favourable impression of a Jew.

The chorus of the Israelites hailing Judas, "See the Conquering Hero Comes", which Handel lifted from his oratorio "Joshua" (1748) has become a favourite piece of music to celebrate victories.

Here are the first two lines:

See the conquering hero comes, Sound the trumpets, beat the drums:

Sports prepare, the laurel bring, Songs of triumph to him bring.

From: "More Than Fun and Games" by Arthur Goldman. Published by the SA Maccabi Council. 1972. Price R5.

THE ATKINS SCHMALTZ DIET

Sent in by Frank Friedman:

"With our meals, beverages consisted of cheap soda or spritz or a glezel tay (a glass of tea) which was tea served in a glass and sucked through a cube of sugar held between the teeth.

"Deserts were probably the only things not made with schmaltz.

"Well, now you know the secret of how we've grown to be so tall, sinewy, slim, trim, energetic, extremely clever, modest and if you want your children to grow up like us, you are guhnsen meshuggah (completely nuts). Zeit mir gezunt (be in good health)... and when you eat out, order Chinese."

True love is ageless, it seems

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY RITA LEWIS

LAST WEEK, Leone Shein (86) and Bernard (Hardy) Muscat (77) whose combined ages total over 160 years, and who have known each other for over 50 years, finally tied the knot at the Sydenham Highlands North Shul.

Rabbi Yossy Goldman who married the couple, said he was there to officiate at this wedding because "it's the right thing to do (to get married).

"(For) People who have a bond and love each other, it's the right thing to do. Better late than never."



Rabbi Yossy Goldman escorts the newly married couple down the aisle after their marriage at Sydenham Shul.

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PURIM EVENTS COMING UP

- PRE-PURIM FESTIVITIES:**
- *King David High School, Linksfield:* “Beatlemania-Purim” on March 14 and 15 in the school hall. (011) 480-4500.
 - **SATURDAY NIGHT, MARCH 19 (FIRST MEGILLAH READING)**
 - *Beit Midrash Morasha, Sea Point:* Mexican Magic, 20:00. Megillah reading, 21:30, R95 (adults), R70 (youth), R50 (kids), (021) 434- 8680.
 - *Bnei Akiva Shul, Glenhazel:* Megillah, motzei Shabbat followed by Gurim Carnival from 20:30 and ice-skating at Festival Mall, Kempton Park for older kids. Call Josh, 084-380-3186.
 - *Green and Sea Point:* Pajama party for all ages, Megillah reading, no charge, 20:00, tel: (021) 439-7543.
 - *Milnerton Shul:* Purim in France, Hamantashen at Seudah Shlishit, Megillah reading motzei Shabbat, 20:00, (021) 552- 4285.
 - *Temple Israel:* Alba Lounge, Waterfront: “Peace, Love and Purim”, 20:30, Megillah reading followed by ‘70s-themed disco at 21:00. R50 (prebooked), R60 at door, R40 (students), (021) 762- 1745.

- SUNDAY MARCH 20 (SECOND MEGILLAH READING)**
- *Aish Hatorah, Sandringham:* Megillah readings from 08:00. Purim function at 14:00. R120 for (adults), R60 (kids), (011) 485-2985.
 - *Chabad House, Savoy:* From 11:00, after the megillah reading, there will be a party for Chabad Chai Seniors. Call Rabbi Kievman, 079-434-1293.
 - *Chabad of the West Coast:* Bloubergstrand Library Hall, Purim in the Caribbean, island-style brunch, 10:30 - 12:30. R80 (adults), R40 (kids), tel: (021) 557-7560.
 - *Claremont Wynberg Hebrew Congregation:* “Laughter is the Best Medicine”, R100 (adults), R40 (kids), 13:00, info@clarewynshul.co.za
 - *Cyrildene Shul:* A seudah at 16:00 featuring live comedy, and “Purim Insights”, a talk by Rabbi Yochanan Ziegler, (011) 616-3312.
 - *Durban United Hebrew Congregation, Berea, Durban:* At 16:00, a bagel bar and dress up party. R60 (adults), R30 (kids), (031) 201-5177.
 - *Edenvale Shul:* A seudah at 12:30 after megillah followed a carnival for kids under 12. From 19:00, there will be a party bus for kids over 18; call Tamara, 076-993-7767.
 - *Gardens Synagogue, Cape Town:* Purim in the Wild West: Megillah reading, carnival rides, admission free, charge for braai, 17:00, (021) 465-1405.
 - *Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation:* Carnival with rides, Hamantashen making, after megillah, from 10:30. Cost: R30, and a food tin for charity, (021) 439-7543 or 072-742-2009.
 - *Great Park Synagogue, Oaklands:* “Great Park Has Talent”, a show with bagels and juice after the megillah reading at 10:00. R70 admission, tel: (011) 728-8152.
 - *Linksfield Shul:* Bnei Akiva hosts a morning of cup cakes and candyfloss after the megillah reading, followed by a seudah. Call Josh, 084-380-3186.
 - *Milnerton Hebrew Congregation:* Megillah reading 16:30 and party thereafter No charge, (021) 552-4285.
 - *Ohr Somayach, Glenhazel:* At the HOD, Orchards, a dinner for students from 17:45. R120, (011) 887-1321.
 - *Ohr Somayach, Sea Point:* Purim in Holy-wood. R100 (adults), R60 (kids). Megillah: 12:00, e-mail: awesome@ohrsom.co.za
 - *Pretoria Hebrew Congregation:* “Purim in Persia”, with kids’ fancy dress at 16:30, megillah reading at 17:00 and Persian-style meal thereafter. R90 (adults), R55 (kids), (012) 460-7991.
 - *Sandton Shul:* An extravaganza after the megillah reading at 09:00, (011) 883-4210.
 - *Sydenham Shul:* Purim fair and pizza party, after megillah at 10:00, featuring Wacky Wizard, and more, (011) 640-5021.
 - *Union of Orthodox Synagogues, Orchards:* Rabbi Moshe Schnerb will read the megillah at the HOD 11:00 followed by tea and Hamantashen, (010) 214-2600.
 - *Waverly Shul:* For members and their families, the rabbi will be sponsoring a Purim brunch after the megillah reading at 09:00, (011) 786-0437.

Baruch’s resignation sends out diplomatic shockwaves

OWN CORRESPONDENT JERUSALEM

FORMER Israeli ambassador to South Africa, Ilan Baruch (pictured), a diplomat of more than 30 years’ standing, in resigning from Israel’s foreign service, has caused a diplomatic furore by expressing his disillusionment with his country’s foreign policy, saying he could not defend it, calling it “wrong”. Quoted extensively in the main Israeli papers and others worldwide, he warned that should the present trend of Israeli foreign policy continue, Israel would face growing de-legitimisation.

In a swipe at the government of Benjamin Netanyahu, Baruch said in his letter to the

foreign ministry that he found himself no longer able to represent Israel because the government of Netanyahu had no interest in a peace process based on land for peace and designed to end the conflict with the Palestinians.

He said government spokesmen had repeatedly rejected the international demand that Israel withdraw from the occupied Palestinian territories. “They spurn the Annapolis process, they ignore the Road Map (two American peace initiatives from the Bush years which Israel accepted at the time).

“The upshot is a malignant diplomatic dynamic which threatens Israel’s international standing and undermines the legiti-

macy not only of its occupation, but of its very membership in the family of nations.”

“I can no longer honestly represent this government,” he said earlier. “As (Foreign Minister Avigdor) Lieberman was elected by a large public in a legitimate manner, I cannot question him - but I don’t have to serve him, and therefore I’m quitting.”

Tzipi Livni, the foreign minister in the previous government and now leader of the opposition Kadima Party, supported Baruch’s criticism.

“Public relations without policy is no solution,” she said. “Perhaps (Netanyahu) really believes that speaking in fluent English on foreign television stations creates change. But it doesn’t.”



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On rogue and apartheid states

SOUTH AFRICANS who were adults during apartheid remember well the effects of the boycotts against this country promoted by the anti-apartheid movements.

One of the most hurtful for this sports-mad society was the refusal of international sports teams to come here - except for the occasional team of “rebels”, or for South African teams to compete abroad.

The cultural boycott caused musicians and actors, writers and artists from most countries to shun us. The business boycotts banned our products from many places - or forced them to be sold under false labels - and international companies refused to trade openly with us or run operations here. In fact we became a pariah state.

When white South Africans travelled overseas, it was often with trepidation that they produced their passports at border posts, unsure whether they would get a hostile reaction.

The bluster and bravado of the apartheid regime over decades in the face of all this, its attempts to portray itself as a brave outpost of “civilisation” standing against the “swart gevaar” and a bastion against the “communists”, couldn’t ultimately compensate for the deprivations and demoralisation South Africans experienced.

It was a gigantic relief when, after Mandela’s release, the unbanning of the ANC and other actions, the world opened to us and we could hold our heads high. We again became part of the brotherhood of nations.

The demoralisation experienced by South Africans is precisely the effect the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign wants to achieve against Israelis by turning their country into a rogue state - to grind their society down.

One element is the annual Israeli Apartheid Week on university campuses, started in Toronto in 2005, which kicks off this week in Johannesburg, trying to enforce the false stereotype of Israel as a racist “apartheid” society. Its precedent is the infamous “Zionism is racism” resolution passed by the UN in 1975 under the weight of the Third World majority there - eventually repealed under Western pressure in 1991. Sadly, the BDS campaign is gaining ground worldwide.

Israel is obviously not an apartheid society. Saying that it is, is an expedient lie perpetrated for a political agenda by people who hate Israel, and who would do better focusing on the many dictatorships in the Middle East. Like all countries, particularly those comprised of many cultures and religions jumbled together, Israel has problems needing attention, including discrimination. What country does not? But to call it apartheid is simply wrong.

South Africans who remember what apartheid was like, should be outraged at this trivialisation of it, through glibly transposing the label into a totally different context with a totally different history.

Unfortunately, many Israelis do not take seriously enough the damage this “Israel-is-apartheid” campaign can do to them, and the attempt to turn their country into a rogue state. Fake as it is, the racist stereotype of Israel it is creating will be difficult to shake off - mud sticks.

At home they see an Israel which is a thriving, hi-tech country with a booming economy and currency that withstood the financial meltdown of recent years better than most, and a military that seems more than capable of repelling any threats from surrounding Arab and Muslim countries. Culturally, Israel is a powerhouse of creativity.

“Fortress Israel” seems to be saying: “So what’s the problem? The world hates us anyway and there’s nothing we can do about it. We’ll just take care of ourselves... And live life to the fullest.”

Jews in the Diaspora cannot adopt that attitude as easily - the opprobrium against Israel in their own backyards affects them directly. South African Jews feel this keenly today.

South Africans might be the ones most adequately equipped to sound the warning of how it feels to be an outcast and how urgent it is that Israel do everything it can - through concerted PR as well as policy - to avoid it.

Ultimately, the only genuine solution will come when a peace agreement is reached between Israel and the Palestinians.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

UN human rights chief must be held accountable

HILLEL NEUER
GENEVA

THE FAVOURITE word of Navi Pillay, the South African-born UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, appears to be “accountability”. Yet with her own agency tainted by its longtime disregard of Libyan human rights violations - and by apologists for Libyan strongman Muammar Gaddafi occupying key UN positions - it’s high time for the high commissioner to prove that accountability begins at home.

Let’s put aside that in the past three years, United Nations headquarters in New York opened every golden door to the terrorist from Tripoli. Never mind that the Gaddafi regime was granted membership on the elite UN Security Council, that its envoy was made president of the UN General Assembly or that the dictator’s daughter, Aisha, was named a UN “goodwill ambassador”. Indeed, one wonders why Gaddafi bothered trying to pitch his Bedouin tent in the middle of Manhattan when UN headquarters itself was already in his hands.

Instead, let’s look only at Pillay’s own human rights apparatus in Geneva.

Start with the 47-nation UN Human Rights Council. Until the current atrocities in Libya, this august body - dominated by members like China, Cuba and Saudi Arabia - turned a blind eye to Libya.

Well, that’s not entirely true. They once did look at Libya - when the Gaddafi regime won an election last May to become a member of the council by a landslide.

UN Watch led an international coalition of human rights groups, supported by courageous victims of Gaddafi’s torture and terror - to protest. High



Navi Pillay, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.



Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

Commissioner Pillay, however, was silent.

Only last week did the council seek to undo its shameful act by suspending Libya’s membership.

According to our recent study of Pillay’s statements from 2008 to 2010, she never once mentioned human rights in Libya.

The recent annual report of her department, a Geneva staff of many hundreds, boasts of its ardent support for the Durban process, for which she served as secretary-general of its 2009 World Conference on Racism.

When Najat Al-Hajjaji, a representative of the Libyan regime, was chosen to chair that conference’s two-year planning committee, Pillay stood by her side and became the world’s leading cheerleader for Durban II, the follow-up in Geneva to the 2001 anti-racism conference in Durban, that devolved into an anti-Israel hate fest. Not a word about the brutal regime that stood behind the conference chair.

It gets worse. Al-Hajjaji is, in fact, still operating within Pillay’s office. It turns out she is one of the Human Rights Council’s investigators on human rights violations by mercenaries.

This is no joke: At a time when Gaddafi is using mercenaries to kill his own people, one of his longtime representatives is sitting on the world’s highest human rights body as a supposed defender of human rights - and, of all things, as a defender of victims of mercenaries.

Pillay, who worked closely with Al-Hajjaji on Durban II, is refusing to comment, according to Fox News.

Finally, there is the council’s advisory committee. In 2008, ignoring the appeal of UN Watch and 25 human rights groups,

the council elected Jean Ziegler, the co-founder of the Muammar Qaddafi Human Rights Prize - a propaganda tool for the regime - to the committee, and last year he was made its vice president. Pillay said nothing.

Recipients of the prize include former Cuban President Fidel Castro in 1998; Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez in 2004; Nicaraguan President Danie Ortega in 2009; and Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in 2010. In 2002, Ziegler won it himself, sharing the prize with Roger Garaudy, a convicted French Holocaust denier.

The sad reality is that Libya was given a free pass by the UN rights system. So were all of the other Middle East dictators. Instead, for the past five years of its existence, the council has pursued a pathological obsession with that region’s only democracy, Israel.

Seventy per cent of all the council’s condemnatory resolutions have been against Israel. Six out of 10 urgent sessions criticising countries have been against Israel. The council has only one standing agenda item on a specific country: Israel.

Defenders of Pillay’s department, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, insist she is independent of the 47-nation council and therefore not directly responsible for its actions. True enough.

Yet sadly, unlike UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and his predecessor Kofi Annan, who at various points criticised the council’s anti-Israel selectivity and bias, Pillay has said nothing. On the contrary, on several occasions she has fully endorsed maintaining the special agenda item on Israel, saying it is justified due to “occupation”.

When the Middle East was aflame three weeks ago, Pillay was there. Well, not in the human rights hot spots, such as Egypt, Bahrain or Libya. Instead, she was in Israel, accusing the Jewish State of “discrimination”.

Until the United Nations’ highest human rights officials exorcise their Israel obsession and fix their broken moral compass, murderers like Gaddafi will continue to enjoy impunity.

(Hillel Neuer, an international lawyer who represents Libyan torture victims, is the executive director of UN Watch.)

The complaint further charges that university officials have tolerated “the growing cancer of a dangerous anti-Semitic climate on its campuses” that violates the rights of Jewish and other students “to enjoy a peaceful campus environment free from threats and intimidation”.

The suit calls for damages and a jury trial.

Pro-Israel and anti-Israel students have clashed before on the Berkeley campus. In November 2008, Zakharia was one of three student cited for battery in a physical altercation over displaying the Palestinian flag at a pro-Israel event. (JTA)

“The oldest verified Jewish person is currently Evelyn Kozak of New York City, born August 14, 1899,” he told JTA by e-mail.

Kozak added that Rothstein “would be in second place among those I know about if her age could be verified”.

Rothstein’s birth date is unconfirmed because she doesn’t have a birth certificate. In fact, until this year, her family had celebrated on February 27.

Earlier this year a relative, Dr Anthony Joseph, head of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, looked up the date of Purim in 1901.

Cavallaro told JTA: “When Anthony confirmed that her birthday was actually March 6, I got such a shock.” (JTA)

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

JEWISH STUDENT SUING CAL BERKELEY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS INFRINGEMENT

OAKLAND - A student has brought a federal civil rights lawsuit against the University of California, Berkeley, saying the university did not protect her from being attacked because she is Jewish.

Lawyers for Jessica Felber, 20, say the case, filed in US District Court in Oakland, California, on March 4 against the university, the regents of the University of California and their ranking officials, is the first of its kind.

Her suit alleges that Husam Zakharia, a fellow student and the head of Students for Justice in Palestine, rammed into her with a metal cart because of the pro-Israel sign she was holding during a pro-

Israel demonstration on the Berkeley campus on March 5, 2010.

The rally, organised by the student Zionist group Tikvah, was a counter to anti-Israel events being held that same week as part of Israel Apartheid Week.

Felber was treated for her injuries, and Zakharia was arrested for battery but later released.

The complaint alleges that the Students for Justice in Palestine and the Muslim Student Association, another pro-Palestinian group on campus, harass and attack Jewish students, and that the university knows about it and has not taken sufficient steps to protect its Jewish students.

SPRIGHTLY 110 AND STILL GOING STRONG

SYDNEY - Australia’s oldest Jew, Mary Rothstein of Melbourne, has turned 110.

Rothstein celebrated the historic milestone Sunday surrounded by her daughter, two grandchildren, three of her six great-grandchildren and other relatives at her Melbourne nursing home run by Jewish Care.

She and her family escaped the pogroms in her native Russia to England soon after Rothstein was born in 1901. She lived in London for half her life working as a milliner and occasionally making hats for the royal family.

Rothstein’s daughter, Ruth Cavallaro, visits her mother twice a day to give her lunch and dinner.

“She’s never eaten in an ordinary

restaurant, only a Jewish restaurant,” Cavallaro said. “She’s very, very kosher.”

Rothstein used to walk to synagogue every Saturday until she was moved into an aged-care facility 17 years ago, Cavallaro said.

As for her secret to long life, Rothstein’s daughter said: “The only thing I can honestly say about her is she’s never drunk, never smoked and worked very hard.”

Rothstein is not the oldest Jew in the world, according to Robert Young, a senior researcher at the US-based Gerontology Research Group, which specializes in verifying centenarians and super-centenarians.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS – FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

SA must heed danger signals

OF THE Sheva Mitzvot Bnei Noach - the seven basic laws (really categories of laws) that all human beings are obliged to keep - only one can be regarded as a “positive commandment”, namely the obligation to maintain proper courts of justice.

All the others fall into the “negative” category, specifying that which cannot be done rather than what must be done.

This would mean that non-Jewish judges, particularly those who are religiously inclined, are in a rare position of being able to actively carry out the will of the Creator. By performing their duties with scrupulous fairness, maintaining a strict impartiality without in any way being influenced by self-interest, intimidation by the powerful, or even sympathy for the underdog, they are serving as active agents of the Divine will.

The Torah further emphasises the destructive consequences flowing from the perversion of justice not just when committed by Jews, but by all of humanity. This was why pre-Judaic societies like the generation of the Flood and Sodom and Gomorrah were eventually annihilated.

In modern times, trustworthy, principled institutions of justice are crucial to any society wishing to conduct itself on a basic level of decency. When justice ends up being continually subverted, those societies will not endure, at least not as civilised democracies where the law-abiding majority can rely on the law to protect them from greedy, unscrupulous predators.

A front-page article in the last Saturday Star suggests how dangerously close to the wind this country would seem to be sailing. The issue was how Clive Derby-Lewis, who plotted the murder of liberation leader Chris Hani back in 1993, remains in jail 17 years later without any hope of parole, whereas Zuma acolyte Schabir Shaik, after a token period in prison (served under decidedly easier conditions than that experienced by Derby-Lewis) is now free.



BARBARIC YAWP

David Saks

I remember Hani’s murder too well to wish for his killers to be released. It was a premeditated, cold-blooded act, one that both traumatised the nation, endangered everyone by further inflaming inter-racial and political tensions, and deprived us of one of our most charismatic young leaders.

The message needs to be rammed home that actions have consequences, and that those who of their own free will perpetrate criminal acts, must and will be held accountable. Crucial to this must be that when it comes to appropriately punishing the guilty, political connections must never be allowed to play the slightest role. Herein lie the worrisome implications of the Shaik affair.

Schaik’s early release was based on his allegedly being terminally ill. Since then, it would seem that there is nothing seriously wrong with his health after all. This is not something in itself to be sorry about - no-one in all decency should desire the death of a fellow human being, even if he has been convicted of a serious criminal offence.

The point here is that, certainly on the face of it, an individual found guilty after a lengthy, expensive trial, has escaped paying the penalty for his crimes because of his political connections. If this is the case, it is a scandal that threatens the very foundations of our judicial system.

Does anyone remember how, on the National Party victory in 1948, rightwing extremists convicted of pro-Nazi activities during the war were released, swiftly rehabilitated and in some cases rewarded with high office?

If the ANC government which in 1994 so triumphantly replaced that despised regime is now following in its footsteps, is that not a serious problem?

Nor is the Shaik example the only one. A few years ago, fraudster Tony Yengeni was released after serving (likewise in suspiciously cozy conditions) only a fraction of his sentence.

In years gone by, Winnie Mandela has twice been convicted of serious offences - kidnapping and fraud - yet I don’t think she has served a day’s imprisonment for either of them. None of this would be tolerated by the public in established democracies like the UK and US, but in South Africa we tend to cynically shrug our shoulders and focus instead on own individual affairs.

If justice delayed is justice denied, “Victor’s Justice” is not justice at all but its sinister opposite.

It is bad enough that the institutions of international law and peace keeping have been subverted by the world’s true criminal regimes (just one example is how Libya still sits on the UN Human Rights Committee, and a few years ago actually chaired it).

There is not much ordinary South Africans can do about that, aside from trying to prevent its representatives from going along too enthusiastically with the whole egregious farce, but they have no excuse in not confronting developments that apparently threaten the integrity of the justice system in their own backyard.

When it comes right down to it, a democracy is not safeguarded by the occasional casting of votes or the right to rail against government corruption in the media, but by its ‘Shoftim v’Shotrim’ - judges who rule and officers who enforce their rulings.

South Africa has managed to remain a democracy for 17 years mainly because of and independent judiciary which on frequent occasions has taken a stand against the government and been allowed to prevail. Should this institution end up being infiltrated and subverted, we can be pretty sure that the game is up, and should that happen, South Africans as a whole will have no-one to blame but themselves.

Baal Shem Tov Shul reprieve scant consolation

STAFF REPORTER

THE BAAL Shem Tov Shul in 8th Street, Orange Grove has been granted a reprieve. It was due to have closed last Friday after a member of the City of Johannesburg’s mayoral committee, Christine Walters, who lives opposite the shul, lodged an objection against it, stating it was operating without consent use.

This caused a furore, in the Jewish community and ANC circles.

Walters, an ANC Councillor, has been accused of using political influence to shut down the synagogue.

The shul has been operating in the street for 16 years. Walters moved in eight years ago and apparently, immediately started complaining about the cars parking outside her house, although they were not blocking her entrance.

The shul, run by Rabbi Gavin Michal, then submitted an application for consent use, but it was turned down. He was given 60 days in which to resubmit documents to the Council or shut down.

Michal said members of the Johannesburg Council’s mayoral committee were supporting him and had confirmed that he could continue operating until the chief whip’s tribunal which would be held after the municipal elections in May.

The tribunal turned down the consent use application on the grounds of insufficient parking, but the shul has now reapplied on the grounds that a nearby bridge club has offered them additional parking.

Attempts to get comment from the city were fruitless.

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Baxter, Cape Town: Swiss troupe, Mummenschanz, until March 19, (021) 685-7880.

Coca-Cola Dome, North Riding: Cirque du Soleil's "Saltimbanco", until March 26, (011) 794-5800.

Emperor's, Kempton Park: Nataniël's "Combat" until March 26, in Theatre of Marcellus, (011) 928-1000.

Fugard Theatre, District Six: "Broken Glass", by Arthur Miller, with Sir Antony Sher in the lead, from March 22, (021) 461-4554.

Joburg Theatre, Braamfontein: In the Nelson Mandela, "Simply the Best", Rebecca O'Connor's tribute to Tina Turner, until March 20. On March 21 Sibongile Khumalo performs "A Spirit Ascending", (011) 877-6800. In the People's Theatre, "Pinocchio" opens March 12, (011) 484-1584.

Linder, Parktown: On March 16, 17, JPO performs Prelude, Liebestod, Nachtgesang from Wagner's "Tristan and Isolde" and Mahler's Fourth Symphony. Conductor: Bernhard Gueller; Soloist: Kelebogile Boikanyo (soprano), (011) 789-2733.

Lyric Theatre, Gold Reef City: ORT Azey, Johannesburg's first Yiddish Song Festival, produced by Philip Todres, March 16, (011) 728-7154.

Maker, Parkwood: Jonah Sack's exhibition "The Reverse of the Woof", ends April 15, (011) 447-6680.

Market, Newtown: In the Main Theatre, Marc Lottering's "Not in 3-D" until March 27. In the Barney Simon, Shakespeare's "Richard III", directed by Fred Abrahamse, opens March 15, (011) 832-1641.

Montecasino, Fourways: In the Pieter Toerien, "Evita", until March 27; in the Studio, "Mass Appeal", until March 27, (011) 511-1818. In Teatro, "Dreamgirls" until May 22, (011) 510-7472.

National Children's Theatre, Parktown: "Pippi Longstocking", until April 16, (011) 484-1584.

Ninth Street, Linden: An exhibition of drawings by Lionel Murcott and Juanita Frier opens March 18 with a performance by Marie Beytell, (011) 781-8820.

Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton: "London Road", until March 19. The Friday concerts feature Zanta Hofmeyr (violin), Daline Wilson (violin), Morkel Combrink (viola) and Wessel Beukes ('cello) on March 11 and 18, (011) 883-8606.

ProMusica Theatre, Roodepoort: Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" until March 26, (011) 674-1356

Wakkerstroom, Mpumalanga: Wakkerstroom Arts Festival, organised by Rona Sonnenberg, March 19-21, (017)730-0778.

TAPESTRY

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A dream way to end a sabbatical

ROBYN SASSEN

MULTI-AWARD winning musical theatre specialist Bryan Schimmel ends a three year sabbatical with the musical supervision of "Dreamgirls" which opens this week.

He spoke to Jewish Report four weeks into rehearsal. "When I heard 'Dreamgirls' was coming, I called Hazel Feldman, of Showtime Management, who is producing it, immediately. I'd been waiting for the right piece with which to terminate my sabbatical: this is it.

"Apart from it being a quintessential piece of Broadway musical theatre, it has a sensational score rooted in Mo'Town, R&B, soul and gospel, written in 1981. In the history of musical theatre, this was the show to believe in.

"It has drama. Its characters are flawed, which makes for good audience engagement; at its core is a story everyone can relate to. It's about an underdog who rises, falls and rises again. You can be knocked down and destroyed and come back even stronger.

"It will take stage design in South Africa to new levels. The set consists of five transparent LED panels. This means that there will be multi-visual moving images, and a projected sense of depth created through technical illusion.

"The calibre of costumes and wigs hasn't been seen locally since the 1980s Sun City extravaganzas," he adds. "I think this piece will revolutionise theatre here. It will attract the audience who comes anyway, but it will also attract black audiences.

"Dreamgirls' tells of three young black women in 1960s America who come from the Projects - the equivalent of our townships. Prospects are sparse; they dream for stardom."

Watching the cast rehearsing, it is clear that "Dreamgirls" is about more than just a story for most of them. "The talent I'm working with is phenomenal," Schimmel adds.

"A third are graduates of Tshwane University of Technology - formerly Pretoria Tech", Schimmel's alma mater. "Several have no formal experience. I like taking talent under my wing. It is all or nothing with me; I have opinions I'm never afraid to share.

"Bjorn Blignaut, who plays Jimmy Early, was an Idols and Coca-Cola Popstars sensation, with no training. I put my head on a block and my reputation on the line vouching for him. His talent is like that of Ian von Memerty and Craig Urbani. He's one of the reasons I love my job."

In his hiatus from stage, Schimmel taught arranging and orchestration at Wits University, where he's enrolled for a master's in musical theatre.

Gigs in his diary include Yom Ha'atzmaut in May; he's musical director of "Streets of Gold" opening later this month.

"It's a commissioned original work with a star-studded cast, including TV personalities Amor Vittone and Tumisho Masha; big stage names Samantha Peo, Mark Richardson, Fiona Ramsay and Shaun V. It is new. New musicals present challenges; for me, it's all incredibly satisfying."

"Dream Girls" is at Teatro, Montecasino, Fourways, March 11 - May 22; and Artscape, Cape Town, June 8 - 26.

"Streets of Gold" is at The Lyric, Gold Reef City, Ormonde, March 25 - April 3.



Dreamgirls musical supervisor Bryan Schimmel with the show's leading ladies (from back left) Tracey Lee Oliver (Deena); Caroline Borole (Effie); Lindiwe Bongani (Effie); Candida Mosoma (Lorrell); and Hayley Christian (Michelle). (PHOTOGRAPH: BRENDAN CROFT)

Well-deserved accolades for JPO concert

Concert: Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra (Linder)
Conductor: Bernhard Gueller
Soloist: Natalia Lavrova, piano
Programme: Music by Respighi, Mozart and Bizet



Pianist Natalia Lavrova. (PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY WWW.MIO.CO.ZA)

had some quirky accented oboe playing, while the orchestra as a whole was engagingly light of heart throughout with their extremely clear instrumental textures.

Natalia Lavrova, the Russian-born pianist who earned her Bachelor and Master's degrees in music at Juilliard under Jerome Lowenthal, clearly indicated that a light and rather delicate style of Mozart still suits a performance of his Piano Concerto no 9 in E flat major, K271 - Jeunnehomme - very well. At times it did tend towards self-effacement, however.

In fast, rippling passages in this concerto one often thought of other soloists who give greater point and firmness to the melodic lines, but elsewhere Ms Lavrova's playing was pleasantly expressive and unassuming. The opening bars of the Rondeau-finale lacked firm rhythmic bite last Thursday. She did not fully explore the radical extremes of this work.

However, never for a moment did we hear the sort of sentimental lingering with which lesser pianists seek to adorn their interpretations. Listening for example to her realisation of the

espressivo marking at the close of the deeply introspective Andantino, one was made aware of a musician using much of her often unfailing insights with discretion and rare economy.

Bernhard Gueller kept lightness intact throughout the JPO's performance of Bizet's tricky Symphony in C major - a beautifully judged reading. In a lesser performance it can so easily happen that it drags on a bit while the feeling that the musical ideas are over-extended doesn't escape the listener's thoughts. Not here.

By contrast, our attention was held by alert and virile yet affectionate playing. Gueller implements the right approach, missing no points but not demonstrating to be over-knowing either. The crisp, full sound quality of the JPO was a plus, while the upper strings were both tremendously flexible and zestful in their ensemble, especially in the very demanding Finale.

The oboe-led Andante could easily be a ballet pas-de-deux, while the more rural feeling of the Scherzo was atmospherically realised. Principal oboist Gary Roberts fully deserved the ovations he received.



FELDMAN ON FILM
Peter Feldman

PICK OF THE WEEK

Another Year

Cast: Jim Broadbent, Lesley Manville, Ruth Sheen, Peter Wight
Director: Mike Leigh

"Another Year" marks the 19th film by celebrated director Mike Leigh who turns his educated lens on an English family and their friends and extracts big drama out of small events.

Leigh is good at this and his attention to detail and his clever development of his characters are two potent aspects of an engaging slice of filmmaking.

It begins in the spring when we meet a happily middle-aged married couple improbably named,

Tom and Gerri, and played by Jim Broadbent and Ruth Sheen. Tom is a geologist and Gerri is a counsellor at a medical clinic who deals with sad, unhappy people.

Throughout the year they find time to entertain Mary (Lesley Manville), a lonely, over-talkative colleague of Gerri's, and Joe (Oliver Maltman), the couple's community lawyer son, whom they hope will find a wife.

Mary provides the film with its most cringe-worthy moments, made worse by her continuous alcoholic intake. Embarrassing though she may be at times, this pitiful character grows on you and comes to embody the film's very heart and soul.

The plot follows the fortunes of this small group over a period of a year and is divided into four seasons. There are plenty of get-togethers and during the course of the year the characters reveal more of themselves.

It's a wonderful study and at its core is the subject of happiness. Why are some people very happy with their lot in life, while others simply cannot cope?

The brief opening sequence focuses on the

mousy, depressed Janet, played by Imelda Staunton, the star of Leigh's brilliant "Vera Drake", who hates her marriage and has little for which to live.

Gerri asks her to rate her state of happiness out of 10, and she responds with the figure one. What would improve her life, Gerri inquires. "Another life," Janet replies.

The scene is illuminating because it puts into perspective one's own capacity for happiness and whether one can acquire it. Can one person's good luck, for instance, intensify the misery suffered by a friend?

There are no ready answers here, but Mike Leigh does present enough material for sober thought by offering moments of commendable clarity on the topic. The effects of his explorations are spiritually and mentally bracing as his characters engage in intelligent debate, allowing the audience to draw their own conclusions from it.

The acting throughout is of a superior quality with veteran Jim Broadbent bringing a quiet contentment and understanding to his role. Slow and unhurried, "Another Year" is a film for the connoisseur.

TAPESTRY - ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Alexander McCall’s loving touch hasn’t lost any of its deftness

The Saturday Big Tent Wedding Party by Alexander McCall Smith (Penguin, R220)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

ALEXANDER McCALL Smith has always been something of a feminist - as the very character of Mma Precious Ramotswe, founder of the No 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency, attests - but in this book, he is far more vocal about championing long-suffering women whose abuses at the hand of men include being jilted by fickle lovers, laughed at, lied to, insulted, taken for granted or simply misunderstood.

Take shoes, for instance: a matter way up there on the priority list of women, for reasons no man could ever begin to fathom. Shopping for shoes is one of those therapeutic pleasures women around the world know comes second only to chocolate.

Which is why, when Mma Ramotswe, strolling through Gaborone’s Riverwalk Mall, spots a pair of fetching white shoes in a window, she instantly reserves them for her bespectacled, rather confrontational second detective, Mma Grace Makutsi (who scored an unheard-of, and unrivalled, 97 per cent at the Botswana Secretarial College). The shoes will be ideal for Mma Makutsi’s upcoming wedding...

But I digress. This series of Mma Ramotswe’s doings begin with a call from Botsalo Moeti, a worried landowner whose cattle are being mutilated by someone malevolent enough to cut the beasts’ tendons. As any Motswana knows, cattle are not just the country’s real currency (far more valuable than pula), but animals with an unassailable position in the Batswana’s world view.

A man is a man only when he owns a head of cattle, or a few cows, at the very least, just as a woman is a woman only when she has a child.

So the torture of the animals is not just shocking, but deeply affronting. Mma Ramotswe’s investigations at the farm in question unearth more than she bargained for: a frightened domestic servant with an even more frightened young son; a schoolteacher who is altogether too defensive, when questioned about the matter; the neighbouring farmer, Fortitude Selele, who - far from being the rogue Moeti insists he is - turns out to be a genial and generous man.

Someone is surely lying to Mma Ramotswe in this perplexing situation, but she is on the case, assisted by her unerring gift for rationale, regular cups of good redbush tea and, of course, the strategies laid out in that groundbreaking work, “The Principles of Private Detection” by Mr Clovis Anderson, a book Mma Ramotswe relies on heavily.

“She remembered a proposition that was already included in Clovis Anderson’s great work: ‘Don’t think you know all the answers’, Mr Anderson had written, and had gone on, with admirable economy, to explain why this should be so: ‘because you don’t.’”

Adding to Mma Ramotswe’s worries is the fact that Charlie, the apprentice of her mechanic husband, Mr JLB Matekoni, is shirking his responsibilities towards the girl whose newborn twins he has fathered.

Botswana is not a country where incivility - far less neglect of children - is acceptable. Someone must give



the young man a gentle, but firm talking to. Unfortunately, Mma Ramotswe’s choice of Grace Makutsi for this task backfires badly, given Mma Makutsi’s well-known lack of tact and fiery temper.

And there is the troubling fact that Mma Ramotswe’s new blue van, while sleek and efficient, can never replace the spot in her heart reserved for her first little white van, battered and unreliable though it was.

Despite the permanent dent in the driver’s seat caused by its traditionally built owner, and its irksome habit of listing starboard, she longs to have it back again. But how to accomplish this without hurting the feelings of Mr JLB Matekoni?

Finally, there is the fact that Violet Sephotso - that shameless Jezebel, husband-stealer, wearer of tight dresses and over-bright lipstick - is again rearing her lacquered head and has had the effrontery to stand as a candidate for office in the country’s upcoming elections.

As in all his works, McCall Smith again propounds repeatedly the fundamental roles played by decency, good neighbourliness, politeness and, above all, kindness.

Harried though she may be by the enigmas brought by clients to her office, Mma Ramotswe’s greatest strength remains her gentle, respectful approach to all others. And, of course, the ethics instilled in her by her deceased father, Obed Ramotswe, that excellent, compassionate man who still routinely occupies her thoughts.

“She looked for him, but could not see him, because she knew, even in the dream, that he was dead. Sometimes people in our dreams are dead, but not quite dead, yet still talk to us. Late people can be loved too,” she muses.

She reflects, too, that when death - “that final darkness” - eventually claims her as well, she will expect no less from heaven than the thorn trees, azure sky and sandy, potholed roads of Botswana.

McCall’s light, but loving touch has lost none of its deftness. The fact that the No 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency (like his Isabel Dalhousie and Corduroy Mansions series) has become a beloved staple of readers around the world, has been translated into no fewer than 45 languages and has made the indomitable figure of Mma Precious Ramotswe Botswana’s most successful global export, speaks for itself.

And make no mistake: the lessons embodied in the books may be taught with levity and wry, uproariously funny asides, but they are as grounding and enduring as the arid Gaborone soil.

Once again, a winner that will beguile and delight readers from the first page to the last.

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YOUTH TALK

Alison Goldberg youthsajr@global.co.za

Packing mishloach manot for Purim

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH: SUZANNE BELLING

JORDAN LORGE, Chani Glassman and Tali Drutman, grade 10 learners at Torah Academy Girls’ High School in Johannesburg, are seen packing mishloach manot for Purim – an annual project of the school.

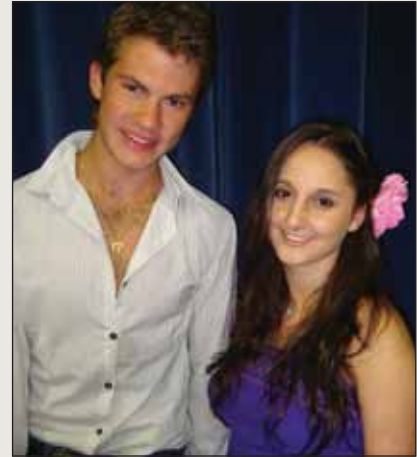
There is a large variety of imported and local goodies – including Israeli teas, sweets and chocolates, nuts and even whisky! The packaging, done by the girls, is both different and attractive and will make ideal gifts for family and friends.

Ariella Glassman, Chani’s mother, is convener of the initiative.

• For orders and further information, call the school at (011) 485-3871, or e-mail girlshigh@torahacademy.co.za



Beatlemania - Purim with a Jewish flavour



OWN CORRESPONDENT

KING DAVID High School Linksfield is putting on their annual Purim Play of 2011 on March 14 and 15 in the school hall. Tickets at R60 each, are available from the school secretary.

“Beatlemania - Purim” is based on the best-known rock band in history and everybody’s popular favourite.

Achashvarosh (Ryan Jacobson) and Esther (Dani Boonzaaier) part of the 165 learners from the cast of the King David Linksfield Purim Play 2011.

rite. It promises a moving, meaningful and extraordinary experience for both the cast and audience alike.

Combining the original story of Purim, with The Beatles’ best-known hits, promises an ageless, timeless and crowd-pleasing performance.

Set in the ‘60s where peace was an “epidemic” our four Beatles Yonatan Lennon, Paul McCohen, Ringo Star-of-David and George Harrisonowitz narrate the tale of Purim.

“Beatlemania – Purim” revolves around the central themes of the era it espouses “Love, Peace, no War” and of course, faith in Hashem.

Bnei Akiva helps Smile Foundation and Chev

LIANE BENJAMIN
PHOTOGRAPH: CHAVA GOLDBERG

SUNDAY MARCH 6 was marked by Bnei Akiva’s Worldwide Chessed Day. In Johannesburg, this included a jumble sale and a car wash that raised R4 000.

Channichim and madrichim, from different shichavot (age groups) came together to help make a difference to the Smile Foundation and the Chevrah Kadisha.

A very exciting, unforgettable Purim, is coming soon. A crazy night of fun straight after megillah reading



Washing cars and raising funds for chessed.

at Bnei Shul, Yeshiva College is the annual Gurim carnival at 20:30 and ice skating at Festival Mall, Kempton Park starting at the same time.

On Sundy from 10-12, cakes and

candy floss at King David Linksfield Shul to be followed by a seudah for all madrichim. For more information contact Josh Hovsha on 084-380-3186.

We’ll keep you posted.

Segev-Steinberg hosts Israel Quiz 2010 winner

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

THE SOUTH African Zionist Federation’s Israel Quiz 2010 winner, Shira Amar, a Yeshiva College learner, together with her family and dean of Yeshiva College Girls’ High School, Rav Ilan Raanan, recently spent an insightful afternoon with Israel’s Ambassador to South Africa Dov Segev-Steinberg at the Israeli embassy in Pretoria.

Together with Deputy Ambassador Yaakov Finkelstein, the ambas-



Rabbi Ilan Raanan; Israel’s Ambassador to South Africa Dov Segev-Steinberg and Shira Amar.

sador hosted the Yeshiva group for a meal at his home, following a tour of the embassy and introductions to each staff member.

Segev-Steinberg’s highly interested and successful career was clearly evident as he recounted fascinating anecdotes of his service as an Israeli dignitary around the world, together with an explanation of his art and Judaica collections.

Thank you to the South African Zionist Federation and to the ambassador himself for making such a memorable experience possible.

Focus on Auctions

Compiled by Manuela Bernstein.
Contact (011) 023-8160, Cell 082-951-3838
or e-mail: manuela@sajewishreport.co.za

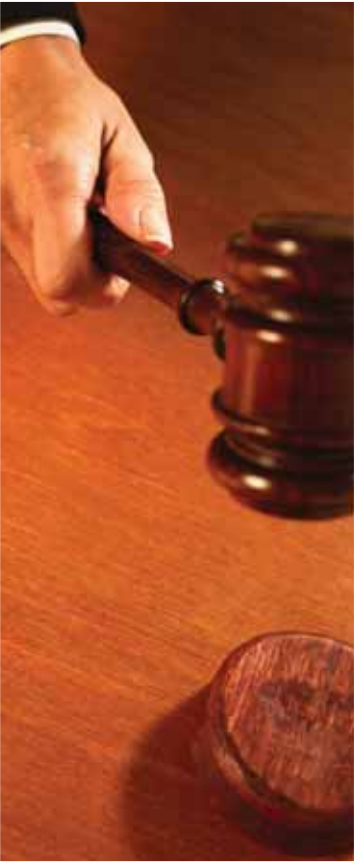
History of auctions

THE HISTORY of auctions extends back to 500 BC when Herodotus reported the use of an auction for the purpose of selling women under the condition that they be married following purchase.

Reports indicate that less attractive women were sold with monetary compensation given to the bidder. Whether or not these auctions were ascending or descending bid auctions, was not recorded.

The Roman Empire used auctions to liquidate property and estate goods. The mechanism implemented was referred to as the “atrium auctionarium”. It is not known whether or not these auctions were ascending or descending bid auctions, but the name used for the market mechanism would lead one to deduce that the auctions were ascending.

The word “actus” in Latin means increasing, and since it is incorporated into the name of the market it is assumed that bids were made in an increasing fashion.



Within the Roman Empire the “atrium auctionarium” was also used by the soldiers to sell goods acquired “sub hasia” (under the spear). Probably the most bizarre account of early auctions concerns the year 193 AD when the entire Roman Empire was put on the auction block after being sacked.

Aside from the earlier accounts of the Roman auctions, there also exists evidence of Buddhist monks in China using auctions to fund the creation of temples, as it became customary to auction off the property of deceased monks for this purpose.

at auction. Auctions were often used to liquidate estates. Often times, the owner of the goods was not disclosed because the current social norms did not look favourably upon auctions.

Aside from the early modern records of the use of auction mechanisms in England and America, auctions were used in the Netherlands and Germany as well in the later part of the 19th century.

Auctioning in the Netherlands dates back to 1887 when it was used for the sale of fruits and vegetables. Reportedly, a grower named Jongerling arrived at the inland harbour, Broek op Langendijk in North Holland. Upon arrival he discovered a strong demand for his produce and instead of liquidating his produce in the usually customary fashion of selling to a specific dealer, he decided to allow the buyers to compete with each other by using an auction.

In the same year as Jongerling in North Holland, fishermen in Germany began to use auctions to sell their catch when arriving in port. These fish auctions allowed the fishermen to rapidly liquidate their catch and spend more time fishing to satisfy consumer demand.

(This brief history of auctions was extracted from the work of Ralph Cassidy, Jr in his book Auctions and Auctioneering, University of California Press, 1967)

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Teachers of Hebrew and Jewish Studies are also invited to make an appointment to discuss employment opportunities that may exist at Carmel School



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FOCUS ON AUCTIONS

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Our 2011 auction calendar for Johannesburg is as follows:

- Wednesday, March 23
- Thursday, May 12
- Thursday, June 2
- Wednesday, July 20
- Tuesday, August 23
- Wednesday, September 28
- Wednesday, November 2

• Wednesday, November 30

Launched by commercial stalwart, Lance Chalwin-Milton of Top-Flite Properties, The High St Auction Co has engaged some of South Africa's top auction heavyweights including Mark Kleynhans, James Dall, Brent Townes, Nick Pretorius, Rodney Beck and leading real estate and charity auctioneer, Joff van Reenen.

Joff van Reenen is one of southern Africa's most internationally experienced auctioneers.

Having conducted auctions in southern Africa, Dubai, Hong Kong, England and the US, Joff is a specialist in the fields of residential, commercial, retail and industrial real estate auctions.

Joff has been a member of the NAA (National Auctioneers Association of America) for the past four years. He is also the first non-American to obtain the CAI (Certified Auctioneers Institute) designation and is the first in South Africa



Richard Branson of Virgin and Joff van Reenen where 1,7 million was raised for Virgin Unite.

to hold such title.

Locally in South Africa Joff has conducted mostly high profile, high value sales for listed property funds as well as major mining conglomerates such as De Beers and Anglo American.

He has been involved in the five largest banking institutions in South Africa both as auctioneer and consultant.

Joff is regarded as one of South Africa's most highprofile charity and benefit auctioneers and has been involved with some of the largest and most distinguished charity organisations in the world, helping to raise millions to benefit their causes, such as Virgin, The Kellogg's Trust, The Nelson Mandela Foundation, 46664, The Oppenheimer Trust, Princess Caroline of Monaco, President Bill Clinton and The United Nations World Health Organisation.

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FOCUS ON AUCTIONS

Consolidated Auction Group: means, methods, and masterful people

THEY CALL IT the four Rs - redundancies, repossessions, rarities, and real estate. If there's an asset that can fit into one of these categories – and almost all of them can – you can rest assured that Consolidated Auction Group has sold it at auction or out of hand.

Whether it's earth-removal machinery, trucks, collectable cars, or property "we have the means and the methods to dispose of these items fast and effectively", says Chico da Silva, group CEO.

The four Rs aren't the only yardstick by which Consolidated plies its trade. "Headway through Headlines' and the two Cs, 'Clout and Class', also serve to broadly sum up our service, particularly pertaining to multimedia marketing, experience, and stylish execution."

Only formed in May 2008, the company has vast accumulated knowledge in the field of appraisals and auctions.

"The idea behind Consolidated," explains Da Silva, "is to bring together the best minds in the business. Just at our head office in Germiston, Auction Park, we have a team consisting of, among others, floor managers, administrators, valuers, agents, consultants and, of course, auctioneers.

"You'll find people in these positions at other companies as well, but ours, apart from their different job descriptions, have one thing in common: years of experience and commitment have made them masterful in what they do."

Take for example Helder de Almeida. Employed

by Consolidated since finishing school, he has worked his way up to operations manager and plays an important role in preparing and presenting a diverse array of loose assets up for auction.

Da Silva himself learned the ropes first hand. That was 30 years ago when he started his auction career while still at school.

Through innovative preparation and presentation, Da Silva impressed his employers, paving the way to rocket up the rungs of the leading auction company that gave him his first and only break.

From go-getting gofer to director a decade lat-

er's respective abilities."

Due to its distinctive appeal, selling collectable cars at auction requires a classy approach, such as that provided by Consolidated Auction Group.

Once automobiles of yore were only transacted privately, discreetly changing ownership between esteemed gentlemen. But the times we live in are madly forging ahead and even vintage and veteran vehicles from motoring's vast historic panoply, had to shift up a gear and catch up.

Enter the auction method. Once scorned as a sales technique for frippery, loose assets and

His acumen and acuity have gone a long way to shatter old-fashioned perceptions of the fastest sales method since Babylonian times.

Only three months after launching his own company in March almost three years ago, this accomplished auctioneer held his company's first sale of classic and contemporary collectable cars and motorcycles.

One of the cars was a mint-condition Vaudeville-style 1956 Ford Thunderbird. It went for the sum of R625 000.

Elsewhere on that day a deathly black and chrome, irresistibly alluring '50s Vincent Black Comet fetched R680 000.

But the pièce de résistance at a sale on August 14, 2008, was the bid of R980 000 Da Silva secured for a JFK-style Lincoln Continental from the '60s.

Or course youngsters among the crowd of some 1 000 bidders and bystanders will tell you that the Ferrari Spider, sold for R1,3 million, was the crème de la crème. But they don't have the wisdom of old age...

Several such quarterly sales since and Consolidated is known countrywide as the preferred conduit for quality car auctions.

On March 26 at 10 President Street, from 12:00, the company's classic automobile ability will again be in much evidence.

• Go to www.consolidatedauctioneers.com or phone Alan Hogg, our related national executive, at (011) 872-1890.



Chico da Silva of Consolidated Auction Group, surrounded by a record turnout at one of the company's classic and contemporary collectable car auctions.

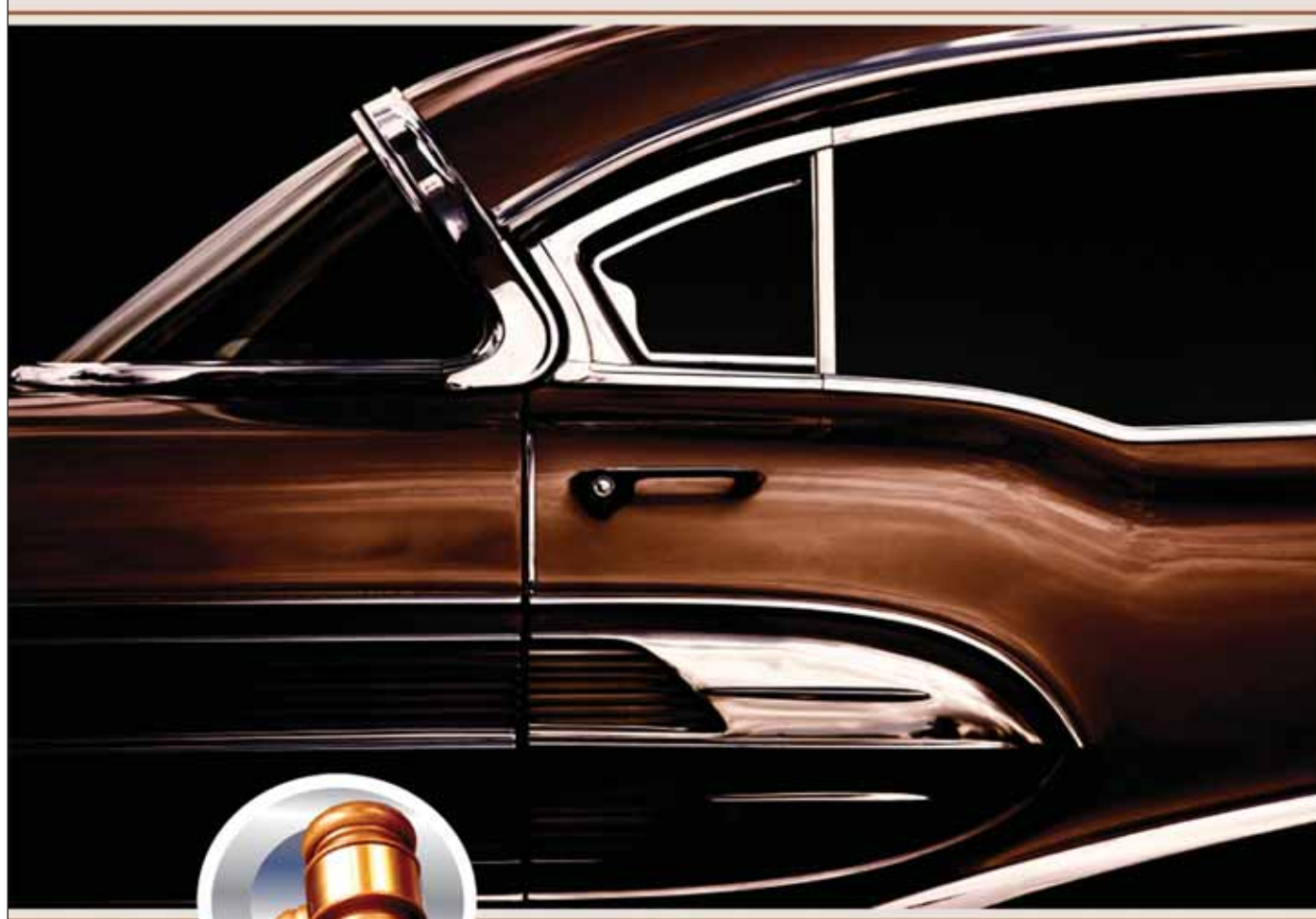
er, CEO of his alma mater not too long thereafter, and company pioneer of late, Da Silva is a proud inspiration for his staff.

"I know that they're all consolidated behind the brand we've built together. It wouldn't have been possible without the necessary faith in each oth-

the like, expedited public sales have caught on in the minds of sellers and buyers interested in cars with that unmistakable Concours D'Elegance-aesthetic.

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FOCUS ON AUCTIONS

Bonhams, founded in 1793 in London, still setting the fine art pace

Bonhams, founded in 1793, is one of the world’s oldest and largest auctioneers of fine art and antiques. The present company was formed by the merger in November 2001 of Bonhams & Brooks and Phillips Son and Neale UK.

IN AUGUST 2002, the company acquired Butterfields, the principal firm of auctioneers on the West Coast of America. Today, Bonhams offers more sales than any of its rivals, through two major salerooms in London: New Bond Street, and Knightsbridge, and a further four throughout the UK.

Sales are also held in San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Boston in the US; and Switzerland, France, Monaco, Hong Kong, Australia and Dubai.

Bonhams has a worldwide network of offices and regional representatives in 25 countries offering sales advice and valuation services in 57 specialist areas.

Bonhams’ next South African art sale on March 23 has attracted so many outstanding works following the breaking of the record for South African art last year in New Bond Street, that the sale will now include an evening auction of 20 masterpieces.

These are some of the most outstanding and desirable works by Irma Stern Jacob Hendrik Pierneef, Maggie Laubser and Gerard Sekoto. The glowing colours and vibrancy of this art out of Africa is already attracting huge interest.

Many of these pictures flooded in to Bonhams following the £2,4m (R26,6m) result at Bonhams’ October sale last year for Irma Stern’s “Bahora Girl”, an image of a young Indian girl painted in Zanzibar on one of the artist’s beloved forays deep into Africa.

Giles Peppiatt, head of South African Art

at Bonhams, says: “In the five years that we have held stand-alone South African art sales in London, the quality of the work on offer has steadily grown in stature.

“Without doubt, this latest offering is in a class of its own, hence the decision to hold an evening sale of true masterpieces. These range in value from £100 000 to £2m. It is without doubt the most exciting collection of South African images that I have seen.”

The works have been sourced from South Africa, Europe, Canada and the US, Israel and Australia.

The main sale starting at 14:30 on March 23 in Bonhams’ New Bond Street saleroom and will include some 100 plus pictures.

The past five years have been exceptional for Bonhams’ South African art department. We are the world’s leading international auctioneer of South African art and the auctioneer of choice for many of the principal private collections. This reputation has been achieved through hard work and exceptional service to all our clients, both buyers and seller.

The result is that we hold the world record prices for all the major South African artists: Irma Stern, Jacob Hendrik Pierneef, Jean Welz, etc.

The prices achieved emphatically confirm that the very finest South African art is now appealing to a global audience who are prepared to pay the highest international prices for the best works. We are

delighted to have set world record prices in every auction that we have held and this achievement demonstrates our commitment to our clients.

We are able to offer the necessary combination of expertise, experience and enthusiasm that ensures our service is outstanding in all areas relating to acquisition, collections management, curatorial care and disposal.

This year we hold our “Masterpieces” evening sale: an auction of selected work of unparalleled quality and importance; these paintings are all exceptional examples of the artists’ work.

The response from collectors and the market has been enthusiastic and we fully expect this auction to be a landmark in the South African art market for this year.

This year promises to be a most interesting year for South African art and one in which Bonhams will play a decisive role. Bonhams has a presence in 27 countries on five continents allowing us to offer an exceptional local service while ensuring our clients’ works reach the appropriate international market.

We aim to build on our successes of the past five years and further prove that South African art is of global interest.

- For more information contact Julian Roup on landline 0207 468 8259 or Julian.roup@bonhams.com / press@bonhams.com



Above: Image of Royal Bafokeng maid who served tea to Maggie Laubser for sale at Bonhams in London. It was sold for £45 in 1945 and is now estimated to sell for £200 00 to £300 000.



Above: Image of Cape Town’s “District Six” made in fear by leading black artist, for sale at Bonhams.



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Illustrated
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oil on canvas
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THE PRESTIGE Auction Group was conceptualised and founded by its current operators, as a result of an industry need for a fresh no-nonsense approach and easy accessibility to auctions in South Africa.

The group has a national footprint with offices in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. Auction activity is departmentalised into immovable and movable property.

The former includes residential, commercial and retail property. The latter includes cars and LDVs; mining and articulated trucks; mining vehicles; office and household effects; plant and equipment; as well as objets de art, jewellery and collectables.

The Group is particularly adept at auctioning on behalf of trustees and beneficiaries of

deceased estates, as well as dealing with insolvent estates and bank foreclosures.

The Group sits on the panel of various local and international lenders and mortgagees, as well as many leading liquidators and insolvency practitioners.

Services offered by them include valuation, bridging finance, debt recovery and turnaround management.

The Group is expertly run by a group of consummate professionals headed up by Elna Rubinek – Group CEO; Sandy Soller – Group Chairman; and Michael Segal co-founder and lead auctioneer.

A dedicated team of property, mining, vehicle and fine art brokers complete the Group's enviable skills set, which boasts a management team not only with a demonstrable track record for achieving excellence and record auction prices, but also a combined 150 years of auction experience.

The Group is always innovating, the most recent example being Prestige Auction Group's launch of "Prestige Distressed Property Management" (PDPM) a South African first.

PDPM offers services to and are appointed by financial institutions and other lenders who have secured their loans by a legal charge (mortgage) on a property.

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In many cases the function may just be to arrange an early sale of the property in order to repay as much of the loan as possible.

Unlike other insolvency procedures, the role of PDPM is to secure the best possible return for the lender, rather than any creditors as a whole.

The Prestige Auction Group's motto, "Your success at the drop of the gavel ", says it all opines Group Lead Auctioneer Michael Segal.



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Success at the drop of the gavel

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FOCUS ON AUCTIONS

ELVIS online bidding set to rock car auction scene

Park Village’s groundbreaking vehicle auctions online bidding system is currently in testing phase and is on track for going live in the near future.

THAT’S THE news from PVA director, Roy Lazarus, who confirms that the system’s tests are living fully up to expectations and that the system integrity is looking so good that later upgrades are definitely on the cards.

“We are thinking of calling the system ELVIS for Electronic Live, Vehicle i-bidding System, in honour of the late, great entertainer who was a fan of motoring and motor-vehicles,” says Lazarus.

“Electronic bidding is not new as such in South Africa, but the quantum leap in terms of our new system has to do with being able to bid online in real time as the bidding progresses,” he adds.

Preceding the actual auction, bidders will have the opportunity to view all the vehicles and their history and to submit their bid or bids on the day

via their home or office PC. The bespoke system, modelled on UK systems, allows buyers to pre-register with a choice of attending either in person or bidding remotely without being on site.

Pre-registration is carried out on the Park Village website using “i-registration”.

Buyers who cannot attend the auction in person can, on the day of the auction, place their “i-bids”.

This is an easy process when, after logging onto the PVA website, bids can be placed as the bidding progresses from your home or office computer.

Catalogues are available in the system’s “i-catalogue”, a wireless catalogue which displays on your PC screen all lots on auction, accompanied



Keen bidding at a recent Park Village Auctions car sale.

by information about each lot. The display changes in real time during the course of the auction, showing the next lot to be sold and lots that have already been sold and an electronic vending roll, “i-vendu”, sends a text message to the successful bidder in real time to confirm that the bid was accepted. The display is also projected at the auction itself, allowing bidders on the floor to easily keep track of the action.

Numerous advantages will accrue from the system. There’s no more waiting in lines to register, information is readily to hand both before the auction begins and during the auction process and all the necessary formalities are accommodated on the software platform, including confirmation of the amount payable by the buyer and the necessary tax invoices.

Above all, it’s now possible to take part in a PVA vehicle or property auction online in real time (such as with immediate finality and without lengthy delays in processing), via your PC without actually being on-site, thereby ensuring a new level of convenience for bidders.

A further benefit is that Park Village keeps participants in the system up to date with forthcoming auctions. In addition, sellers can now use the system’s “i-seller” facility to receive all documents and view current and historic market-related statistics at the click of a button.

“The system is nothing less than a quantum leap forward in the South African auction sector,” adds Lazarus.

• For further information call (011) 789-4375/6/7 or contact www.parkvillageauctions.co.za





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ANIMALS SHOULD BE STUNNED BEFORE SLAUGHTER

THE LETTER of Dr Elisa Galgut, Cape Town refers. Her concern in the inherent cruelty involved in the battery farming of chickens and poultry, is very commendable, and her concern is correct.

How does she view the ritual slaughter of cattle (to make or keep the meat “kosher”), which involves the cutting the throat of living animals without previously stunning the animal?

To first stun the animal to render it unconscious, is surely less cruel?

SAJR TAKEN TO TASK FOR PUBLISHING GOLDSTONE ARTICLE

Well, Mr Justice Richard Goldstone has at last managed to vindicate himself. With the aid of your newspaper article and the bold cover-page headline, perpetrator has turned victim and victim perpetrator. Ring true of most Israel-Palestinian questions?

Suddenly, this man who caused irreparable harm to both Israel and Jews the world over, is portrayed by you as balanced and deeply wronged.

Does he or you truly believe that now, after all the damage that he has caused, we must be grateful to him for condemning Hamas as much as he condemns Israel?

What a win! Terrorists can target innocent men, women and children with the express aim of murdering as many as possible and Goldstone is lauded for saying that they should be condemned just as Israel was condemned for

BDS CAMPAIGN SUFFERS FROM A MISPLACED FOCUS

I DO NOT wish to add anything further to the debate on Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu other than to say that it represents an awful misdirection of energy and focus.

At a time when Israel is subject to an anti-democratic and despicable campaign of boycott, delegitimisation and sanctions (BDS), those that wish to see justice done should be heading for the main field of battle and not involving themselves in side skirmishes, which, in this case anyway, cannot be won.

More importantly, levelling the charge of “anti-Semitism” at everyone who attacks Israel is often an indication of laziness - an unwillingness or inability to deal effectively with what has emerged as a skillfully orchestrated campaign against the Jewish State.

Countering the BDS campaign requires arguments, not accusations. Laying the charge of anti-Semitism does three things: it elicits the counter-accusation of “playing the race card” and radicalises the opposition; it provides no argument which might convince those who are as yet undecided; and, it fails to distinguish between anti-Semites and those who collude with them but are not necessarily anti-Semitic.

The first point requires no further comment, so I will deal with the third point first and then return to the second.

Anthony Julius draws the distinction between, firstly, the traditional anti-Semite who hates Jews and is not ashamed to express it, and secondly, those who, while not necessarily anti-Semitic, collude with anti-Semites and make common cause with them.

The first type is guilty of the culpable adoption of anti-Semitism, the second, of the culpable indifference to it. Untroubled by the company he keeps, this second type - this “fellow traveller” of anti-Semitism - overlooks and excuses that which is immoral in the cause he supports.

During the Cold War, fellow-travellers of the Soviet Union (Lenin’s “useful idiots”) denied the reality of their cause by ignoring, suppressing and excusing the famines, mass deporta-

WHY THE DEAFENING SILENCE ON MANYI’S RACIST REMARK?

WHERE ARE the spokespeople for the South African Jewish religious community when racist attacks are made on Indians in our community?

Jimmy Manyi, ANC spokesman, made the following, well publicised, disgusting racist remark in an address delivered to the Durban Chamber of Commerce last year:

“Indians, we should be having only three per cent of positions on management. They are sitting at 5.9. I call it the power of bargaining. Indians have bargained their way to the top.”

Now, if a similar remark were made about Jews and the disproportionate number in management, I have no doubt Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein would be loudly, publically, and rightly, saying that anti-Semitism of this sort was racist and unacceptable. He would probably add, given that indeed there was such a disproportion, it was the outcome of complex social factors, involving, inter alia, minority status

I believe that New Zealand has, or is about to, make it a law to stun the animal before slaughter and I believe that this law is correct. And many people would agree with the New Zealand laws.

Does Dr Galgut and Dr Picker realise that stunning the animal is less cruel than the kosher method?

Joyce Hillman
Houghton, Johannesburg

launching a war to protect its citizens and rid herself of these murderers.

That this article appeared in the Jewish News Weekly is sad; that you saw fit to publish it in the manner you have done, is possibly even sadder. Nothing, that Richard Goldstone says today (save refute the report), and no white-washing from your paper or any other can negate the damage caused by his nefarious actions.

Monessa Shapiro
Glenhazel, Johannesburg

We did not “create” the article on Goldstone; we reported on his Berkeley speech. Whichever way you may look at it, Goldstone remains “news”, whether one agrees or disagrees with what he says. - Editor

tions, show trials, and ruthless killings.

Today, anti-Semitism’s “fellow travellers” deny the reality of Arab and Palestinian rejectionism, the horrendous incitement against Jews and Israel, the genocidal goals outlined in the Hamas Charter and the crimes perpetrated against Israeli civilians (rocketing) and the Palestinian population (human shields).

So, while the fellow traveller may escape the main charge of anti-Semitism, he has nothing to be proud of. The selection of Israel as a unique object of opprobrium in a region desperately short on human rights is neither heroic nor honest. Furthermore, he places himself directly in the camp of those who would destroy the Jewish State.

Why should we decry the BDS campaign? I will give just one reason though there are others: it is anti-democratic because it ignores the fact that Israel is a democracy - the only one in the Middle East.

All Israelis, including Arabs, enjoy the right to elect their own representatives to Parliament and replace them if necessary.

The campaign seeks to undermine the collective will of Israelis. It ignores and discounts the views Israelis have on their government, settlement policy and the two-state solution.

It would be more appropriate to direct the BDS campaign against the Palestinian Authority and Hamas who hold power not by the will of the people democratically expressed, but by force and intimidation.

If it is true that a lasting peace can only be achieved between the democratically-elected representatives of opposing groups.

If Jews have accomplished anything over 3 000 years, it is the skilful use of their intellects. So let us put our best foot forward and deal with attacks on Israel and Jews with our heads, rationally, rather than emotionally.

Chuck Volpe
Port Elizabeth

This letter has been shortened. - Editor

and wider community attitudes.

Now, my concern is not with this hypothetical case, but with the actual deafening silence of the religious Jewish community on Manyi’s remarks.

No doubt Rabbi Goldstein, the head of the South Africa’s Orthodox Jewish community, infamous for his Jerusalem Post “reply” to Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu and his delayed response in the notorious planned attack on Mr Justice Richard Goldstone’s grandson’s barmitzvah celebration, would ask why he is (should be) responsible.

Maybe he should ask the women and men who attend the synagogue.

Robert Segall
Newlands, Cape Town

We have removed some very personal comments. - Editor

SAJR SEEMS TO TRY TO EXONERATE RICHARD GOLDSTONE

YOUR ARTICLE last week describing Mr Justice Richard Goldstone’s address at Berkeley in the US, suggested that Goldstone defended his Gaza report while agreeing to Israel’s right to self-defence.

It would seem that you are attempting to exonerate Goldstone for his widely condemned and unacceptable report. No mention is made of the widespread criticism of the fact that the terms of reference for his commission already condemned Israel and that this was not removed by his demand that there be an alteration of the wording of these terms.

No mention is made of the fact that one member of his commission was a known severe critic of Israel’s policies,

BRENDON KATZ NOT THE ONLY JEWISH EXPONENT OF MMA

I REFER to your story in last week’s paper on the sports page, “Brendon Katz to take on Santiago in MM bout”. I follow MMA (mixed martial arts) and Jack Milner has made an error to say Katz is the only Jewish fighter in MMA.

There is Adam Speechly that is highly rated in the circle of MMA. Then there is

STRONG APPEAL TO THE BETH DIN TO RELAX ITS CONVERSION LAWS

I WAS puzzled to see my letter of February 11 published under the heading “Conversions not an option to strengthen Judaism”, as this heading is contradictory to the viewpoints it contained.

This may have led Jared Joel to assume in his letter in last weeks’ issue, that I was against his suggestions, when indeed I am very much for them. They would indeed strengthen Judaism!

Perhaps I did not express myself clearly or was not direct enough.

Whatever the historical background regarding conversions, which Jared outlines and which I, ever eager to learn more of our fascinating history, found very interesting, these facts have little bearing on the Beth Din of Johannesburg’s decisions.

These are made unilaterally according to their interpretation of halachic law, followed to the last letter, and are cast in stone.

Coming, unashamedly, from a Reform background, I was exposed in my youth to many converts. They stand out well in my memory, more so indeed than many of the “born” Jews of that very active and vibrant community in the heyday of Reform Judaism of the ‘50s and ‘60s.

That is because they were the backbone of the congregation. If the Shul was open, they were there, endlessly leading the abundant youth activities and fundraising relentlessly.

I remember one lady in particular, who travelled a considerable distance, taking two buses each way in all weather - I do not believe she ever missed a service.

Today, I despair to say, the children, or grandchildren, of these very sincere converts would on no account be brissed,

GREEK GDP IS \$26 000 AND NOT \$2 600 AS STATED

ON THE off-chance anybody read my letter “Underdeveloped nations maybe must go the Chinese route” (SAJR March 4), I would like to apologise for an error.

I wished to compare the standard of living of various countries, as it is perceived that if a country has a per capita GDP of less than about US\$7 000 per annum it will not be able to sustain a democratic society. I’m not quite sure what “per capita GDP” means but it is obviously a measure of income.

I stated the per capita GDP of Israel as US\$29 000 and as a comparison I wished

BUTLER’S BOOK ONLY AVAILABLE 3RD WEEK IN MARCH

THANK YOU for the favourable review of my book, “Parley with the Devil” in your February 18 issue. I much appreciated it, thought it was very apt, and am duly grateful... but unfortunately the book will only be available in bookstores from around the third week in March

with an obvious bias. No mention is made of the refusal to accept evidence from British Colonel Kemp, a world authority on the ethics of warfare, who frequently stated that no other army had shown the same degree of care to avoid civilian casualties.

Finally, his hope that Israel would someday more thoroughly investigate its own actions during Operation Cast Lead, is nothing short of insulting, when taking into account the great details of the Israel army inquiries, with several updates and their bringing to trial individual soldiers for acting contrary to the army’s high moral code.

Monty M Zion
Protea Village, Israel

also Jonathan Muller.

Maybe Milner should not only take the word of certain managers but should also do some research into new sport in South Africa.

Melvyn Kramer
Sandringham, Johannesburg

barmitzvahed or married in an Orthodox situation, unless the most stringent degree of observance, previously undertaken by only the “frumest” of Jews pre 1970s, be instituted.

It is well-known that Reform conversions or marriages are simply not recognised. It is not unusual today for older couples to “remarry” Orthodox in order to “regulate” the situation for their offspring.

As a matter of fact, growing up in those times, the “Orthodox” members of the Cape Town community, with the exception of a very small group, often only meant “not being Reform” or followed various limited degrees of observance, such as “buying a ticket for the High Holy Days”, eating kosher in and treif out, and having Shabbos dinner” (that was regarded as rather frum!)

The norm, in a Christian country where trading on Sunday was against the law, was for all retail outlets and professional services to open for business on Saturday mornings. Saturday afternoon was “traditionally” for bowls. The degree of kashrut and range of Shabbos and other observances of today, was virtually unknown!

May I reiterate, unless or until the situation outlined above regarding members of the current Jewish community is reviewed and relaxed by a South African Beth Din, there is little hope of them extending conversion rights to the Lemba or any other aspirant converts who do not conform fully to a totally halachic lifestyle. More’s the pity but such are the facts.

Sonja Bulkin
Highlands North, Johannesburg

to state Greece as US\$26 000, but erroneously wrote US\$2 600. For this I apologise profusely to the Greek nation, the ruling Greek government, Greeks living abroad including those in RSA and especially to my Greek neighbour and his extended family.

I would like to add that the figures for RSA at US\$7 050, Iran US\$6 400 and Zimbabwe US\$157 are not errors. They are by courtesy of the Economist.

John Brenner
Cyrildene
Johannesburg

which I did inform you of. As you know, publicity ahead of availability can be the kiss of death. I did think it was a very nice review.

Kevin Butler
Johannesburg

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD
Zev Kregel,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Anti-Semitism on university campuses

GIVEN HOW fundamentally irrational anti-Semitism is, the last place one would expect it to flourish is in universities, and especially not at academic institutions which pride themselves on their commitment to liberal values and human rights.

Bizarrely enough, that is precisely what has been happening worldwide, including within several of the world's most esteemed institutions of higher learning. Virulent anti-Israel sentiment has taken firm root in certain sectors of academia.

Its proponents are becoming increasingly aggressive in promoting those sentiments, to the extent of seeking to silence pro-Israel viewpoints and victimising Jewish students who fail to fall into line. Today, much of the work of our colleagues overseas is aimed at addressing this mounting harassment and providing Jewish students with the necessary tools to fight back.

While our own campuses have been relatively quiet compared with what has been happening elsewhere, problems have surfaced there as well.

Last week saw at least three cases of Jewish students at Wits being subjected to threats and verbal abuse following after Israeli diplomat Ishmael Khaldi (who is a Muslim Bedouin) spoke there under the auspices of SAUJS.

We are currently working closely with SAUJS to establish all the relevant facts of the situation and decide on the best course of action to take.

Remembering the forgotten Jews of Libya

Libya is very much in the news at

present, with Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi fighting to maintain his four-decade-old autocratic rule in the face of unprecedented popular resistance.

While numerous Libyan civilians have already lost their lives, none of them are Jews for the very good reason that today not a single Jew lives in that country. State-sponsored persecution, discrimination and frequent pogroms following the establishment of the State of Israel, saw this ancient Jewish community systematically driven out.

Next week, Dr David Gerbi will be coming out to South Africa as a guest of the SAJBD. Born in Libya, Dr Gerbi was eight years old when he and his family were expelled. For many years, he has since dedicated himself to promoting reconciliation and understanding between the Libyan regime and its exiled Jewish population, as well as to restore a synagogue in Tripoli.

While in this country, he will be speaking about the Libyan Jewish heritage, his personal experience of trying to reach out to Gaddafi and how past and current developments have altered his views about his birthplace and its future.

Dr Gerbi is noted for the sincere, innovative manner in which he promotes his key messages. We hope to see a good attendance from our community at the various presentations he will be giving. Those attending will be provided with unique insights into a world that, like the shtetl culture of Eastern Europe, is no more. They will also learn more about the forced exodus of Jews from Arab countries post-1948, an injustice the world by and large has chosen to ignore.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

Galliano's anti-Semitism leaves SA designer perplexed

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

THE ANTI-SEMITIC outburst by British fashion designer John Galliano, has shocked Malcolm Kluk of local fashion house Kluk CGDT, who served a two-year apprenticeship with Galliano in London in the early '90s and accompanied him to Paris for his first eponymous label show.

"He was always a bit eccentric, but never cruel or discriminatory," Kluk recalled of his mentor in an e-mail interview. "He was never anti-Semitic.

"He embraced all cultures and people, because that is what inspired him. His life was about broadening his realm, not segregating it.

"I think this is a sad, lonely man under immense pressure with probably some other underlying reason for losing control. Admittedly he has been indulged over the years and probably feels larger than life," he added.

In a fresh perspective, Kluk said he believed the Christian Dior fashion house, where Galliano was head designer before being fired last week in the wake of the furore, had been looking for "a way to move him on" for a while. "They need to create fresh PR and as good as John is, he is consistently so. Bringing in a new designer, changes the ante a bit."

While Kluk said he wished to be compassionate, he believed individuals should be responsible for their actions. "I cannot condone this sort of behaviour, and an apology is too late.

"I am very disappointed in someone I held in such high regard," he said.

Malcolm Kluk (left) of fashion house Kluk CGDT, with partner Christian Gabriel du Toit. Kluk served his apprenticeship with designer John Galliano in the 1990s.



AROUND THE WORLD
NEWS IN BRIEF

BRITAIN UPGRADING STATUS OF PALESTINIAN DIPLOMATS

LONDON -- Britain will upgrade the status of the Palestinian delegation to the United Kingdom to a mission.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague made the announcement upgrading the status of Palestinian diplomats in Britain on Monday, a day before Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is scheduled to meet with Hague and Prime Minister David Cameron in London.

Hague at a news conference said he would discuss the issue with Abbas, and "also confirm that given the extent of our aid to the Palestinian Authority and our work with them, we will join many other countries in upgrading the status of the Palestinian Delegation to London to the level of a mission".

Hague also called for "an urgent return to negotiations based on clear parameters including 1967 borders".

"It remains more vital than ever that we press for a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," he said.

In January, Ireland upgraded the Palestinian diplomatic status in the country to an official embassy. Several other European countries, including France and Spain, have also done the same thing. (JTA)

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SPIRITUAL LEADER

Britain's historic Spanish & Portuguese Jews' Congregation (S&P) seeks an outstanding and visionary leader to spearhead our community's future development and growth, and to maximise our leadership potential within the Anglo-Jewish and international Sephardi world.

With a diverse portfolio of interests, the S&P comprises four unique and distinctive communities at Bevis Marks, Lauderdale Road, Wembley and Borehamwood, and the role will lead to involvement with the Sephardi Beth Din, Sephardi Kashrut Authority and Central London Mikveh.

The Spiritual Leader will also be expected to engage with related bodies such as the Montefiore Endowment kollel programme, Naima Jewish Primary School, Sephardi Centre and Rabbinic Conference, and will represent the S&P in its traditional role within Anglo-Jewry, by acting as joint Ecclesiastical Authority of the Board of Deputies, and through participation at ceremonial and civic occasions.

Given the challenging and prominent nature of the position, the successful candidate will therefore have demonstrated leadership in the promotion of inclusive, modern and orthodox values in both practical and academic terms.

Applicants will have had experience of developing communal or organisational strategies that stress a full spectrum engagement with members, while reaching beyond to inspire future growth. Exceptional interpersonal and organisational skills will be required, as well as the dynamism to engage with, inspire and guide those from a wide range of age groups and religious and social backgrounds. A willingness to absorb S&P minhag will be required, and familiarity with Sephardi traditions and practices would be advantageous.

For further information and an application pack, please contact Dr Alan Mendoza at alanmendoza@spsyn.org.uk

Closing date for receipt of completed applications - **25th March 2011.**

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 (March 11)

- **UZLC** presents Marlene Bethlehem on “The Privilege of Working with Mandela”.

Sunday (March 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 Barney Segal on 073-438-8799.
- **RCHCC** presents singer-songwriter, Laurie Levine at 19:30. Donation R100.
- **Eden College** is hosting a ladies show “Believing - a Night of Hope and Inspiration” at 20:00. Cost R100. All proceeds to tzedakah. Booking is essential. Contact Nicky on 082-807-6934.

Monday (March 14)

- **UJW Johannesburg** presents Meshack Mabogoane on “SA and Israel: Call for Greater Collaboration”.

Tuesday (March 15)

- **RCHCC** hosts the “Memories of Muizenberg” exhibition until April 27. Viewing: Monday to Thursday 09:00 – 16:00, Friday 09:00 – 12:00. Open evenings 18:30 – 21:30.

Wednesday (March 16)

- **Torah Academy** is hosting a business breakfast with Dr Ali Bacher at the HOD Hall at 07:30 for 08:00. RSVP Adrienne on 082-600-8059 or e-mail adik@octagonfinancial.co.za
- **SFCC** presents Prof Celine Bernstein on “Hormone Replacement - is it Necessary?”
- **UJW Cape Town** presents Marike Prinsloo on the history of the sculptures on the Sea Point promenade.

Friday (March 18)

- **UZLC** presents Anna Cox on “Is there a billing crisis in Johannesburg?”

Sunday (March 20)

- **RCHCC** presents “From Silence to Celebration” - an evening of stories, song and video with Zola; plus the

launch of “No Goodbyes” by her late sister, Naava Piatka. Donation R70.

Monday (March 22)

- **WIZO Fortnightly Forum** presents Dr Wendy Hendler on “The Value of Self-esteem in Forging Healthy and Meaningful Relationships” at 09:30 at Beyachad. Book on (011) 645-2515.

Wednesday (March 23)

- **Second Innings** presents Bobby Godsell on “Renewing the South African Dream”.
- **UJW Cape Town** presents Fran Robertson on “The History of the Friends of Valkenberg Trust”.
- **RCHCC** presents Brian Altschuler on “Ancient and Modern - the Architecture of Louis Kahn” at 19:30. Donation R70.

Saturday evening (March 26)

- **SAZF** is holding their 47th conference this evening 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. Bookings: (011) 645-2541 or sharon@beyachad.co.za

Sunday (March 27)

- **Second Innings** presents Jacqueline Teague on “Spring Clean Your Life”.
- **Society of Israel Philately** meeting at 10:00 in the boardroom of the Waverley Synagogue. All welcome. Refreshments. Free entry. Contact Maurice Daniels 082-385-9736.

Monday (March 28)

- **UJW Johannesburg** presents Tom Wheeler on “A South African Diplomat Remembers: from Verwoerd to Mandela”.

Wednesday (March 30)

- **Balfour Park Parkinson’s Disease Support Group** meeting at 10:00 in the boardroom, Randjes Estate, Randjeslaagte Road, Highlands North. Dr Nadia Loewke will speak on a general introduction to homeopathy. Contact Rosemary Burke on (011) 640-3919.

- **Second Innings** outing to Doonholm Herb Farm and Nursery. Meet at 09:00 at Oxford Street Shul parking. R130 includes the bus, the guided tour, and lunch. Book with Annette Bergman by no later than March 27.

Sunday (April 3)

- **Second Innings** presents Betsie Schaap and Evert van Niekerk performing music from “Ladies in Lavender” and pieces from Beethoven and Haydn. R40 for members, R60 for non-members.

- **WIZO** presents the first in a series of workshops - “Beyond the Dress” (What to do After the Wedding). The first one is at HOD Hall at 09:30 for registration. Cost R200 including tea. Call Lori Milner on 083-677-6729.

Wednesday (April 6)

- **SFCC** outing to Alexandra to see the refurbished Nokathuli Centre and then to Skala Jazz Club for tea. Transport cost to be advised. Meet at Sandton Shul at 10:00.

THE BRIDGE LOUNGE by Jeff Sapire

IT’S BEEN said so often before – eventually all the plays that one reads about in the books come up at the table. Last week I was watching a game when this hand was dealt. The final contract was reasonable, but when the hand was over, it took all the players quite a while to figure out whether or not the contract should have been made.

South dealer, NS vul			
NORTH			
♠ A8			
♥ Q6			
♦ KQ109843			
♣ 32			
WEST		EAST	
♠ 7642		♠ QJ93	
♥ AJ9852		♥ 43	
♦ 7		♦ AJ5	
♣ Q9		♣ J1075	
SOUTH			
♠ K105			
♥ K107			
♦ 62			
♣ AK864			

West	North	East	South
			1C
2H	3D	pass	3NT
All pass			Opening lead: H8

2H was a weak jump overcall, after which the normal 3NT was reached. Declarer won the lead in hand with the ten of hearts and played a diamond to the queen. East grabbed the ace and returned a heart, which West won, but that was the end of the defence. Realising that there was no point in continuing the suit without any entry, West switched to a spade, but it made no difference. Declarer carefully won the return with the king of spades and continued diamonds, playing to the king and then giving East the diamond jack. Declarer now had the rest, making an overtrick. When the hand was over I asked the defenders if they could see a way to beat it.

Not too difficult, you might say? All East has to do is not take the first diamond. As none of the other suits will provide enough tricks for the contract, declarer will probably return to hand with a club and play another diamond – but now East wins (covering whatever declarer plays) and dummy’s diamonds are dead. There is only one entry left, and declarer needs two – one to establish the suit and another to get back. I then asked declarer if he saw a line to make it. Not so easy now, unless you know the play or are astute enough to work it out. A key question is – who has the ace of diamonds? It’s possible that West has it, but most unlikely given the 2H bid. On this basis, if East has it, the winning line is to play a diamond to the eight! This play affects the communications immensely. If East ducks now, then he loses his 2nd diamond trick altogether when declarer continues with a high honour. And if East wins, then South can next time play a diamond up to an honour, and now it doesn’t matter whether or not East ducks, as diamonds can be continued from the dummy. It’s an interesting technique hand. You are prepared to lose two diamond tricks, so playing to the eight first forces the defender to win the trick. As mentioned, the only risk (and it could happen) is that West started with Dax and now East will win the jack of diamonds, return a heart, which West will win and continue, and he will subsequently get in with the ace of diamonds. But I’d say East is a heavy favourite to have that card.

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 Avenue, Houghton. E-mail me at jeffshirl@telkomsa.net

CROSSWORD NO 201

BY LEAH SIMON

- ACROSS:**

 - Georgia Association of Historic Automobiles (abbrev) (4)
 - Gone and said about being in great pain (8)
 - Mythology is the rule, we hear (4)
 - Appropriate steps for a star like Michael Jackson (4, 4)
 - Somehow ply racy eastern crew with insect (6, 6)
 - Take breath in icy downpour, we hear (6)
 - Quietly arrive – and give a sermon (6)
 - Adhesive genres of 11 across? (5, 7)
 - Mournful knell of flower (8)
 - God that doesn’t do much, we hear (4)
 - Sunday – and French are insecure (8)
 - Ruins the planet (4)
- (6)
 - Rusts badly, so tie up with rope (5)
 - “—— Ben Adhem”, poem by James Henry Leigh Hunt (4)


SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 200

- DOWN:**
- Make young woman perform with nervous twitch, being universal (8)
 - “Men of ——”, famous Welsh march (7)
 - Complain about sound of ferocious dog, followed by sound of pain (6)
 - Moon walk (4, 6)
 - Southern shopping centre isn’t big (5)
 - Kudu keyring conceals British aristocrat (4)
 - Somehow, degree of pill pace is relevant (10)
 - She tilts around thorns (8)
 - Famous Johannesburg Jewish orphanage (7)
 - Murdered, not being quite skilled

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
8					9							
					10							
11												
												12
13							14			15		
							16					
	17	18										
19												
20										21		
22										23		

RCHCC
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A LIBYAN JEW SPEAKS OUT...



Dr David Gerbi was expelled from Libya in 1967, returning in 2007, at the invitation of the Libyan Government with the aim of restoring the Synagogue in Tripoli. Again he was expelled.

Dr Gerbi will talk about his interaction with Gaddafi in light of the current uprising. He will discuss Gaddafi’s actions as crimes against his people and against humanity.

He is the Voice of the Voiceless.

Venue: Great Park Synagogue
Date: Tuesday 15 March
Time: 7:30pm
Bookings: Hazel or René (011 728 8088/8378)
After Hours: (011 728 8378) or
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sport

‘Tombstone’ Tabakin teaches people to live

JACK MILNER

DENIS TABAKIN - he turns 70 in May - ran his first Comrades Marathon in 1965. That was before the days of water points along the route. To make matters even worse, his personal second was involved in an accident on the day.

Denis, with no help from anybody, crossed the line - and collapsed. The nursing sister reckoned he was dead, lying there like a tombstone. That incident earned him the nickname of “Tombstone” Tabakin.

It is quite ironic, though, because throughout his life, Denis has spent the time helping people to live.

Under his leadership 10 disabled athletes took part in the recent New York City Marathon, the marathon of its kind in the world, with some 124 000 people entering and only 45 000 being accepted to start. The route is lined with 2,5-million people while another 315 million watch the race on TV.

The disabled athletes range from ages 21 to 53 and include wheelchair-bound quadriplegics - some only able to go forward with the chair facing backwards - others blind, traumatic brain injuries, amputees and those using crutches or calipers. The list is endless.

One of the South Africans only received a new leg two days before the event!

This was the ninth time Tabakin had taken on the assignment of disabled athletes participating in the NYC Marathon. There have been 201 in all, each one charged with the mission to fulfil their individual goals.

The responsibility that Tabakin has taken on is massive. Getting the runners to the start alone is an enormous task, let alone ensuring they are able to attend all the functions. Each athlete has two helpers, guides and, as is the case with the blind, pilots to guide and motivate them. It is also necessary to assist each with collecting food and drink at the water points.

Tabakin is chairman of the Achilles SA Charter, an organisation that undertakes to raise funds to cover air tickets. There are 70 Achilles organisations worldwide. It was started by New Yorker Dick Traum, the first amputee (he lost his leg above the knee) to run the NYC Marathon in 1976. Traum founded the Achilles Track Club in 1983 and the name changed to Achilles International two years later.

The Achilles mission is to enable people with all types of disabilities to participate in mainstream athletics in order to promote personal achievement, enhance self-esteem and lower barriers to live a fulfilling life.

While the Achilles programme focuses on athletics, sports are simply the objectives to bring hope, inspiration and the joy of achievement to disabled people.



Denis Tabakan and Liza, who had polio and walks with special calipers, with her medal after the New York Marathon.

In 1992 Traum came to South Africa and approached the Comrades Marathon Association to find someone working with disabled people. He was referred to Tabakin and invited him to bring three disabled people to participate in the NYC Marathon, all expenses paid. So the SA Chapter was born.

For the first New York trip, Tabakin, Richard Shakinovsky and Comrades king Bruce Fordyce were the pilots for the three blind athletes - Christo Botha, Johnny Demas and Geoff Hylton Barber.

Tabakin has successfully completed 18 Comrades over the years. In 1967 he had the privilege of running part of the event with Ian Jardine, who had lost his sight, and after that ran 80 000 km led by friends.

In the early 1970s, Tabakin and Jack Adno decided to get involved in assisting blind people to improve the quality of their lives and to take up the challenge of running. In this way they could honour Ian Jardine while he was still alive. He died aged 74 on January 29 1976.

They compiled a roster of responsible volunteers who could bond with blind runners. They had to be able to talk the blind person along the route without severe tugging of the chord, negotiate the roads with rough surfaces, traffic and other dangers.

Tabakin has received a plethora of honours over the years. The Comrades Marathon Platinum awards were presented for the first time in 1997 to five outstanding individuals - Wally Haywood, Liege Boulle, Gavin Elliot, John Wright and Denis Tabakin. Tabakin accepted his on behalf of everyone involved in his career. After three years this became the Goldfields Spirit of Comrades Award.

From 1978 until the present awards have been presented to only 23 deserving recipients of whom only nine were awarded platinum.

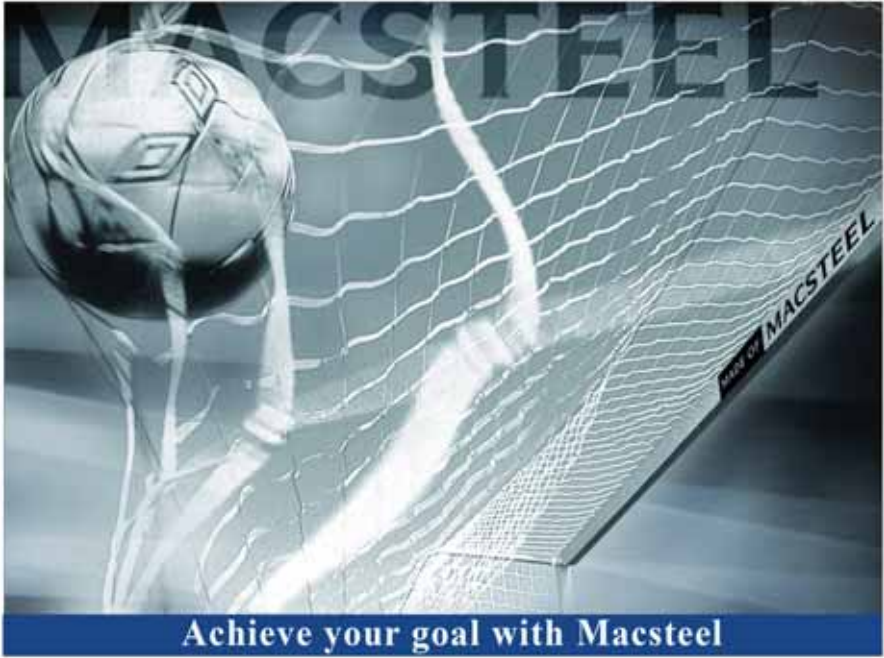
Tabakin has received the Rotary Paul Harris award for service to mankind and in 2006 he was presented with the Cyril Harris Humanitarian Award, which honours people from a broader community who make a contribution by improving both the quality of life and the fabric of society in general.

In addition to all of this, Tabakin was a founder member and past chairman of Rocky Road Runners and with friends he initiated the Linksfield Ridge Rosh Hashanah Run.

He has been involved in “Self Help” for the disabled in Soweto since October 2010,

Tabakin is the elected representative in charge of all foreign Achilles Chapter countries in the world.

Note: I would like to thank Basil Kletz for all his assistance in putting this article together.



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Gauteng Maccabi Open golf results

RESULTS OF the Gauteng Maccabi Open golf tournament played at the Houghton Golf Club.

Ladies section:

Gross winner: Bonne Isaacson-Bamber 23; Gross runner-up: Gail Katz (count out) 20; Nett winner: Elaine Rubens 31; Nett runner-up: Joan Gaddie 30.

Men’s section

A division
Gross: 148 - Ryan Nestadt 73 75; 149 - Brian Chernotsky 73 76; Nett 149 - Brandon Joffe 78 71 (count out); Stan Bodkin 74 75
Best morning gross: 73 - Daniel Veretnik;
Best afternoon gross: 72 - Sean Allison

B division:

Gross: 59 - Guy Taitz 29 30; 57 - Clyde Ackerman 27 30; Nett: 72 - Terry Sack 35,37; 66 - Michael Wainbergas 32 34 (count out)
Best morning gross: 25 - Ari Sandler (count out); Best afternoon gross: 27 - Les Cohen

C division:

33 - Stan Allison, 29 - Doron Traube

Super seniors:

35 - Bob Bamber; 27 - Issy Bacher

Nearest to pin:

Hole 7 - Graham Josset; Hole 9 - Daniel Veretnik; Hole 14 - Peter Loeb; Hole 16 - Mervyn Ossip (hole in one)