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Friday, 12 August 2011 / 12 Av, 5771

Volume 15 Number 30

‘Boycotting dialogue’ - a strange South African student bedfellow

PAGE 3



NETANYAHU ACCEPTS '67 LINES FOR TALKS, WITH CONDITIONS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu articulating a new position on the pre-1967 lines, which was called a "very serious move" by one expert. Netanyahu is shown speaking at the weekly Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on August 7. On his right is Speaker of the Knesset Reuven Rivlin. (PHOTO: HAIM ZACH / FLASH 90) **PAGE 11**

Norman Gordon - Cricketer of yore scores '100' / 2, 24 | Shirley Ancer - Building SA / 8 | London riots - UK Jewish response / 10 | Travel / 14-15 | SAICC's upturn despite global economy / 17

YOUTH / 20

SPORT / 24

LETTERS / 18

CROSSWORD & SUDOKU / 22

COMMUNITY BUZZ / 6

WHAT'S ON / 22



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The Global Jewish Citizen

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Vendredi, 12 Août 2011 / 12 Av, 5771

Volume 15 Numéro 30

‘Το μποϊκοτάρισμα μίλησε έναν παράξενο
νοτιοαφρικανικό φίλο σπουδαστών



NETANYAHU 接受 ‘谈话的67
条线以情况

Eerste minister Benjamin Netanyahu dat een nieuwe positie inzake de lijnen van pre-1967 articuleert, die een werd genoemd; “zeer ernstige move” door een deskundige. Netanyahu wordt getoond sprekend op de wekelijkse Kabinetsvergadering in Jeruzalem op 7 Augustus. Op zijn recht is Spreker van Knesset Reuven Rivlin. (FOTO: HAIM ZACH/FLITS 90) **PAGINA 11**

**Struggle roots helped
Schneider save Jews**

**Edelstein - Hero of the Soviet
Jewish Resistance**

**Venezuela Jewry faces increasing state-
sponsored anti-Semitism**

Gioventù/ 3 Spaß/ 20 Misiva/ 15 Palavras Cruzadas e Sudoko/ 18 Spole enstvi Buzz/ 6



Jewish Memories of Mandela

Jewish Memories of Mandela is a magnificently illustrated new 272-page coffee table book that chronicles the impact and involvement of a remarkable array of South African Jewish individuals – lawyers and laymen, communists and communal leaders, businessmen and bankers, physicians and philanthropists, rabbis and rabble-rousers – in the life and career of Nelson Mandela and, by extension, in building a democratic South Africa.



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Yuli Edelstein. Hero of the Soviet Jewish Resistance

By David Saks

During the 1980s, Yuli Edelstein gained international renown for his heroic defiance of the Soviet Union's persecution of its Jewish citizens. After making aliyah, he rose through the ranks in Israeli politics, holding various key portfolios in the governments of Binyamin Netanyahu and Ariel Sharon. He is currently Israel's Minister of Information and the Diaspora. *The Jerusalem Post* recently listed him as 10th on its list of the world's fifty most influential Jews.

Edelstein will deliver a message on behalf of Israel at the SAJBD conference opening on 27 August, and address the meeting of the African Jewish Congress the following day. He has had a long and warm association with South African Jewry, commencing with his visit with a Likud delegation in 2004.

Edelstein was born in Chernivtsi in the then Soviet Union (now in Ukraine). During the 1980s, he was one of the best-known Soviet Jewish activists for Jewish national and cultural rights. As a result of these activities, he was arrested – officially for 'drug possession' – in 1984, and spent three and a half years in a labour camp. Following his release in 1987, he was finally allowed to immigrate to Israel.

Edelstein's ministerial career commenced in June 1996 with his appointment as Minister of Immigrant Absorption by Netanyahu. At the time, he represented the Yisrael BaAliyah Party, co-founded with fellow Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky. The short-lived Labour administration of Ehud Barak saw him out of office for a spell, but he returned to the cabinet in March 2001 when he was appointed Deputy Minister of Immigrant Absorption by Sharon. He has held his current ministerial post under Netanyahu since February 2009.

Yuli Edelstein will be one of several International speakers at **The Global Jewish Citizen**, the SAJBD National Conference at the Sandton Sun Hotel, 27-28 August 2011.



The Global Jewish Citizen

In Vienna a neurologist introduces the world to psychotherapy, in Baghdad Sages write the Talmud, on the West Coast of America ragtag immigrants build an Empire called Hollywood, in Kimberley opportunists spearhead a diamond industry. They are Black, Brown, Yellow and White. Chinese, Uzbeki, Moroccan and French. They bear the nationalities of over 100 countries.

Yet they are one people.

This year the Jewish Board of Deputies pays homage to **The Global Jewish Citizen**, to the unique and far-flung tapestry of culture and diversity that comprises international Jewry. At the 2011 Conference we will come together to listen, to share and be enlightened as we learn from the challenges which our fellow Jews contend with in their own societies. Worlds apart from each other yet linked in the same chain of destiny.

Struggle Roots Helped Schneider Save Jews the World Over

By Steven Gruz

Paarl-born Michael Schneider, the keynote speaker at the South African Jewish Board of Deputies Conference entitled **The Global Jewish Citizen**, in Sandton on 27-28 August 2011, has racked up over 40 years of international Jewish communal experience. He is the Secretary General emeritus of the World Jewish Congress, a post he's held since 2007. In 1980, he joined the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, where he worked in Iran during and after the Khomeini revolution; in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia during the Communist era; and in Ethiopia, where he established welfare and development projects for the Falasha population. He became CEO from 1990-2003, and was involved in vital rescues of Jewish communities in Iran, Syria, Yemen, and Bosnia, Operation Solomon that airlifted 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel, and supporting thousands of impoverished Jews in the former Eastern Bloc.

Schneider was a member of the African Resistance Movement in South Africa in the early 1960s, that engaged in sabotage of state installations and infrastructure. He had a dramatic, clandestine escape from the country to England in 1964 – through Swaziland, Bechuanaland, Northern Rhodesia and Uganda. In an interview, he mused that perhaps his background in fighting apartheid stood him in good stead for the demands of his work at the Joint. He said, "I think my training and experience in South Africa made me the right guy for the right job at the right time!"

Michael Schneider will be the keynote speaker at **The Global Jewish Citizen**, the SAJBD National Conference at the Sandton Sun, 27-28 August 2011.

Nosh, Nosh By Gosh. It's New York

By Michael Golding

With close to a million Jews in New York City, nobody's going to starve. There are over 60 kosher restaurants in Manhattan alone. From vegetarian to Wolf and Lamb, Chinese to Mexican, Madras to Mr Broadway, the Jewish Global Citizen is in for a feast, and possibly a refresher course of Alka Seltzer. Here's a little spread.

01 Mr Broadway.

Broadway between W36th st & W37th st

A deli haven for the maven situated just a couple of blocks from Macy's and Madison Square Garden, specialising in whatever your heart desires - especially if it's everything. Corn beef or sushi, salads or char-broil, Mr. Broadway puts on a show, including burgers, burgers and more burgers... beef, rib-eye, turkey, lamb.

02 Chennai Garden

129 E27th st, New York

Not sommer Indian, but South Indian no less. And vegetarian. Come in for a chat, channa chat, lentil chat, and feel free to talk with your mouth full. The curries include undhiyu (um, could you say that again?) which is a fascinating mix of eggplant, yam and snow peas in a rich, mildly peppery butter sauce.

03 H&H Bagels

639 West 46th Street

New York is bagel heaven and H&H is the capital. Open 24 hours a day, and selling them like hot cakes, so you're likely to buy your bagels warm. H&H ships round the world and has featured on Seinfeld and Friends. Some of the more famous guests are Bill Clinton, Tom Hanks, Barbara Streisand and Kevin Bacon. (That's a surname, not a topping.)

04 Ristorante Tevere

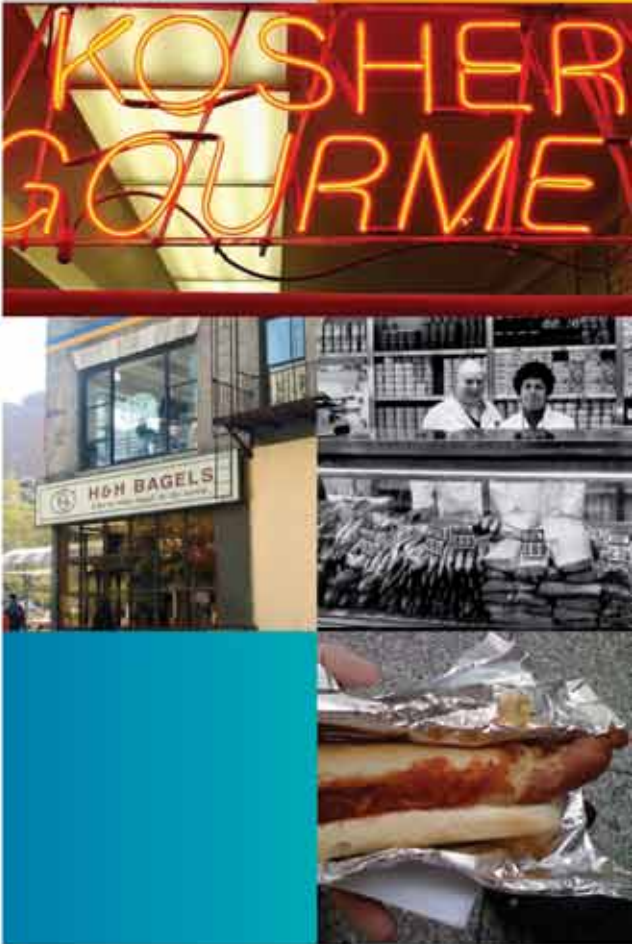
155 East 84th Street

The name means Tiber as in river, and Tevere specialises in traditional Roman Cuisine, the way they did it, the way they still do. The menu has been described a unique, even by NY standards. Try *Scaloppine di Vitello Piccanti*, that's veal sauteed with lemon and white wine, or if you prefer fish, grilled Branzino or Chilean Sea Bass. There's even Breat of chicken Milano style. Could that be because the proofreader missed the 's' in breast?

05 Eden Wok

E34th st. between Park and Madison Aves.

The menu is truly yum-yum and designed to fill the tum without depleting the pocket. Eden Wok has redefined Pan Asian Fusion and American dining. The selection is vast - almost 20 different chicken dishes to start with, plus a full sushi/ shashimi menu. For those who can't make up their minds, no problem. Go for the 'all you can eat' buffet on Monday nights.





Arthur Goldreich. Honouring an Anti-Apartheid Icon

By David Saks

Freedom fighter, war hero, human rights activist, acclaimed artist, Professor of Architecture, pioneer of Israel, builder of a democratic South Africa....

Arthur Goldreich became all of these things during his extraordinary life.

Goldreich was born in Johannesburg in 1929 and grew up in Pietersburg. In 1948, he made his way secretly to Israel, serving in a kibbutz unit of the Palmach based on Kibbutz Mayan Baruch. On his return to South Africa in 1954, he embarked on a successful career as an abstract artist and designer, receiving South Africa's Best Young Painter Award the following year.

Goldreich was also becoming increasingly involved in the anti-apartheid movement. In December 1961, he and his family moved to Liliesleaf Farm in Rivonia, secret headquarters for the underground anti-apartheid resistance. There, he spent much time with Nelson Mandela, discussing tactics for Umkhonto we Sizwe, armed wing of the African National Congress. Goldreich helped locate sabotage sites for MK and travelled to the Eastern Bloc countries seeking military aid and information on making weapons.

In July 1963, Goldreich and other activists were arrested in a raid on Liliesleaf. A month later, he led the dramatic escape of himself and three fellow prisoners from Johannesburg's Marshall Square prison. Despite the State launching the largest manhunt in the country's history, all succeeded in escaping to Bechuanaland and freedom.

Goldreich settled in Israel, winning worldwide acclaim as an artist and stage designer. He was Professor of Architecture at Jerusalem's Bezalel Academy and established and headed its world-renowned Department of Industrial and Environmental Design. In 2006, he received the Yakir Bezalel award, presented by President Moshe Katzav.

Goldreich lived to see the ideals for which he had fought for become a reality with South Africa's transition to multi-racial democracy. In 2001, he attended the fortieth anniversary commemorations of the founding of MK and a reunion with his fellow Rivonia prisoners at Liliesleaf. He died in Tel Aviv on 24 May 2011, aged 82.

At *The Global Jewish Citizen*, the SAJBD National Conference, **Arthur Goldreich** will be posthumously awarded the SAJBD Human Rights Award, to be accepted by his sons, Paul and Amos at the Sandton Sun Hotel on the 27th of August 2011.



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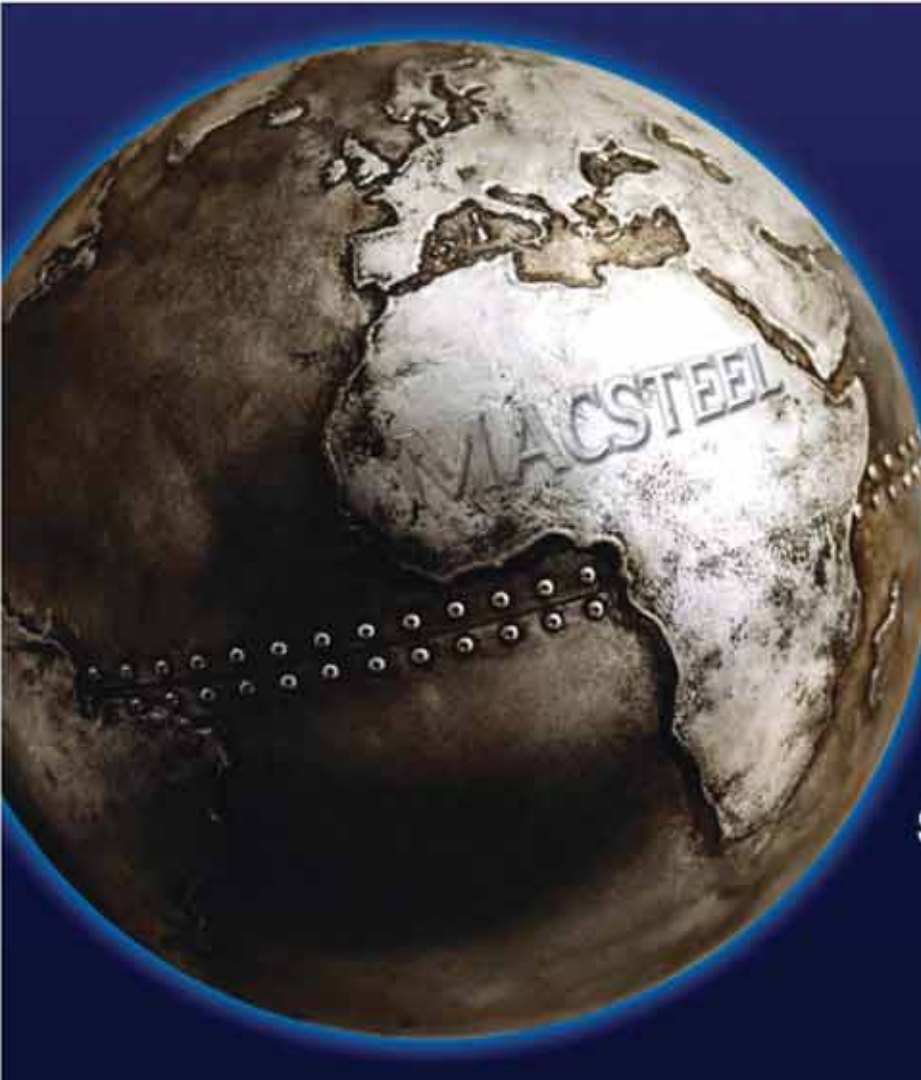


Jewish Memories of Mandela

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Venezuela Jewry Faces Increasing State-Sponsored Anti-Semitism

By Steven Gruz

Nestled on the northern tip of South America, anti-Semitism was virtually unknown in the ethnically-integrated, easy-going democracy of Venezuela. That was before the rise to power of President Hugo Chávez in 1998. But today the 10,000 members of this dwindling Jewish community (down from 20,000 15 years ago) face malicious onslaughts of anti-Jewish and anti-Israel attacks, from senior politicians from the president downwards, especially in the state-owned and state-aligned media.

Journalist Sammy Eppel, a Jewish communal leader in Caracas, has become an expert on what he's dubbed "the first government-sponsored anti-Semitism in a Western country in recent history."

Here's a recent example. In January 2009, Emilio Silva Chapellin a professor at the Bolivarian University and prominent member of Chávez's PSUV party, published an online document on how to attack Jews in Venezuela. He mentioned the main shul in Caracas as a potential target. Ten days later, it was desecrated. But Chapellin was not called for investigation by police; indeed, he was paraded in government media and given treatment as a "hero of the revolution."

On 29 November 2004, a Monday morning, the Jewish community was traumatised when 25 members of the heavily-armed investigative police raided Colegio Hebraica, a Jewish primary school in Caracas. They spent several hours searching in vain for weapons and explosives, apparently based solely on an anonymous tip-off.

Eppel notes how things began to escalate thereafter – graffiti with swastikas, shuls being desecrated, and an unprecedented media campaign, aimed first at Venezuelan Jews but after complaints, focusing heavily on Israel. He explains that the Venezuelan government owns a large media empire – television, radio, print and internet – with many pro-government media channels and outlets. Taking their cue from the top, anti-Semitic and anti-Israel invective spikes with events in the Middle East, such as the 2009 Gaza invasion (when the Israeli Ambassador was expelled) and 2010 Gaza flotilla, when Chávez publicly denounced Israel a terrorist state, an "enemy of the revolution" and claimed a Mossad assassination plot against him.

Chávez's close links with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad are well-documented, as are his anti-American fulminations. Eppel says, "It's all portrayed as a big war, with evil capitalists waiting to pounce on Venezuela's oil. Of course, that does not stop him selling a million barrels of oil a day to the evil capitalists."

Eppel says he is really worried about "all the different historical expressions of anti-Semitism coming together – religious, racial, political, economic, European, Islamic, from the left and from the right" in his country. Despite many competing needs, the community has prioritised surveillance of these incidents, to get early warnings, generate statistics and establish patterns. And he seeks the solidarity of others, and for foreigners to lobby their governments about Venezuela.

Finally, Eppel warns that no Jewish community can afford to be complacent: "Be vigilant in your own society. Do not give anti-Semitism a free pass, because it grows monstrous if you do not do something about it."



Caracas.

Keeping The Kippah On Top

By Michael Golding

It's not exactly the first stop on the Glenhazel fifty OMG's you gotta go there. Probably doesn't even crack the top ten in Latin America. Caracas is big, seething, impersonal, emblematic of the South American ciudad. Skyscrapers butt up against colonial landmarks, parks and plazas provide relief. There is the obligatory Presidential Palace – in this case Miraflores (meaning watch tower - a telling association given the continent's volatile history) and there are theatres with the postcard allure of the magnificent Teatro de Colon in B.A.

Like La Paz, Caracas is set in a valley, like Río the night life pumps and the traffic is absolute hell. A mere twelve years ago the population peaked to just over 20 000 in a country where both Moroccan and European Jews had found a haven of peace and co-existence. Today almost 50% have left.

Like so many places the Jews have made their home, the house is showing signs of disrepair. There are leaks in the ceiling and holes in the floorboards. The whiff of Anti-Semitism has permeated the balmy nearby Caribbean air and the noxious voice of Anti-Zionism particularly from the President's mouth has got alarm bells ringing. But it's not only 'n Boer wat maak 'n plan. Jews are full of surprises and despite the unease there's a little medinah in the heart of the city that's not only an essential respite, but a living testimony to Jewish optimism.

It is a shopping mall. The Galerías Sebucan. One year old, three storeys high and very, very Jewish. The establishments are Jewish – bookshops, night-clubs, a veggie market. The owners are predominantly Jewish, so is the in-store traffic. The Galerías is one of only two malls on the entire South American continent where shops are permitted to close on Shabbos. And most of them do, so a fair percentage of the community can congregate a stone's throw away – at the main Sephardi synagogue. Like so many things that make our people eternal, the Mall fuses the now with the then.

At the Café Hillel teenagers eat and schmooze and fiddle with iPads. And cover their heads. There are yarmies on loan if you forget yours. You could be in Rosebank or Norwood. The nosh is strictly kosher, probably the only place in Venezuela where you can sink your teeth into a pastrami sandwich. You don't fancy pastami? So there's burgers on the menu and South American meat is good. Even the kosher meat.

The vibe and solidarity are palpable, that unmistakable patchwork of Jewishness that colours so many of our microcosms. Young boys with payot, tanned tannies sporting not much more than a Hamsa, students running around in their menorah emblazoned school uniforms. In this small haven, a bubble in a city of fear, Caracas Jews feel safe.

And that sense of security is truly priceless. It supercedes the risk of whether a kosher restaurant is financially viable, it reassures a mother that she can leave her kids in a friendly environment, it brings Jews of all ages and lifestyles into closer proximity, making the dwindling numbers seem a little less small. Above all, the Galerías Sebucan is a statement of comfort and community that blends with its city surroundings, yet glows with the warmth of a Shabbos candle. And maybe even its transience.

Sammy Eppel will be one of several International speakers at *The Global Jewish Citizen*, the SAJBD National Conference at the Sandton Sun Hotel, 27-28 August 2011.

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The Global Jewish Citizen

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| August 13/13 Av | | |
| Va'etchanan | | |
| Starts | Ends | |
| 17:29 | 18:19 | Johannesburg |
| 17:56 | 18:49 | Cape Town |
| 17:12 | 18:04 | Durban |
| 17:32 | 18:24 | Bloemfontein |
| 17:28 | 18:21 | Port Elizabeth |
| 17:20 | 18:13 | East London |

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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

Spring of our national joy

PARSHAT VA'ETCHANAN
Rabbi Ilan Raanan
Dean of Yeshiva College Girls' High School

SPRING IS the big buzzword, whether it is the ME political landscape, the season we hope that will bring relief to those parts of Africa gripped by drought-driven famine, or closer to home in South Africa, the season that heralds the end of the extreme cold of winter.

In terms of the Jewish calendar, although in Israel, as the rest of the northern hemisphere, we anticipate the onset of Autumn, in a sense it is a national time of “Spring”, as we rise from “sitting” shiva on Tisha B’Av, and allow ourselves to be consoled on this Shabbat Nachamu, the Sabbath of Consolation.

This week’s parsha begins with how Moshe pleads with Hashem to be allowed to enter the Land of Israel. The rabbis explain that after leading the nation in the successful conquest of the Transjordan, Moshe thinks perhaps the decree forbidding him to enter the Land he so longed for, had been rescinded.

Sadly his hopes are dashed. Is there something that gave Moshe the flicker of hope that led him to believe in the possibility of Hashem rescinding a decree?

Our national “spring” is more than a Shabbat of Consolation, or even the series of seven such Shabbats, but a sudden transition from the most difficult day of our calendar to the happiest day, from the 9th to the 15th of Av.

This happy day of “Tu B’Av”, to be celebrated Monday, has a historic origin that may answer our query. The Midrash Eichah describes the death of the generation that left Egypt, a decree that resulted from the botched mission of the spies sent to Israel and the ensuing loss of faith in Hashem’s capacity to bring us safely to our national destination. This was the original tragedy of the 9th of Av. The Midrash describes how every subsequent 9th of Av in the Wilderness, a generation would dig their own graves and lie in them. Many would not awaken the next day.

On the final 9th of Av of the decree, the remnant of the generation of the Exodus dug their graves and went to sleep only for every single one of them to awaken the next morning. Convinced they had miscalculated the date, they repeated this the next few nights until they saw the full moon of the 15th of the month and realised the decree had been rescinded. Perhaps this is what provided Moshe with that flicker of hope?

Why should this act of Divine mercy provide the basis of one of our greatest days of national celebration? Through a comparison with the greatest day of national tragedy, we see a common denominator: the Land of Israel. What lay at the heart of the greatest tragedy was the removal of our national homeland. What happened on that first joyous 15th of Av was actually the new gift of the Land of Israel to the Jewish people!

It is interesting to note the three periods of mourning that lead up to the Fast of the 9th of Av parallel the three periods of mourning after the loss of a parent, only their order is reversed. This is logical: part of the psyche of mourning is gradual rehabilitation to normality from the acute pain of a fresh loss.

Thank G-d we live at a time where the persecutions of the past have become so blurred by our blessings, it is necessary to do the exact opposite when we mourn our past national tragedies: gradual intensification as we orientate ourselves to mourn.

The sudden transition from the 9th of Av to the 15th leaves us with little time to orientate ourselves to rejoice over the great gift of the Land of Israel. Someone like Moshe Rabeinu needed no time to make this switch, but can that be said for all of us? Perhaps there is no time because our faith is based on a natural optimism?

When looking at the contents of the Tisha B’Av lamentations, we read not only the horrors of our suffering in the Kinnot of the Kalir, but the beauty of a lost world in the Kinnot of Rabbi Yehuda Halevi.

Since this is part of our mourning, perhaps it simultaneously prepares us to rejoice! The Kinnot though are very difficult poems to understand. We should aspire to acquire the love Moshe had for Eretz Yisrael in whatever way we can. A practical timely suggestion: the Israel Fair!

Former SA cricketer Norman Gordon, who celebrated his 100th birthday last weekend. The photograph, taken last year, shows him with Brian Lara.

Norman Gordon’s ton of a different kind

DANIEL LIGHTMAN
PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD KAPLAN

NO TEST cricketer has yet scored a century in years. Several - including such immortals of the game as Wilfred Rhodes (95), SF Barnes (94) and Sir Donald Bradman (92) - succumbed in the nervous nineties. So last Saturday, August 6, was a major landmark: the South African medium-pace bowler of the 1930s, Norman Gordon, celebrated his 100th birthday.

“Norman has brought enormous credit to his school, to South African cricket, to our country and to the Jewish community,” says former SA captain Ali Bacher. “I have known Norman since the 1950s - I used to go to his sports shop every year and my late mother would buy my cricket bats from him. He has never changed - a good person who always says how fortunate he has been to meet wonderful people. I respect him as a wonderful person.”

Gordon was the first openly Jewish Test cricketer. MJ Susskind, second in the South African Test batting averages on the 1924 tour of England, “was Jewish”, says Gordon, “but didn’t profess to be Jewish, didn’t admit to it”.

When Gordon made his Test debut, the South African Jewish community “were very proud that a Jew was playing for their country”.

Not all shared their view. Gordon recalls when he ran up to bowl the first ball on his Test debut, a heckler in the crowd shouted: “Here comes the rabbi!”

“Fortunately I took five wickets in that innings,” Gordon notes, “and that shut him up for the rest of the tour.”

Gordon’s parents left Russia for Johannesburg (and changed their surname from Eisenstat) before he was born. At Jeppe High School for Boys, Gordon developed a love of cricket - and met his wife, Mercy, to whom he was married for over 60 years until her death in 2001. After making his debut for Transvaal in 1933/34, in 1937/38 he took the most wickets (39) in the Currie Cup. The following year, he forced his way into the SA team - with considerable success.

Indeed, he ended up with more wickets - 20 - than any other bowler in a five-Test series against England in which the docile wickets allowed the batsmen to dominate.

Gordon’s first Test victim was England captain Walter Hammond, whom he regards as being “by far” the best batsman he bowled against and who was a good friend.

However, in the famous 10-day Timeless Test he bowled 92,2 (eight-ball) overs for just one wicket.

“Gordon’s nickname was Mobil because of the oil that he had on his hair,”, says former South African Cricket Union President Joe Pamensky. Mobil used to put his hands through his hair and if he had a bit of oil on it to set his hair, it helped him to get a bit of a shine on the ball which helped him to swing it.”

Gordon ran a sports shop, and practised as an accountant part-time until the age of 94. A keen golfer, he scored his second hole-in-one at the age of 87 and only gave up playing three years ago, when the Old Houghton golf course, where he used to play, closed.

Gordon remains energetic, engaged and interested in the world. He and his son Brian live in the same flat in Hillbrow in which he has lived for more than 55 years.

He also paid tribute to his friends. “I have wonderful friends. They have never stopped giving.”

Daniel Lightman is a practising barrister who lives in London, and is the co-author of the cricket book Cricket Grounds from the Air.

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‘Boycott of dialogue’ seems to be a strange student bedfellow

ALISON GOLDBERG
PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDRYVER

A GROUP of students at Wits campus last Thursday called a press conference to attempt to stop an upcoming visit of Israeli students to South African universities.

The Israeli group was due to arrive this week - on Thursday - and to visit Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town campuses.

Calling themselves ‘What Is Rael’ (a play on what is real), they told Haaretz SA students “hear of Israel being an apartheid state every day [which] means that is the only thing they know about Israel”.

At the forefront of trying to organise a student boycott of the visit last week was Muhammed Desai of the Boycott, Sanctions and Divestment Working Group. At the meeting, the SA Students Congress (Sasco), the Young Communist League and the SA Union of Students (SAUS), issued statements calling for the boycott.

The ANC Youth League and Wits Student Representative Council have not joined the call to boycott. According to SA Union of Jewish Students national chairman, Stephanie Hodes, that means SAUS, which comprises all South African university student representative councils, should not be purporting to represent all SRCs and making statements on their behalf.

Hodes says as a member of Sasco she had not been consulted about the decision to boycott and she doubts that most campus Sasco members are even aware of it.

Asked to identify the positions of the SAUS and Sasco members of his panel, Desai would not do so.

Desai would not confirm that he was neither a member of SAUS or Sasco. Panellists included Simphiwe Gada, chairman of the University of Johannesburg SRC and Mbugiseni Ndlozi, a former Wits SRC member, member of ANC Youth League, and member of the Sasco Wits branch.

The others on the panel were Temba Masonda, who is a SAUS national executive committee member and provincial chairman of Sasco; Kate Joseph, a member of the Wits Palestine Solidarity Committee; and Itumeleng Mafatshe, a member of Sasco.

Sasco provincial secretary, Lincoln Morgan, appended a statement to the Desai press release; The Young Communist League, also a signatory, was not present.

Labelling the Israeli students “apartheid agents”, the panel members took turns to read their joint statement, headed: “There is no doubt, Israel is an Apartheid state; there is only one word, boycott!”

Further down they declared: “All SA campuses must be Apartheid-Israel free zones.”

Asked by Hodes why they were so afraid to engage with Israeli students, Desai and Joseph said: “We don’t want dialogue; we will engage by boycotting them.”

SAUJS issued its own press release. What Is Rael, which is being partnered by SAUJS, represents students of different races, ethnic groups and political views.

According to Hodes, they are independent volunteers, wanting to “promote understanding of the political situation through peaceful dialogue, robust debate and discussion”.

Contrary to a “Background Information”

handout by the boycott proposers, purporting to quote from Haaretz, in the actual Haaretz article, “Israeli students fly to South Africa to improve their country’s image”, Roy Wolff, one of the organisers, said the trips were a private initiative.

“We agreed we were willing to spend \$1 000 each, the cost of travel, and hoped we could raise money to cover expenses.”

Another member of the group, Talia Dekel, clarifying the boycott proposers’ misquoting of the Haaretz article, added: “the organisers prefer not to take government money so that they cannot be cast as official representatives.”

SAUJS will be covering their ground expenses in South Africa.

A young black Palestine Solidarity Committee member of the audience questioned why the “agents” should not be allowed to speak at the university, and that

they could be “exposed”.

Hodes said, “It is quite clear that the PSC with its vicious propaganda is once again trying to spread hate on campus.”

The boycotters’ statement read in part: “Israeli media boast that a mission of 150 Israeli propagandists will be sent to universities in five countries to fix Israel’s ‘serious image problems’. The Israelis’ mission will begin on South African campuses, with a delegation that includes at least two aides from the Israeli parliament.

“A delegation member was clear about the intention of their trip: ‘We have to create some doubt in their (South African students’) minds.’”

Ndlozi wouldn’t divulge what “non-violent” actions the would-be boycotters would take against the Israeli students. Meeting them at the airport seemed on the cards.



Muhammed Desai and Mbugiseni Ndlozi.



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Irving Lissoos – his zest for life was infectious

DAVID SAKS

DR IRVING Lissoos (pictured), who passed away in Johannesburg on July 30, at the age of 74, was both highly respected in his profession and a much cherished personality within the Jewish community.

Of the outstanding personal qualities that had endeared him to so many, Rabbi Avraham Tanzer said of him: “Irving was dearly beloved and respected by the entire Jewish community, as a brilliant practitioner, with a great sense of humour. He brought comfort, solace and happiness to so many, over the many decades.”

Irving Lissoos was born in Johannesburg on March 2, 1937. He matriculated at King Edward School and went on to obtain his medical qualifications at Wits University. As

a specialist urologist, he was, among many other things, a pioneer of kidney transplants in South Africa and served as secretary of the Urological Association of SA.

He was in private practice for 38 years and at the time of his passing was still practising as a urologist at Milpark Hospital.

Beyond this, Lissoos forged a second “career” as a lecturer and writer on a range of subjects of Jewish and general historical interest, the diversity of which testified to his erudition and wide-ranging intellectual curiosity.

He was much sought after as a speaker at Jewish communal events, and further afield was much involved in broader local heritage initiatives.

Given his intimate knowledge of Johannesburg and local Jewish history, he

was the obvious choice to deliver the keynote address at the opening of the SAJBD’s “Jewish Johannesburg 120” exhibition in 2007.

Among the other many topics which Lissoos addressed, always with his trade-mark sense of humour and infectious enthusiasm, were Jewish humour, shuls in India, Jewish Nobel Prize-winners and Jewish cinema.

In a more serious vein, he also lectured on the Holocaust and authored a guide to the Haggadah, entitled Seder Beseder, which is today found in Jewish homes across the globe.

In the Jewish communal field, he was a founding member of Victory Park Synagogue and for many years served the King David



Schools and Jewish Board of Education in a variety of capacities. His diverse hobbies included making and collecting shofars.

Going beyond specifically Jewish themes, Lissoos was also involved in promoting the general history and heritage of his beloved Johannesburg. Among other things, he was a tour guide for both the Parktown Westcliff Heritage Trust and Soweto heritage tours.

Of his work in the former field Flo Bird, herself a doyen of Johannesburg heritage promotion, wrote: “Your tours were all masterpieces of research and a choice selection of facts leavened with a delightful sense of humour.

“You gave everyone a sense of adventure and enjoyment in exploring new fields of understanding Johannesburg from different perspectives - murder and mayhem, (Herman Charles) Bosman’s Johannesburg, Gandhi, the Anglo-Boer War and your most popular tour - the Jewish contribution.”

Lissoos is further remembered as the ultimate family man, one who never missed a school play, sports day or the like and brought every Jewish festival to life in the family home through, for example, animated sederim and creative succahs. He leaves his wife, Pam, five children and 11 grandchildren.

Community’s help solicited for Somalia

WENDY KAHN, national director of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, has appealed to the Jewish community for aid for drought-stricken Somalia in the Horn of Africa.

In a letter to the community, she writes: “We have watched with horror the worsening of the situation in Somalia. The extreme poverty, starvation and suffering on our continent has touched many in the community.

“South African Jewry is now answering the worldwide call to assist with relief to alleviate this suffering caused by the civil war in that country, as well as drought in the region.

“The Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief (JCDR), an alliance of US and foreign Jewish agencies that provide a united Jewish response to humanitarian disasters, has formed a special co-ordinating group in response to the drought and ensuing famine in East Africa.

“The Coalition is in contact with national and international partners to assess the situation and determine the most efficient way to respond. The Coalition will use its past experience with humanitarian crises to aid those most in need.

“The South African Jewish Board of Deputies has opened an account for those wishing to donate relief funds, which will then be sent via the JCDR.”

Donations may be sent to: Account name: SA Jewish Board of Deputies. Bank: Standard Bank Killarney (code 007205). Account number: 200305190. Reference: Somalia and then your surname.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

KANYE WEST COMPARES HIMSELF TO HITLER

LONDON - The popular rapper Kanye West was booed at a concert in England after comparing himself to Hitler.

“I walk through the hotel and I walk down the street, and people look at me like I’m (expletive) insane, like I’m Hitler,” West told an audience of 40 000 over the weekend at the Big Chill Festival.

As the audience booed, he said, “One day the light will shine through, and one day people will understand everything I ever did.” (JTA)



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Rabbis graduate as dayanim

THIS PAST week at the Chief Rabbi CK Harris Annual Rabbinical Conference, three South African rabbis, Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein, Rabbi Anton Klein and Rabbi Meir Trepp, graduated as dayanim.

A release from the Office of the Chief Rabbi says the graduates were given their certification by the rosh beth din, Rabbi Moshe Kurtstag, head of the Johannesburg and Cape Beth Din, and by Rabbi Yosef Carmel, the co-head of Eretz Hemdah an esteemed dayanut kollel based in Jerusalem and the Beth Din of a network of Batei Din in Israel.

This ordination was the culmination of more than eight years of intense learning of a curriculum specifically tailored for the needs of the South African Jewish community. The dayanus programme which started in 2003, is an initiative of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues, envisioned to provide locally trained dayanim for our community.

Rabbi Klein said: "This graduation is an outstanding testimony to the amazing South African Jewish community that local rabbis were given the opportunity to advance themselves, to grow in their Torah learning, under the wise guidance of world-renowned Torah sages, and to ultimately receive the certification of dayanut."

Eretz Hemdah, the institute that ran the



Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein; Rabbi Moshe Kurtstag; Rabbi Anton Klein and Rabbi Meir Trepp. (PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED)

programme, sent the curriculum and sources to be studied as well as questions to be answered. They also marked the papers. The process has been very comprehensive and, for example, in the section of the laws of gittin (divorce documents) more than 600 questions were set and answered.

The Chief Rabbi said: "I would like to pay tribute to the vision and foresight of Rabbi Kurtstag and the UOS Executive Council for establishing this programme. The mark of good leadership is to have a broad vision of the future needs of the community. This programme is a perfect example of that."

Rosh Beth Din Rabbi Kurtstag said: "The course was a very difficult and extensive one and especially catered for South African rabbis."

• See story on the Rabbinical Conference on page 19.

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

LEIBY KLETZKY'S ACCUSED KILLER PLEADS NOT GUILTY

NEW YORK - Levi Aron, the Brooklyn man accused of killing and dismembering eight-year-old Leiby Kletzky, has pleaded not guilty at his arraignment on August 4 in Brooklyn. An attorney spoke for the suspect.

A psychological exam requested by his defence team found Aron was competent to stand trial. He had told his attorneys he heard voices.

"He understands the nature of the charges and the proceedings and can assist in his defence,"

Pierre Bazile, a member of Aron's defence team, said to reporters after the hearing, The New York Times reported. "It is not a rendering on sanity or insanity."

Aron is charged with murdering Leiby after the boy became lost while walking home from camp for the first time and asked for directions, then got into his car. Kletzky's death sparked widespread grief and heated debate within the Chasidic community. A charity created in his name has raised \$265 399. (JTA)

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CEO of Hospice, Nigel Unwin, thanks the gathering for helping the organisation.



Singer Len and his wife, Charmion Kay.



Maggie Motsepe who won two nights at the Dettoek Country House in the Magaliesburg worth around R6 000, for being the “best dressed lady”.



Etihad Airways’ Damian Sadie with Cary Cunningham and Ivan Zartz.



Claire Bacher with former Springbok cricketer, Chris Duckworth and his wife Dawn.

SOCIAL SCENE Rita Lewis jont@global.co.za



Organiser Ivan Zartz with Gerald Sacks and head of general marketing and communications at Mpumalela Racing in South Africa, Robert Garner and his wife Nicky.

The ponies ran for a good Hospice cause

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

LAST SUNDAY, the Fourth Annual Hospice Wits Million Rand Race Day organised by Ivan Zartz and his team, proved once again to be most successful.

Not only was there a “full house” of some 300 participants at Turffontein Race Course, but also the usual array of fantastic “big” prizes such as overseas boat cruises; air tickets including a flight to Dubai; inclusive weekends away at beautiful resorts such as the Carousel, the Coach House in Tzaneen, Madikwe Lodge, Sun City and the Westcliff Hotel.

The event was in aid of Hospice whose CEO, Nigel Unwin, expressed his gratitude to Zartz for all the work, time and effort that he and his team had put in.

He then announced that Hospice would be changing the name of the event next year to the Ivan Zartz, Hospice Race Day in honour of Zartz’s long-standing relationship and efforts for the organisation.

He also thanked J J van der Linden and his Tawney Syndicate whose clients had brought in over R30 000 and various valuable items to raffle and sell at the event.

Unwin said that Hospice serviced

an area of some 1 500 square kilometres – the Johannesburg metropolitan area – and accepted everyone and anyone at no cost whatsoever.

He said their budget was around R38 million per annum – every cent of which was fundraised. “So it is very important for us to have events like these,” he said, “because we accept everyone.”

He asked the gathering not to think of Hospice as a place to die, but a place where terminally ill people could receive palliative care, psychological care, clinical care and the best possible care available.

“We all have to die,” he said, “but the difference between us and the people there at Hospice, is that they know when they are to die and we don’t.”

That is why we need as much money as possible, so that we can make a “home from home” for our patients.

Many people had bought raffle tickets to raise more money and win spot prizes including packages of coffee table books, vouchers for restaurants, luggage, clothes vouchers, make-overs for women, etc.

To make the event more exciting, various items were auctioned such as paintings and “special” getaways – many worth thousands of rands.



Mazwy as he is known with Matthew, Shoshana and Sean Lazarus from the Burger Box.



Clive Sidley, Ken Suchard and Joy Rubin, one of the organisers of the event.

COMMUNITY BUZZ

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JOHANNESBURG

Alf James (continues):

After Alf James’ crushing defeat at the hands of George Angelo in which the former welterweight king suffered a knock-out, it came as no surprise when shortly afterwards he announced his retirement from active boxing.

It will be remembered that two weeks prior to this defeat, he lost his crown to Don Carr on the closest of margins, but he was handicapped by having to reduce weight to make the limit. It will be remembered that James’ draw with Laurie Stevens brought the boom back to boxing in South Africa and since then James held the lightweight and welterweight titles respectively, beating Willie Miller and George Angelo.

THE DIAMOND CUTTING INDUSTRY

From Jack Leibowitz
Alec Leibowitz (continues):

“In the 1940s Alec Leibowitz became involved with the Diamond Research Laboratories of De Beers, where he researched diamond grits. Later during the mid-sixties, an automatic polishing (blocking) machine he was developing, came to the attention of De Beers’ directors who were sufficiently impressed by the machine that an agreement was made to retain Alec, with De Beers having the first option to take further any of his future inventions.

“Later, De Beers established a development laboratory with support services for him in London. It is said that Sir Ernest Oppenheimer found Alec’s developments ‘understandable’ unlike many that he had been shown! If one questions engineers who had contact with Alec, there is a common consensus regarding his inventive brilliance, although, apparently, he was not always an easy person to work with.”

To be continued.

JOHANNESBURG

From Norman Blum:

“With reference to the note about Abe Rakusin in Community Buzz of August 5, Dae-Nite Pharmacy in Orange Grove was started by Henry Josephson on his own and he carried it on alone for some years. He actually slept in a room at the back of the shop to make sure that he was available for emergencies day and night.

“At some stage the Pharmacy Board objected to the name ‘Dae-Nite’ as ‘advertising’ and he changed it to ‘Dae-Lite’. I don’t know whether Abe Rakusin was connected with the store at a later stage, but he wasn’t in it, during the early years.

“In Henry Josephson’s time it was the only branch and I think that it was after he sold it, that the purchasers opened other branches.”

JOHANNESBURG

From Bernard Lapidus in Toronto:

“Your article about my old friend and colleague, Abe Rakusin, is completely inaccurate. Day-Nite Pharmacy was started by a pharmacist, Henry Josephson, in Orange Grove, who later sold it to Chookie Brenner, later of Brenner Toyota.

“Abe Rakusin worked at the after-hours pharmacy in Rissik Street, owned by the Southern Transvaal Pharmaceutical Society. He later owned a pharmacy in Pretoria Street, Hillbrow at the corner of Catherine Avenue.

“After being there for nearly 30 years, he sold it and bought a small pharmacy on the corner of Jeppe and Eloff Streets, where he traded until 2009, when he retired.”

• Community Buzz is happy to print these clarifications.

FORDSBURG MAYFAIR REUNIONS

From Keevan Gordon:

“The first reunion took place at the Jewish Guild (in central Johannesburg) in 1984 and was reported in the Sunday Times. In a photograph which appeared in that paper of the reunion, are the late Ruben Sher - probably one of the most famous medical giants ever in South Africa after Chris Barnard and also in the photo is the late Julius Weinstein who became a famous Zionist of great distinction in South Africa and Israel.

“There is a photo taken in the 1940s of the Fordsburg Mayfair Shul choir - almost half the choir are deceased. We loved singing in this choir, which was formed with the opening of the brand new shul in 9th Avenue, corner of Park Drive. We never received money or gifts - only this photo - plus the koved of being chosen to sing.

“The choir members were: Sam Copans; Herbie Lang; Keevan Gordon; Roy Wolf; Charlie Friedland; Hymie Altman; Joe Glick; Charlie Plein; Alec Gloucer; Jesse Goldblatt; Teddy Glazer; Isaac Altman; Chazzan Rudi; Choirmaster Fogelman; Hymie Goldblatt; Ruben Swidler; Hymie Krut; and Leib Krut.

“I hope you see your way clear to publish this nostalgia, which will provide many families in South Africa and further afield in Israel and the Diaspora with warm memories of part of the magnificent history of the Jews who were privileged to grow up in Johannesburg.”

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To help with war trauma, Israeli soldiers take Manhattan

DAN KLEIN
NEW YORK

WHEN ISRAEL wanted to help its troops, it sent them to America.

Last month, 15 former soldiers selected by the Israel Defence Forces, travelled to New York for a weeklong programme to treat lingering trauma from their combat during the 2006 Lebanon War with Hezbollah.

An Israeli group called Peace of Mind, organised the programme, which ranged from group therapy and painting to sightseeing at the Empire State Building and a cocktail party on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

The long distance - not just from Lebanon, but from Israel as well - is at the heart of the treatment programme.

"In Israel, it's not socially acceptable to talk about these experiences," said Alon Weltman, an Israeli psychologist and director of the programme who accompanied the soldiers during their visit.

Bringing them to the United States, Weltman said, was an effort to break that taboo and help them move beyond their traumas. The soldiers spent half of each day in New York in intensive group therapy.

The programme was developed by the Israel Centre for the Treatment of Psychotrauma, a nonprofit affiliated with the Sarah Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem and the School of Social Work at Hebrew University.

The centre asks the IDF to choose a group of soldiers for treatment and then finds international Jewish communities willing to take in the soldiers and foot the bill - about \$55 000 - to pay for the expenses of the 15 soldiers and three psychologists. In this case, a group of Jews from Fire Island, a popular vacation spot on Long Island about two hours from Manhattan, paid the bill.



Israeli Soldiers drink at a cocktail party in their honour thrown by the Manhattan Jewish Experience, in July. (PHOTOGRAPH: DAN KLEIN)

Peace of Mind doesn't treat soldiers with post-traumatic stress disorder, but helps soldiers realise that they may have repressed trauma from their wartime experiences that affect their everyday lives.

"Think of someone experiencing a sudden death of someone close," Weltman said. "That person is dealing with a difficult experience but is not necessarily post-traumatic. He might not have the right tools to deal with this experience, though, and that is part of what we try to do in the programme."

The 15 men who came for the visit to America last month were platoon mates in the IDF's 931st infantry regiment during the month-long Second Lebanon War. The 931st saw particularly tough combat, including urban fighting against Hezbollah militia-men in closed quarters.

"There were a lot of missions," said First Sergeant Amit Ginat, who spent a year in physical therapy after being wounded by gunfire and grenade shrapnel during an assault on a house occupied by four enemy fighters.

The platoon defended strategic buildings, staged assaults and came under rocket fire.

In one rocket attack that hit their sleeping quarters, a soldier who had switched mattresses with a friend was killed by the projectile. Ten others were wounded.

Most of the platoon members were injured during the war. Months later they were civilians again.

Their lives took different paths. They travelled, went to school, married, worked jobs, had kids. Some kept in touch, but not all. Every so often they regrouped for reserve duty. But many could not leave the war completely behind them.

Captain Yuron Edel is taken back to the combat zone by the smell of metal or Mediterranean herbs. Second Lieutenant Yoni

Beck still wonders whether he could have saved his friends. First Sergeant. Shay Shem Tobi says fireworks make him jumpy. Levy Forchheimer can't listen to a particular song without remembering the friend he lost in combat.

"Everything since the war has changed. I try to avoid situations that remind me of the war," said Tobi, who left Israel to travel when his service ended and recently started studying animation. "Some take it more harshly than others, but everyone took something from it, something good or bad."

For some of the soldiers on the programme, the realisation that the war still touches their lives, felt like a revelation.

"I didn't think the war affected me," Beck said. "Now when we sit and talk, I realise how much it's affected my life."

Other soldiers said they didn't think they had lingering trauma.

"I wouldn't like to think the war changed me," Forchheimer, an American who served

in the IDF, said near the outset of the programme. "But I'll find out."

Edel said the programme gave him concrete and immediate results.

"It gave me a feeling of lightness, having put the burden away," he told JTA from Israel after the programme had ended.

Although excellent treatment is available to the average soldier within the IDF, Weltman said, soldiers must seek it out.

"We think the treatment should come to them," he said, explaining the rationale for Peace of Mind.

Weltman said the programme helped the IDF because it reduced the dropout rate for reserve duty and increases resilience for trauma, which he said was measured before and after the programme. The IDF did not respond to a request for comment in time for publication.

For the Jewish communities taking in and entertaining the soldiers, it's an opportunity to learn and to help. On their first day in the United States, the soldiers were the guests of honour at a cocktail party and comedy night hosted by the Manhattan Jewish Experience, an outreach organisation that caters to unaffiliated young professionals.

The organisation's founder, Rabbi Marc Wildes, told the soldiers in a short welcoming speech that they were admired by the Jewish community and viewed as "holy soldiers". The men listened, but also kept their arms around each other, whispering and interjecting jokes. Afterward, Edel thanked the rabbi for the welcome but offered a corrective.

"You see us as holy soldiers, but we see ourselves as simple people," Edel said. "We want you to see us that way, and talk to us that way, and pass that along."

Barbara Messer, who helped organise the Long Island residents who sponsored and hosted the soldiers, said the lesson was learned.

"When they were coming, people were saying: 'The soldiers are coming,'" Messer recalled. "But after they arrived, they were just the guys - people who had been through a lot and who then became our friends." (JTA)

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

STANDARD & POOR'S DOWNGRADES ISRAEL'S US LOAN GUARANTEES

WASHINGTON - Standard & Poor's said ratings for the loan guarantees Israel obtains from the United States dropped commensurately with its downgrading of the US credit rating.

The rating agency, one of three major credit raters, said on Monday that the \$6 billion Israel receives in guarantees dropped from its highest rating of AAA to AA+, as had the overall US credit rating in the wake of 11th-hour negotiations between Congress and the White House over the terms of raising the US debt ceiling. The Associated Press reported.

VAST SENATE MAJORITY URGES SANCTION OF IRAN'S CENTRAL BANK

WASHINGTON - Nearly the entire US Senate has signed on to a letter urging the Obama administration to implement sanctions targeting Iran's central bank.

"As you know, the Iranian regime continues to pursue avenues to circumvent both US and multilateral sanctions," says the letter sent on Tuesday and first reported last Sunday by The Wall Street Journal. "In the banking sector, the Central Bank of Iran lies at the centre of Iran's circumvention strategy."

The letter, spearheaded by Senators

OBAMA CONFIDANTE WEXLER URGES POLLARD RELEASE

WASHINGTON - Robert Wexler, one of President Barack Obama's closest Jewish confidantes, has urged him to release Jonathan Pollard.

The July 25 letter from Wexler, a former Democratic congressman from Florida, was released last Friday by advocates for clemency for the imprisoned spy for Israel.

One of a recent flood of appeals from Congress members and former government officials, Wexler's appeal is significant because it is the first to come from within Obama's coterie.

Wexler, who now directs the Centre for Middle East Peace, was the Obama campaign's chief Jewish proxy in the 2008 elec-

tion and remains close to the White House. "Mr Pollard is the only person in US history to receive a life sentence for disclosing classified information to an American ally," Wexler writes. "Having spent over 25 years in incarceration, seven of which were spent in solitary confinement, and having expressed remorse for his crimes, it is my humble opinion that Mr Pollard has served sufficient time - both in terms of punishment for his crimes and in terms of deterrence to would-be perpetrators."

Pollard, arrested in 1985, was convicted and sentenced to life in 1987 for spying for Israel. He recently successfully underwent kidney-related surgery. (JTA)

Unaffected was S&P's overall rating for Israel, which remained at A/A-1, a level reporting a "strong" capacity to meet financial commitments.

Another major credit rater, Moody's, had said before the debt ceiling matter was resolved that Israel might see its loan guarantees downgraded in the event that the United States was downgraded. Moody's, however, did not downgrade its US rating.

On Sunday, the Tel Aviv Stock Market experienced its largest one-day loss in nearly three years in reaction to the downgrade of the US credit rating. (JTA)

Charles Schumer (Democrat New York) and Mark Kirk (Republican Illinois), has garnered signatures from more than 90 of the 100 senators.

Laws passed last year enable President Barack Obama to launch such sanctions, which would aim to cut Iran off from any banking sector that deals with US markets.

The Obama administration already is sanctioning smaller banks that allegedly deal with Iran's suspected nuclear weapons programme. (JTA)

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BUILDING SOUTH AFRICA

People doing remarkable things

Shirley Ancer looks back on a lifetime of community service

ROBYN SASSEN

A STAUNCH supporter of youth movements Bnei Akiva, Hashomer Hatzair and Habonim, as a teenager, stalwart of the community, educator and community politician Shirley Ancer, 75, (pictured) made a concerted effort, when she became a mother, in the late 1960s, to join a Jewish organisation that espoused the same kind of values, in giving back to the community.

“I taught at Indian and Chinese schools

and convents, during my early teaching career. I wanted to work with the Jewish community. I looked at WIZO, the Benevolent, Magen David Adom, the Sisterhood and the Union of Jewish Women, but only the latter appealed to me: its ideals were similar to mine.

“To be a member of the Sisterhood, you had to belong to a Reform temple.” Born and raised in Doornfontein, Johannesburg, Ancer’s religious background was Orthodox, with a social conscience. “It was

important for me to work in the general community and the Jewish community.

“I first went to the UJW in 1972. In 1973, my youngest, Charles was born; the following year, I went to teach at Yeshivat Torat Emet, in Observatory in Johannesburg. The secular subjects were taught in the afternoons, which effectively gave me time for my UJW commitments in the mornings.

“In 1979, I stopped teaching and focused on UJW activities and I became involved with Kosher Mobile Meals, visiting the sick at



Kensington Clinic, and entertaining the elderly in frail-care at Sandringham Gardens.

“Our role was to cheer them up. It was the 1970s - we used to give them sweets, magazines and cigarettes! I also volunteered at the hospital and spent time primarily in the social work department there.

“One of the UJW’s key programmes is Kosher Mobile Meals. It began with the ‘Friendship Lunch Club’ on a Wednesday which has been in existence for years. When I met my now late mother-in-law, she told me she often went to the ‘French’ Club at the Queen’s Hall in Claim Street, Johannesburg,” she reminisces.

“It took me time to realise it was the Friendship Club! Most of the people the club feeds lived in Hillbrow, Yeoville and Berea - many still do. We charge R15 per person. We issue everyone with tickets, to protect the dignity of those who cannot afford it.

“We do all the cooking ourselves - it costs UJW R3 500 for each lunch.”

Kosher Mobile Meals was developed by the late Sybil Sifrin, in collaboration with UJW. “She taught me so much.” Ancer remembers times spent at Sifrin’s Norwood home with great fondness. “She handled the social stuff at the Union, from the 1950s; she informed much of how Kosher Mobile Meals and all the Union’s initiatives grew.”

Today, Ancer chairs Kosher Mobile Meals. “Things have changed a lot,” she speaks of indigence in the community, and how professional the project is now. “KMM’s convenor/administrator works out how many meals we need. There is a social worker who works with the recipients of the meals.

“The reality is the volunteers are themselves old. Some are older than those who get the meals. Volunteers help us with packing and delivery of the meals, which have been cooked at Sandringham Gardens since 1998. We assist 165 people a day at the moment. When KMM was established, there were 14 people needing kosher meals delivered.

“It costs R120 000 - R140 000 per month for Kosher Mobile Meals to survive.”

“UJW feeds 60 to 80 child- and granny headed households. We have three soup kitchens at the Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital: a maternity one, an HIV one and a general one; we also support the Lutheran Church in Alexandra.

“Last year, Dischem gave us money to enable us to keep these kitchens going. The kitchen feeding the church community in Alexandra has been running for some years on a donation received from America.

“These kitchens feed children and the elderly each morning. Once a week the elderly are given a lunch; once a week, the children are given food to take home to their families. The problem with a system like this is that it must be controlled.”

A money-earning scheme Ancer played a role in developing, was several series of low-budget recipe books and books of handy hints, which are sold to the community.

In the early 1990s, Ancer became more and more involved with local politics. She was made a city councillor in 2000 on a DA ticket; retiring in 2011.

“My first year as a councillor was challenging,” she told the Inter Press Service Agency.”

She discovered that antiquated ideas about women’s participation in political life persisted. “I’m still amazed how many people in the 21st century still believe that politics are not for women. It makes me realise how much work we still have to do to educate South Africans to accept that women are equal to men.”

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Keren Hayesod-UIA honours Marco van Embden

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN
PHOTO SUPPLIED

MARCO VAN Embden was honoured at the recent Campaign Cabinet concluding the annual Keren Hayesod-UIA world conference held in Jerusalem, for his “most successful” tenure as chairman of the United Jewish Campaign (UJC) here and subsequently as chairman of the Friends of the UJC.

Van Embden, immediate past chairman of the UJC, in fact served two two-year terms at the helm of the organisation from 2005 - 2009. “We set out a strategic planning process when I started and at the end of my first term, I wasn’t finished, so I decided to stay,” he explains.

During his tenure, the David Susman Community Foundation was launched to safeguard the community in case there was ever a drop in collections for the Campaign. The Friends of the UJC Cape Town was likewise launched during his term of office.

He currently serves as chairman of both groups. “We make contact with all out-of-towners, people who live all over the world who have holiday homes here, and we invite them to become friends and patrons,” he says of the latter. “All the funds collected from them go to the Foundation.”

According to the Keren Hayesod-UIA website, Van Embden’s “enthusiasm and energy have brought very impressive results to his Campaign over the years.”

He told Jewish Report that, during his four years of office, the Campaign amount collected was virtually doubled.

In addition, the number of Top Donors was increased “significantly”, as were those in the newly-created category of Platinum Donors, “and I’m talking about almost doubling of those numbers,” he says. “We dealt with what we called underperformers - we identified people who we thought should be supporting the community more.

“We introduced a whole host of programmes, made lots of changes, upgraded lots of things we were doing from IT right



Marco van Embden was honoured at the recent Keren Hayesod-UIA world conference in Jerusalem.

through to everything else. I personally canvassed stacks of people every year.”

During his communal career, Van Embden has served as chairman of the United Herzlia Schools, as well as of the Herzlia Alumni Association.

Outside the community, he has assisted Solomon’s Haven, an emergency shelter for abused abandoned or neglected children in the townships, by raising funds to buy a 12-seater bus. Together with his architect son, Jacques, he has raised R400 000 to build a second storey, including five critically-needed bedrooms, to the Haven.

A Sunday of excitement awaits in Glenhazel

ALISON GOLDBERG

TWO COMMUNAL events will take place next Sunday, August 14 at The Terrace, one floor above KosherWorld in Glenhazel, Johannesburg.

In honour of Tu B’Av in the evening (starting at 18:00) community organisations and youth groups are planning a “White Night Rooftop Party”. Aimed at the 20- to 30-year-old age group, Layla Lavan (White Night) celebrates a time when single girls in Jerusalem would dress in white and dance in the vineyards.

Borrowing white clothes from one another so as not to embarrass those who didn’t have, and so they could all look the same, young men would go to the fields to choose a bride.

From the last Mishnah in Masechet Taanit: “Young man, lift up your eyes and choose wisely. Don’t look at physical beauty, look rather at the family. ‘For charm is deceptive and beauty is vanity, a G-d-fearing woman is the one to be praised...’” (Mishlei/Proverbs 31:30) The focus is on women and marriage - our very own Jewish Valentine’s Day - and will be celebrated with dance and music.

The event is a combined IUA-UCF, Yad, Israel Centre, Hagshama and youth movement effort.

Earlier in the day, from 11:30-15:00, a fete will take place at the very same venue, for eight- to 16-year-olds and their parents.


Starring Shoooby Doob Shloimy, a Jewish singer and entertainer and his troupe of child singers, he will be co-launching an educational game “Journey Through History”, created by Soul Workout, on a audiovisual slide show. The board is aimed at strengthening Jewish roots and identity. Ten games will be given away to lucky lottery drawers.

- The film “Prince of Egypt” will be screened thereafter for the younger children.

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SECURING YOUR FUTURE

Politics aside - the famine in Somalia

NATURAL DISASTERS don't give a damn whether the people affected are Jews, Muslims, Christians, Hindus or any other faith. It's all the same as far as the suffering is concerned.

All South Africans should be proud of the medical aid mission sent by the Gift of the Givers, a local Muslim organisation, to Somalia. They returned this week to South Africa after spending 10 days there. TV footage shown on SABC gave a sense of the nightmare scenarios they witnessed and the desperate situations of the people they tried to help, particularly the confused, frightened children, seen in photos with bloated bellies and flies covering their eyes. The team's courage and compassion are an example to all.

In Somalia, which is suffering its worst drought in 60 years, some 3,5 million people, a third of the country's population, are facing life-threatening hunger and thirst. Famine has been declared in five regions of South Central Somalia and the UN has begun food airlifts into Mogadishu, to try to reach the almost 2,2 million people yet to receive aid.

The Somali people's chief source of livelihood are its cattle, which are dying in the drought. Tens of thousands of people have also died already.

Of the estimated US\$2,4 billion needed for the food aid effort for the refugees, less than half has reportedly been received. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appealed to the international community to help urgently.

The West has so far donated some \$1,1 billion, while African states sent forces to Somalia to protect the refugees, among them African Union forces. The UN has also asked rich Arab states to help.

Sadly, the response has been only a token one. Qatar has reportedly provided some \$200 000, Kuwait half a million dollars and Saudi Arabia \$60 million, which a report on YNET says is "less than the price of oil it produces every hour". Somalia is a Muslim country and one of the Arab League's 22 members. It's to be applauded that the SA Jewish Board of Deputies is calling for local Jews to assist.

In the Horn of Africa generally, in Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia and Ethiopia, some 12,4 million people need urgent humanitarian assistance.

With large areas controlled by armed organisations such as the Muslim al-Shabaab group, the UN aid unfortunately doesn't all get to the desperately needy. Its leader Ahmed Abdi Godan, has reportedly denied on his radio station that hunger prevails, saying it is malicious propaganda from Islam's enemies.

International aid organisations have been prevented from providing food to hundreds of thousands of refugees, although al-Shabaab has now reportedly been driven from Mogadishu by AU forces, allowing aid - including the Gift of the Givers team - to arrive there. They have promised to return next month, but obviously what they do, as laudable as it is, is but a drop in the ocean.

When it comes to situations like Somalia, politics must step aside and pure humanitarianism towards the suffering masses on the ground must prevail. In a "normal" situation, Jews cannot help being intensely aware of the Muslim Arab world's unrelenting hatred towards Israel and their attempts to destroy it. The Muslim world is also today the world's greatest focal point of anti-Semitism.

Yet this is not the time to dwell on that. Who knows, perhaps when diverse peoples collectively respond as caring human beings to crises like the Somali one, it might remind us that underneath our political and religious conflicts, there are ordinary people on the ground who share similar needs and dreams.

Jewish groups have responded, including IsrAid, an Israeli humanitarian aid organisation which together with American and Canadian Jewish groups is helping bring emergency food and water to Somali refugees in neighbouring Kenya.

IsrAID has important experience in providing expert disaster assistance speedily. Aside from other places, it was active in the humanitarian crisis following the 2010 Haitian earthquake. There, its field hospital was the first international team to arrive and begin offering medical help to the needy. IsrAID is working with the UN on practical details of rolling out aid to accomplish the greatest effect.

We carry the SAJBD's appeal for donations on page 4. It has opened a bank account for this purpose. We are sure that the local Jewish community will again respond generously.

OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS



Passers-by glancing at looted stores in a London neighbourhood, on August 9. (PHOTOGRAPH: CREATIVE COMMONS)

As London burns, riots spread to Jewish communities

DAN KLEIN
LONDON

WHILE SOME Jews in London marked Tisha B'Av on Tuesday by lamenting the burning of the Holy Temples on that day some two millennia ago, other London Jews watched as their city burned amid widespread rioting.

"Everyone is shocked," Joel Braunold, a lifelong Londoner, told JTA in a phone interview just after leaving Tisha B'Av services on Monday night. "People are angry and scared."

Violent protests that broke out last Saturday following a deadly police shooting in the North London neighbourhood of Tottenham, quickly turned into riots, arson attacks and looting in neighbourhoods this week all over the city in the worse civil unrest that London has seen in 25 years.

In some cases, the Jews reportedly weren't just bystanders.

The Guardian reported that some members of Tottenham's small Chasidic community - all that remains of a once-substantial Jewish community that earned its local soccer team the nickname "the Yids" - gathered to jeer police.

A video posted on YouTube shows Orthodox men laughing and then scat-

tering as a crowd of mounted police officers move in. In another video, young Orthodox men can be seen handing out challah.

"When I saw Jewish people out tonight I was happy," one protester told the Socialist Worker newspaper. "I thought, it's not just us. They gave us bread."

Most Jews, however, appear to be eager for a return to law and order. Local rabbis and the Shomrim Orthodox security service have warned Jewish community members to stay away from the riots, the UK Jewish Chronicle reported.

As the riots spread to Jewish areas of Stamford Hill and Golders Green, several Jewish-owned businesses were ransacked. Joelle Selt told JTA that her father's general store was robbed at knifepoint by masked men, and a 71-year-old Jewish-owned store in Tottenham was looted Sunday morning, the Chronicle reported.

"They are tearing up their own community," the store's owner, Derek Lewis, said of the rioters, as reported in the Chronicle. "It's tragic."

At least two stabbings were reported Monday night in Stamford Hill, and clashes between rioters and police were reported in Golders

Green and Camden.

Linda W, a mother of three daughters who lives in London, contrasted the rioters disparagingly with the massive but nonviolent protests in Israel over high housing prices.

"It's evident who raises the better man," she wrote in an e-mail to JTA.

Linda said the Riot Act - a 1715 law that made it a felony for groups of 12 or more to refuse to disperse after being ordered to do so - should be returned to the books. The law was repealed in 1973.

"People want to enforce the law by any means necessary," Braunold said. "They don't care anymore; they just want the riots off the streets."

The rioting began following the police shooting on August 4 in Tottenham of a suspected drug dealer named Mark Duggan, and spread to young people in poorer neighbourhoods. Many analysts have linked the riots to the weak economy, wide spread unemployment and deep budget cuts that have hurt Britain's poor.

"There are underlying causes," Braunold said, "but first the rioting and hooliganism needs to stop. This brings out the worst characteristics in people, and they need to face the consequences." (JTA)

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

LONDON RIOTS SPREAD TO JEWISH COMMUNITY

LONDON - Rioting in London has spread to the Jewish community. Stores in the Jewish communities of Stamford Hill and Golders Green were urged to close and secure merchandise on Monday night as unrest that began last Saturday night in the north London neighbourhood of Tottenham spread throughout London.

Residents of Tottenham's Chasidic Orthodox community reportedly gathered on the street to heckle police over Shabbat, The Guardian reported.

But following warnings from local rabbis and the Shomrim Orthodox security service, most members of the Jewish community stayed away from

the riots, according to the Jewish Chronicle. They were advised that they could go to synagogue, however.

No synagogues have been reported damaged in the riots, though some Jewish-owned stores have been ransacked, according to the newspaper.

A YouTube video showed some Orthodox young men handing out challah to passing residents from a cardboard box

At least two stabbings were reported on Monday night in Stamford Hill.

The rioting began on August 6, following the shooting of an alleged drug dealer, Mark Duggan. The violence spread first to youth in poorer neigh-

bourhoods.

Some observers believe that the riots are the result of a weak economy, widespread unemployment and deep budget cuts targeting the poorest communities.

Prime Minister David Cameron cut short his vacation in Italy, returning to London to convene an emergency Cabinet meeting to handle the crisis. He has warned of strong action "the thuggery".

The looting, riots and arson attacks occurred just kilometres from the new stadiums and athletes' villages being constructed for the 2012 Olympic Games. (JTA)

In accepting ‘67 lines for talks, Netanyahu tries some political manoeuvring

JESSICA STEINBERG
JERUSALEM

IN THE never-ending game of diplomatic chess played by Israeli and Palestinian leaders, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week made a new move to try to outflank the Palestinians.

On August 2, he said that Israel was ready to use the pre-1967 lines as a rough starting point for discussion of a Palestinian state - if the Palestinians recognised Israel as the Jewish State and back down from their plan to petition the United Nations for statehood recognition in September.

Analysts are divided over whether this constitutes a real shift for Netanyahu, or whether he's merely trying to call the Palestinians' bluff and gain the

upper hand in the international arena - and at home.

On the one hand, merely articulating this new position appears to be a significant shift for the prime minister, who initially described those borders as "indefensible" when President Barack Obama suggested in May that the pre-1967 lines - with agreed land swaps - should serve as the starting point for talks.

"It's a very serious move," said Bar-Ilan University political scientist Eytan Gilboa, a senior researcher at the Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies. "For him it's quite a concession to make because after Obama proposed his platform for renewing negotiations, Bibi rejected it. So he has changed his tune."

Another, domestic element may

be propelling Netanyahu toward peace talks with the Palestinians: the growing social movement that has seen massive demonstrations over the high cost of living in Israel, particularly housing prices.

In the past few days, some 300 000 Israelis have turned out to protest across the country, and many are camped out in tents on Tel Aviv's leafy Rothschild Boulevard. A few weeks ago, a Facebook-driven protest against the high prices of cottage cheese, an Israeli staple, also drew mass popular support, and the price subsequently dropped.

If Netanyahu wants to deal with the protests that have grown with each week, he "has to draw the one card that no one is expecting, the card that can outflank his opponents on every segment of the political spectrum", Haaretz columnist

Bradley Burston wrote last week: an immediate return to peace negotiations.

"This is the time," Burston wrote. "His party and his government are laying back, uncharacteristically silent, waiting for him to take charge, make a move bold enough to meet the challenge of the nation's broadest social movement in memory."

Shmuel Sandler, another researcher at Bar-Ilan's Begin-Sadat Centre, said the protests in Israel have prompted Netanyahu's coalition partners to rally behind him because they don't want to fall prey to early elections, which paradoxically may strengthen the prime minister's hand in peace negotiations by giving him enough flexibility to make headway with the Palestinians despite right-wingers in his coalition, wary about concessions.

It's still not clear whether Netanyahu's August 2 statement represents a substantive shift or a tactical move. Tactically, the appearance of being flexible on the issue of the borders could help build international pressure on the Palestinians to return to the negotiating table and against a Palestinian statehood bid at the United Nations.

"The Palestinians are so hard - they don't want to budge on the issue of declaring Israel a Jewish state and they will never accept Israel as a Jewish state," Sandler said. "This way, Bibi can't be blamed if something does happen in September" at the United Nations. "He can't be blamed for being too

stiff and inflexible." In the meantime, however, Netanyahu's statement has distracted attention from Abbas' precondition to negotiations: a total freeze on construction in the settlements. Even with Netanyahu's concession, Abbas could still push on the construction issue.

In the end, Gilboa said, despite Netanyahu's new position, every one's hands were tied.

The Palestinians are determined to go to the United Nations, but Netanyahu's statement makes a rejection of negotiations more difficult. Netanyahu has spent much time in recent months trying to convince European leaders to abstain from, or oppose a unilateral Palestinian bid at the United Nations for statehood recognition. This week, he met with 19 visiting diplomats in Israel, urging them not to vote for unilateral recognition, saying it could make future negotiations more difficult.

The Europeans are key. Without European backing, a vote in favour of Palestinian statehood supported mostly by Muslim and developing countries, would be seen as lacking in moral authority.

Obama already has indicated that the United States will oppose a UN vote for Palestinian statehood, and congressional leaders are threatening to cut off aid to the Palestinian Authority if it goes forward with its plans for September.

Ultimately, Gilboa says, that may not make enough of a difference to deter the Palestinians.

"Rational thinking is not their strong suit," he said. "The UN move is complicating an already highly complicated situation." (JTA)



Some analysts say demonstrations by Israelis protesting social inequalities and high living costs, as shown here in Tel Aviv on Aug 6, are propelling Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu toward peace talks with the Palestinians. (PHOTOGRAPH: DIMAI VAZINOVICH/FLASH90)

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| SESSION 2 (09:50 - 10:50) | Obama, Israel and the Middle East <i>J Brooks Spector</i> (Israel) | Are the Jews Running South Africa? <i>Jack Bloom, Joel Goldberg, Sol Cowan, Steven Gruz</i> (Community, Politics) | Understanding the Global Jewish Innovation Ecosystem: Trends, Trailblazers and Challenges <i>Seth Cohen</i> (Global Jewish Issues, New Trends) | Foreign Workers, Refugees and the Jewish-Democratic State <i>Gideon Kunda</i> (Israel, Tikkun Olam) | Two Left Feet and a Barrel of Fun: First Steps to Bionanza <i>Christos Daskalakis</i> (Arts & Culture, Spirituality) | Lady Luck: Fate, Destiny and the Book of Esther <i>Barbara Spectre</i> (Text) | Jewish Berlin: 100 Years of Love and Hatred <i>Lyonell Fliss</i> (Arts and Culture, History) | NO SESSION |
| SESSION 3 (11:10 - 12:10) | From Durban to Goldstone: The Politics of Human Rights and "Third Generation Warfare" Against Israel <i>Gerald Steinberg</i> (Israel) | More than a Talmudic Ferribe!: What Can We Learn from the Schisms Between Beit Hillel and Beit Shammai? <i>Dennis Davis</i> (Text) | Of Secrets and Scandals: A History of Jewish Affairs <i>Marlene Wasserman</i> (History, Jewish General Interest) | Do-Gooders or Social Profit: Delivering Social and Environmental Change in a Capitalist Society <i>Saul Kornik</i> (Tikkun Olam, New Trends) | Urban Legends Decoded: From the Blood Libel to the Myths of 9/11 and Beyond <i>Arthur Goldstuck</i> (Jewish General Interest) | The Academic Boycott: Just Words or Action? <i>David Newman, Elli Kriel</i> (Israel, Jewish General Interest) | Write-Away: A Three Day Jewish Journey <i>Michelle Ish-Shalom Friedman</i> (Arts & Culture, Spirituality) | Are You an Adaptor or an Innovator <i>Mirah Wilks</i> (New Trends) |
| SESSION 4 (12:50 - 13:50) | Toward A Meaningful Life: Universal Jewish Life Skills <i>Simon Jacobson</i> (Spirituality) | Re-exploring Zionism: Reclaim, Redefine or Reject <i>Shimon Shamila, Yavir Oppenheimer, Haim Aronowitz, Gerald Steinberg, Laura Siegel Porpinyal</i> (Israel) | Reflecting on Holocaust Site Visits: Does Seeing Auschwitz Help or Hinder? <i>Kay Andrews</i> (Shoah, Education) | Mystical Yoga: Attaining Balance Through the Aleph-Bet <i>Bernice Funk</i> (Spirituality) | The Dolphin's Song: A Transformative Journey of Healing <i>Monica Wolfson</i> (Community, Jewish General Interest, Arts & Culture) | You Can't Succeed on Broadway If You Don't Have Any Jews <i>Charles Meizer</i> (Arts & Culture) | Leadership and Manifestation: A Kabbalistic Approach <i>Jonti Mayer</i> (Spirituality, New Trends) | Kosher Wines of the World: A Taste, Tour and Talk <i>Les Berman</i> (Jewish General Interest) |
| SESSION 5 (14:10 - 15:10) | The Settlements Movement: How Did It All Begin and Where is it Today? <i>Yavir Oppenheimer</i> (Israel) | Conversion: Solving an Unsolvable Problem <i>Nathan Lopes Cardozo</i> (General Jewish Interest, Text, Intensive) | Jews for Jo'burg: The Impact of Jews on the Rejuvenation of the Johannesburg Inner-City <i>Renney Plit</i> (New Trends, Business) | Jews and Moods <i>Dora Wynchank</i> (Community, Jewish General Interest) | Alternative Energy in Africa: Business Models for a Greener Continent <i>Daniel Irurah</i> (Tikkun Olam, Business) | Shlomo Torah <i>Micha Odenheimer</i> (Text, Jewish General Interest) | David Goes to Campus: Fifty Years of Jewish Student Activism <i>Marcia Parness, Howard Sackstein, Boaz Valtin, David Blüchitz and Benji Shulman</i> (Community, Panel) | Engage With the Page: Write a Complete Story in 2 Hours <i>Merle Levin</i> (Arts & Culture, Workshop) |
| SESSION 6 (15:30 - 16:30) | Conversion: Solving an Unsolvable Problem <i>Nathan Lopes Cardozo</i> (General Jewish Interest, Text, Intensive) | What Do (Jewish) Women Want Next? <i>Marlene Wasserman, Debbie Weissman, Adina Roth, Michelle Citrin</i> (Jewish General Interest) | Is South Africa A Start Up Nation? <i>Saul Kornik, Yossi Hasson, and Johann Redelinghuys</i> (Panel, New Trends, Business) | To The End of the Land: David Grossman and the Cost of Israel's Wars <i>Merle Williams</i> (Arts & Culture, Israel) | Drawing the Borders of a Two-State Solution: Maps and Territories <i>David Newman</i> (Israel) | Engage With the Page-Write a Complete Story in 2 Hours <i>Merle Levin</i> (Arts & Culture, Workshop) | The Tree of Life: An In-Depth Study of the Sefirot <i>Sara Evian</i> (Spirituality) | NO SESSION |

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ARTS MATTERS

COMPILED BY ROBYN SASSEN
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Artisan Contemporary Gallery, Morningside, Durban: Hand-coloured linos by Theo Paul Vorster through August, (031) 312-4364.

Cinema Nouveau, Rosebank, Johannesburg: The Israeli film festival, until August 18, (012) 470-3513.

Cinema Nouveau, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town: The Israeli film festival, August 19-25, (012) 470-3513.

Elizabeth Sneddon Theatre, Durban: Kander and Ebb’s “Cabaret”, directed by Steven Stead, until August 28, (031) 260-2296.

Iziko: SA National Museum, Cape Town: “Tretchikoff: The People’s Painter”, curated by Andrew Lamprecht, until September 25, (021) 481-3970.

Joburg Theatre Complex, Braamfontein: In the Nelson Mandela, Latin and Ballroom dance extravaganza “Burn the Floor”, until August 14; “The Pink Floyd Experience”, opens August 18, (011) 877-6800.

Linder Auditorium, Parktown: On August 17 and 18, JPO performs Mussorgsky’s Dawn on the Moskva River, Dvorák’s ‘Cello Concerto and Borodin’s first symphony. Conductor: Bernhard Gueller, soloist: Wolfgang Schmid (‘cello), (011) 789-2733. On August 20, Yvonne Timoianu (‘cello) and Anthony Preda (piano) perform Austrian masterpieces for the JMS, (011) 728-5492.

The Magnet, Observatory: Mark Fleishman directs “The Children and the Bees”, a work created as part of the Brundibár project, that reimagines the Pied Piper of Hamelin, engaging children in genocide awareness, August 16-21, (021) 448-3436.

Market Theatre, Newtown: In the Laager, “The Table”, directed by Sylvaine Strike, until September 18, (011) 832-1641.

Montecasino, Fourways: In the Main Theatre, Alan Bennett’s “The History Boys”, until September 11. In the Studio, “Off Beat Broadway 4”, with Lindy Abromowitz, Anton Luitingh and Paul du Toit, from August 19, (011) 511-1988.

Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton: Conrad Koch’s “My-Pro-Doll and Nuro-Friends”, a puppet show for grown-ups until August 27. Friday lunchtime: Miro Chakaryan (violin) and Ventura Rosenthal (harp), August 12, (011) 883-8606.

SA Jewish Museum, Gardens: “Jiving with Madiba: Jonathan Shapiro’s Mandela”, until November, (021) 465-1546.

Wits, Braamfontein: In the Nunnery, Claudine Ullman and Lara Lipschitz perform “Curled Up” and “My Uncle Oswald”, until August 13, (011) 717-1376.

TAPESTRY

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It leaves you with a full heart

Show: *The Table (The Laager, Market Theatre, Newtown (011)832-1641)*
Cast: Janet Hampton Carpede; William Harding; Annabel Linder; Khabonina Qubeka; Karin van der Laag; Brian Webber
Director: Sylvaine Strike
Playwright: Craig Higginson and the cast.
Design: Sam Sklair; Dan Selsick (music); Chen Nakar; Sasha Ehlers (set); Nomvula Molepo (lighting); Brian Webber; Sylvaine Strike (costumes)
Until: September 18

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

YOU MIGHT look wrecked when you leave the theatre after this play; your heart will be sated. The Table is woven with enchantment, commitment to truth and generous collaboration. Set on a Shabbat commemorating the first yahrzeit of a family’s husband and father, the play focuses in narrative, gesture and choreography on a table. It’s flawed, as is each of the members of this family, torn and buffeted as they are by apartheid, the pressure of conforming and the shadow of the Holocaust. Strike has assembled the cream of local thespians, from veteran Annabel Linder, to brand new firebrand, William Harding who debuts in the quirky role of Levi, the youngest. Linder soars to a height we haven’t seen from her, enabling sensible comparison between her “Sara”, the family’s



matriarch, with roles British OBE-awarded Julie Walters has reprised. It’s not about physical resemblance: Like Walters, Linder embraces the vulnerabilities and strengths of the elderly woman with such a full heart, you weep with her sorrows and weep also with her nachas. The whole cast holds the work with intelligent esteem, not devoid of humour and violence, evoking how Yiddish writer Sholem Aleichem mingled magic with baseness. Indeed, in some of the choreography - and there is an unspeakably fabulous pas de deux between the maid Flora (Janet Hampton Carpede) and Sara - the drawings of Chagall are evoked. It is impossible to sidestep the finely turned interpretations Hampton Carpede, Brian Webber, Khabonina Qubeka (“Doobsie” of Muvhango) and Karin van der Laag (“Maggie” of Isidingo) bring their characters. In blessing Shabbat, the piece is pinned authen-

Award-winning director Avi Nesher, talks about The Matchmaker

PETER FELDMAN
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED



Avi Nesher.

CELEBRATED Israeli film director Avi Nesher (pictured) is a busy man. Not only will he be a guest at the Israel Film Festival in Rosebank, Johannesburg this week, where the acclaimed The Matchmaker, which he directed, will be screened, he’s also working on another project to be filmed in South Africa. Nesher will attend the premiere/ opening of the festival - a private function for diplomats/the media and close friends of the Israeli Embassy - on August 11: the festival kicks off in Johannesburg the next day, August 12. The first screening of the festival happens to be on a Friday night; all films that are screened on Shabbat will be repeated throughout the week. The subject matter of his new film, In a Strange Land, was covered in a story recently published in these pages, about 127 European Jewish detainees buried in the Jewish Cemetery in Mauritius, based on Nathacha Appanah’s best-selling novel, The Last Brother. It deals with the British authorities, who ruled Mauritius, and detained 1 580 political prisoners - men, women and children - in Beau Bassin prison, 1940-1945.

Nesher told Jewish Report: “My trip to South Africa is a location scout, plus initial casting, plus crew interviews for In a Strange Land. Though the story takes place in Mauritius, South Africa has elements of the appropriate colonial architecture plus good crews and some good actors. “We will be casting leads in London and Paris but will certainly look at South African actors for various roles. It is fortunate that this trip coincides with the festival - my producer is a good man for allowing me to interrupt the scout at the 11th hour and attend the festival opening. “The producer is Jean-Pierre Ramsey-Levi, from France, who has produced, among other movies Total Eclipse.” The Matchmaker, released last year, premiered as an official selection at the 2010 Toronto Film Festival and later won the Silver Plaque award at the Chicago International Film Festival. It was also nominated for nine Israeli Academy awards (including Best Picture) and won three - including Best Actor and Best Actress. Released in Israel under the title Once I Was, The Matchmaker is Nesher’s most personal film so far. By using the Holocaust as a dramatic backdrop, he said he explored how Israel became the

country it is today; he also tried to understand his parents - his mother is a Holocaust survivor.

“I had been thinking for a long time to make a film that involved the impact of the Holocaust on Israeli society,” he said. What fired his imagination was Amir Gutfreund’s novel, Our Holocaust (2006, Toby Press). He contacted the author, and the two collaborated on the project. Nesher likened the relationship to “jazz musicians improvising together; then each goes home and writes his own score.” The Matchmaker is a coming-of-age drama about a boy, Arik (Tuval Shafir), in middle-class Haifa in 1968. Nesher describes it as the encounter of Israel with the summer of love when after the ’67 victory there was a sigh of relief and a shift in focus from survival to interest in life. Nesher came to prominence in 1979 with the comedy/drama, The Troupe (Halehaka) about an IDF entertainment troupe. He followed this with a host of films, including Dizengoff 99.

He then headed for America to study film at Columbia University and returned to Tel Aviv in 2004 and directed Turn Left at the End of the World, a surreal deconstruction of Israel’s immigration mythology. This became the biggest grossing film in Israeli history.

The festival is on at Cinema Nouveau outlets: August 12 – 18, Johannesburg (Rosebank Mall), August 19 - 25 Cape Town (V&A Waterfront); August 26 - September 1, Pretoria (Brooklyn Mall); September 2 - 8 Durban (Gateway).



FELDMAN
ON FILM
Peter Feldman

PICK OF THE WEEK

The Tree of Life

Cast: Brad Pitt; Hunter McCracken; Jessica Chastain; Sean Penn
Director: Terrence Malick

“The Tree of Life” is not the easiest of films to digest. It addresses so many levels of consciousness and embraces so many ideas and images, that at the end of its lengthy running time, you need to reflect on what its intention is. Renowned director and writer Terrence Malick has emerged from a self-imposed hibernation, to tackle a truly ambitious slice of cinema and while it may fail here and there, where dramatic involvement wanes, one cannot ignore its visual and intellectual pull. At the core is a personal, coming-of-age drama that deals with the evolution of a child of the 1950s as he treads the long, weary path from

childhood to adulthood. When it remains within these tight confines, Malick shows his mettle and the offering is excellent. However, Malick is given to veering off at tangents involving bringing in elements of spirituality, the cosmos and the future incarnation of the central character. Malick conjures up images of breathtaking beauty, dramatically orchestrated to add impact to the narrative’s occasionally disjointed segments. The story is about a boy named Jack O’Brien (Hunter McCracken), the eldest in a Southern family, as he battles through the innocence of childhood to his disillusioned adult years, all the time attempting to reconcile a complicated relationship with his father (Brad Pitt). Jack is a lost soul in the modern world. He seeks answers to the origins and meaning of life while questioning the existence of faith. Malick observes how brute nature and spiritual grace help shape not only our lives as individuals and families, but all life on the planet. Being the first born, Jack bears the full weight of high expectations from his father and he resents this. He sees his stern, dogmatic father as a dictator and his luminous, angelic mother (Jessica Chastain) as a weak character unable to stand up to him.

Eventually, he reaches breaking point. Though much of the day-to-day events are seen through Jack’s eyes, there are segments allocated to showing the perspectives of his parents, a move which firms out the characterisations and gives viewers a better understanding of the O’Brien family growing up ordinary in rural Texas. While Mom is the kind, loving nurturer, Dad doesn’t spare the rod. In their own way, they both love their children. Another aspect is that Mallick tries to frame the story within a larger, metaphysical context, something he is less successful at doing because it does not expand the film’s horizons, nor does it reveal a greater truth about man’s place in the universe. The narrative is broken into short interludes depicting the creation of Earth, beginnings of life, era of the dinosaurs, and events presaging the rise of man - sequences that would be more at home on the History or Discovery channel. On the acting side, Sean Penn is wasted as the adult Jack, while Pitt and newcomers, fresh-faced Jessica Chastain, and the outstanding young Hunter McCracken, are totally immersed in their roles. While “The Tree of Life” remains a fascinating work, one feels it’s too private and personal to be accessible to all audiences.

A poetic novel conjures a small Indian village

The Folded Earth by Anuradha Roy (Maclehose Press, R189)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

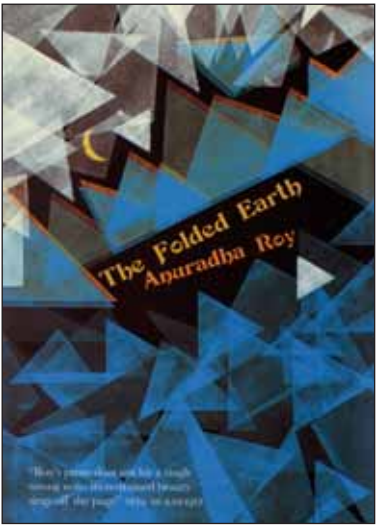
FEW COUNTRIES have made so awkward a transition from antiquity to modernity as India, where - among the filth and squalor of its rural villages, overrun by cattle, goats, sewerage and mud - the ancient shrines and temples of Hindi gods and the palaces of former moguls still castellate the landscape, a stone's throw from factories churning out laptop computers and cellphones.

And just metres away, where the hovels and rutted roads end, the jungle still teems with leopard, wild elephant, monkeys and eagles.

It is in a small town just like this, Ranikhet - north of the Himalayas, within view of the mountains bordering Tibet, China and Nepal - that Maya Secuirea escapes after the death of her husband in a climbing accident.

It is a very far cry from her former life: the daughter of a wealthy industrialist in Hyderabad, she has been disowned by her father for marrying a Christian. Now, half-maddened by grief, she forces herself into the narrow, provincial lifestyle of a village schoolteacher.

But Ranikhet is the village nearest to the place where her husband died and it is remote enough to help her push her memories out of her



mind.

And she is not entirely alone: she quickly befriends her landlord, Diwan Sahib, a former nobleman who was once an intimate of the province's rulers, including Mountbatten and his wife Edwina (whose secret love letters to and from Jawaharlal Nehru are still in his possession).

Sahib, a passionate botanist, historian, alcoholic and iconoclast, develops a deep affection for his young tenant, Secuirea, who visits him daily.

The daily routine of this insular, impoverished village is both placid and predictable: festivals come and go, marked by ribbons, bells and variations in the staple diet of mil-

let, chillies and curry.

Each afternoon, Diwan Sahib - his tongue loosened by rum - expands on the India he once knew, its former grandeur and the rigid caste and class divisions which once ruled the country.

Now, the old eccentric notes the events in the village with a contemptuous, but amused eye. It is an eye which has also noted - with far more acuity than Secuirea realises - her unhappiness.

Other friends include Ama, Sahib's second tenant, a peasant woman whose backward son and little niece, Charu, live with her. Illiterate and unruly, Charu's attendance at school is erratic, for her daily duties include goatherding, but the schoolmistress becomes greatly attached to the child.

Then there is Diwan Sahib's nephew, Veer, a trekker and mountain guide who leads expeditions of climbers through the Himalayas and is the first man, since Michael's death, to evoke sexual excitement in Secuirea: a sensation she does not altogether welcome. "I had lost my taste for adventure, my impulsiveness. I wished Veer had never come, to fling a stone into my calm pond," she tells us.

There are other changes, too - gradual, but jarring - which disrupt the village and Secuirea's hard-won tranquillity. With national elections looming, the province's candidates choose Ranikhet as a plat-

form from which to grandstand, promising sweeping urbanisation and development that will exploit the area's tourist potential.

Charu begins an illicit relationship with a young waiter, who forces the girl to embark on a life-changing course of action for which she is ill-equipped. Diwan Sahib is insulted by a young upstart constable, who neither knows nor cares about the old man's former rank.

Yet, for all these disturbances, the ancient, overarching imperturbability of India prevails. So do its secrets, hidden deep in the earth.

Showing Secuirea one of the area's indigenous foxgloves, "Diwan Sahib said... the line between medicines and poisons is finely drawn, and this...foxglove, so poisonous and so beautiful, in the correct quantity, produced digitalis, which was medicine for troubles of the heart. Not devastated hearts... like yours or mine: for that there is no medicine but death, which too the foxglove can provide."

These "devastated hearts" are what the novel is really about. Secuirea's existence, and that of her fellow village-dwellers, is as fragile as glass. Loss must be borne; betrayals - even hideous ones - must be shouldered. The pain of the past, like the injustices and anomalies of the present, must be digested.

Ultimately, submission is our

only recourse. "There are no secrets hidden from those who escape the Himalaya when it is at its bleakest: the mountains do not reveal themselves to people who come here merely to escape the heat of the plains.

"Through the summer they veil themselves in a haze. The peaks emerge for those devoted to them through the coldest of winters, the wettest of monsoons. The mountains, Diwan Sahib said... believe that love must be tested by adversity."

Anuradha Roy's writing is poetic, delicate and deceptive in its bland tone. Maya Secuirea, narrating the novel, gives us only rare indications of the turmoil below her forbearant, temperate tone.

But the real strength of the novel lies in its descriptive passages, for Roy brilliantly conjures every detail of Ranikhet's sounds, acrid smells and gaudy colours into vivid life.

Her sensitivity to the tiny, but crucial elements of the region's geography, its inhabitants' make-shift houses and their pitiful circumstances is exquisite. One does not so much open the book as enter it, drawn by her skilful hand into the heart of India's penury, its flashes of beauty and its enduring contradictions. And one emerges with a smile that, in the twilight, could be another expression altogether.

Schoeman and Korsten separate the men from the boys

Concert: *Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra (ZK Matthews Hall, Unisa, Pretoria)*
Conductor: *Gérard Korsten*
Soloist: *Ben Schoeman, piano*
Programme: *Music by Enescu, Liszt and Dvorák*

REVIEWED BY PAUL BOEKKOOI

TWO-AND-A-HALF years after being the first South African to win a Unisa International Piano Competition (the 11th one presented), both the South African music press and audiences still refer to Ben Schoeman as "the new boy on the block".

During the third of three concerts in which this programme was presented, Schoeman returned to the concert hall, the piano and the audience where it all happened: Unisa's ZK Matthews Hall in Pretoria, Schoeman's home town, as well as that of the conductor Gérard Korsten.

Both of them attacked the choral opening of Liszt's Piano Concerto No 1 in E flat major with the kind of resonant force separating the men from the boys.

Schoeman launched into those octave fusillades with all guns blazing - not totally clean and a hundred per cent secure, but at least giving it to us in the right spirit. Yet, as we soon found out, his inwardness and musical quality are no less remarkable.

Thankfully Schoeman's way with Liszt was all but full of aggressive accomplishment. There were parts of this concerto where he tried hard to freshen-up the hackneyed bits. One can relatively easily be seduced to aim for external impact rather than seeking out the music's essence.

Nearer to the concerto's end, the very fast tempo did demonstrate the pianist's fine agility, but it did less for the music due to the fact that he had little room to accentu-

ate broader contrasts and more pliable rhythmic impulses.

As an encore, Schoeman performed, in a beguilingly sultry manner, a magnificent transcription of Gershwin's song The Man I Love, by the Australian born composer Percy Grainger. The sensitive and spellbinding performance of it brought the house down.

The concert opened with Romanian composer Georges Enescu's Romanian Rhapsody No 1 in A major, Opus 11. This chimerical work was given an exciting, colourful, analytical interpretation with a folkloristic impulsiveness which demanded close attention from the listener.

Under Korsten's orchestral paint brush, one notices how foreground and background, development and embellishment are in constant flux within a framework of often basically bold and clear-cut melodic material.

During this Sunday afternoon

performance of Dvorák's Symphony No 7 in D minor, Opus 70, the playing was not as alert as the Wednesday evening before in the Linder - the horns were technically under pressure, the principal flute entered a phrase too early during the Poco adagio, etc. - but one could revel in the conductor's rhythmic pointing, lyrical ardour and warmth.

Korsten created an immediate

feeling of expectancy at the opening and he contoured the movement to reach a stirring climax at the coda. The Poco adagio was spacious and ardent, with a surge of emotional power after the horn solo.

The Scherzo sounded lilting yet positive, nicely pointed rhythmically with the hint of hesitation in the opening phrase perfectly executed. The powerful finale never sounded too Brahmsian.

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ROBYN SASSEN

THE JEWISH presence in Toronto was not always, however, something that could be taken for granted. Up until the 1760s, Jews were completely prohibited from living in the country. The area

was then known as New France; it was a colony of the Kingdom of France.

In the culmination of the Seven Years' War, General Jeffrey Amherst spearheaded the capture of the city of Montreal, effectively making it British property, and from the four Jewish men in Amherst's gar-

ison, the Jewish Canadian population was seeded.

Lieutenant Aaron Hart became a wealthy landowner and respected community member. One of his sons, Ezekiel, was elected to the Lower Canada legislature in the by-election of 1807, becoming the first

Jew in an official opposition in the British Empire.

He was expelled from the legislature for taking his oath on a Jewish prayer book instead of the Christian Bible.

A brother of Ezekiel's, Arthur Wellington Hart, was the first Jew to have settled in Toronto, in 1832. By 1846, the census indicated 12 Jews lived in Toronto, a number which doubled in the following year.

The first Jewish cemetery was established in 1849; Toronto's first synagogue, the Toronto Hebrew Congregation, was founded in 1856. By 1871, 157 Jews lived in Toronto.

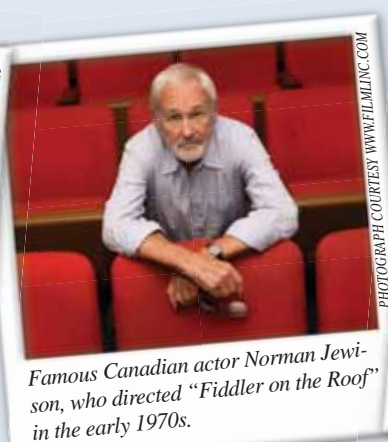
The army and fur trade were the primary fields into which most Canadian Jews in the 19th century turned. By the 1880s, because of Russian pogroms, a wave of Jewish emi-



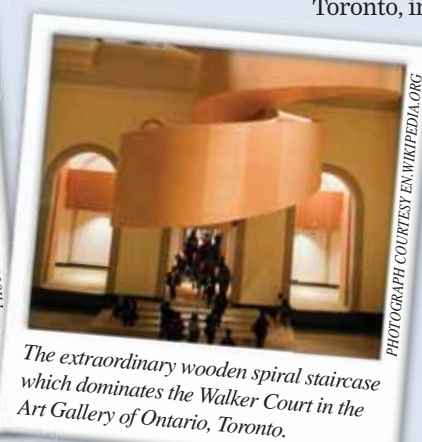
Toronto's famous CN tower, in the city centre.



The façade of Anshei Minsk Synagogue in Toronto, built in 1930.



Famous Canadian actor Norman Jewison, who directed "Fiddler on the Roof" in the early 1970s.



The extraordinary wooden spiral staircase which dominates the Walker Court in the Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto.



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Two themes run through SAJBD conference

DAVID SAKS

TWO BROAD themes run through the programme of the forthcoming 46th national conference of the SAJBD, to take place in the Maroela Room of the Sandton Sun Hotel on August 27-8.

One is a specifically local focus on the Jewish role in the overthrow of apartheid and the ushering in of multiracial democracy. The other, as indicated by the official conference title, “Global Jewish Citizen”, looks at contemporary Jewry in an international context.

Traditionally the opening night of every SAJBD conference, which is open to the Jewish public at large, has been one of the highpoints of the Jewish communal calendar.

Past opening nights have boasted an impressive array of high level local and international speakers and this year’s event will be no exception. In 2009, President Jacob Zuma addressed the gathering, conveying his government’s greetings to the South African Jewish community. This time, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe will fulfil that role.

The keynote address in 2009 was given by Professor Irwin Cotler, MP, a world-renowned Jewish parliamentarian and human rights activist. This year Michael Schneider, immediate past secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress and former director of the American Joint Distribution Committee, is the keynote speaker.

Born and raised in South Africa, Schneider was actively involved in the sabo-

tage operations of the anti-apartheid African Resistance Movement during the early 1960s. He managed to escape into exile, soon afterwards embarking on an impressive 40-year career in Jewish communal service.

A message from the State of Israel will be given by Yuli Edelstein, Minister of Public Diplomacy & Diaspora Affairs. Edelstein was prominently involved in campaigning for Jewish rights in his native Soviet Union, resulting in his spending a number of years in a labour camp for political dissidents. He made aliyah in 1987.

The opening night programme includes the screening of three video presentations. The first details the activities of the SAJBD in the inter-conference period, including its work with international Jewry, the “Jewish

2010” World Cup project, media activism, assistance to Jewish students and meetings with government.

The second recounts the dramatic life of the late Arthur Goldreich, posthumous recipient of this year’s SAJBD Human Rights Award. Two of Goldreich’s sons, Paul and Amos, will be present to accept the award.

The third presentation describes the making of the SAJBD’s new book, Jewish Memories of Mandela, an enthralling, copiously illustrated account of the relationship between Nelson Mandela and South African Jewry. The book will be on sale at the opening and a copy will be presented to the deputy president.

The opening night concludes with the presentation of the Mendel Kaplan-Eric Samson Communal Service Award, which this year is being presented to Gerald Leissner and Mickey Glass.

The award goes to Leissner in recognition of his almost unparalleled record of service to South African Jewry in a lay capacity, including serving as chairman of the SAJBD, Yeshiva College, the Glenhazel and Sandton congregations, Beyachad, the Johannesburg IUA-UCF and the Johannesburg Holocaust and Genocide Centre.

Glass is a former long-serving director of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues in Cape Town with an especially fine record in the field of inter-faith relations.

The main conference on Sunday at the same venue moves from a South African to a broader, global context. The first session, following on outgoing Chairman Zev Krengel’s chairman’s report and questions, is entitled “SA Jewry and the Global Jewish Family”.

Edelstein and Schneider will give presentations on contemporary world Jewry in a broader context. The next session, entitled “Diaspora Jewry - Choices and Challenges”, provides specific perspectives from individual Diaspora communities, of which very little is known in South Africa.

The panellists are Claudio Eppelman, director Latin American Jewish Congress, Ralphy Jhirad, chairman of the Indian Zionist Federation and Sammy Eppel, a representative of the Venezuela Jewish community. The latter is likely to focus on the difficulties being experienced by Venezuela’s Jewry in light of the rising and often government-sponsored anti-Semitism in the country.

In the final session before lunch, entitled “South African Jewry - Roles, Rights and Responsibilities”, the focus switches back to the South African situation. This will take the form of a debate by a “Young Leaders Panel”, comprising popular entertainer Danny K, director of the SA-Israel Forum Wayne Sussman (who will chair the session), Radio 702 and 94.7 deputy news editor Benita Levin and businesswoman Amanda Krawitz Herson.

To reserve your place at the opening night of the SAJBD Conference and receive your reference number, please call Jenni on (011) 645-2521, e-mail her on jenni@beyachad.co.za; online booking at www.jewishsa.co.za or . For the Sunday conference, please e-mail or call Jenni for your booking.



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AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

NON-JEWISH ADL EMPLOYEE SUES OVER PROMOTION

NEW YORK - An employee is suing the Anti-Defamation League for denying her a promotion because she is not Jewish.

Tonietta Moffet says the ADL will not promote her to assistant director because she is "African American and not Jewish", the New York Post reported on Monday. She filed a lawsuit in federal court in Manhattan seeking damages for discrimination.

Moffett spent two years handling the duties of the assistant director in the organisation’s National Regional Operations Department shortly after she was hired as an administrative worker, the newspaper reported, citing her filing in court. The filing said her promotion was denied due to her lack of "a deep understanding of Jewish culture".

The ADL has not commented publicly on the lawsuit. (JTA)

Despite the economic downturn, SAICC experiences trade upturn

STAFF REPORTER

ALTHOUGH business globally has slowed down, the South Africa Israel Chamber of Commerce (SAICC) has succeeded in making 7 000 successful trade introductions since its inception 12 years ago.

Stephen Danziger, CEO of the SAICC, correctly looks at this as “a huge achievement”.

“Every week introductions are being done in South Africa and with local companies. It has become almost a daily occurrence. People and companies are wanting to meet all the time,” he said.

In the last year, the chamber has increased its activities in both local networking and trade liaisons with Israel.

“We have built strong relations with Israeli business organisations and we are looking at improving on this over the next few years. We are gaining more members and getting better at introductions,” he said.

Israel is just one side of the business of the chamber; local networking is just as important.

“The markets have been through tough times and clients have taken the strain with the local downturn in the economy which was beyond our control. But we have sought, and found, ways of reinventing ourselves and giving members new value-added services.

“We do this through regular business breakfasts where about 10 people get together to meet and network. Regular events such as cocktail events, a golf day, and whisky tasting evenings, are held throughout the year.

“We also have lots of one-on-one meetings and take members to meet one another, personally,” he said.

Members also make use of the chamber’s

branding opportunities, as well as its website and newsletter which appears once every six weeks to connect with other businesses.

The chamber is investigating the possibility of a trip to Israel, before the end of the year, through which it will arrange meetings for delegates and like-minded companies.

Generally, trade between Israel and South Africa, is on the upturn.

Imports in 2009 from South Africa to Israel was \$680 million, which rose to \$851 million in 2010. Imports from Israel to South Africa in 2009 stood at \$258 million, rising to \$412 million in 2010.

The chamber is promoting trade in specific industry sectors such as IT, security, water treatment and agriculture.

Dedicated staff have been employed over the past six months to research product areas of opportunity for bilateral trade.

Clive Weil who recently returned from Israel after seven years there, has now joined the board in an interim advisory capacity. His international success in business and his contact network in Israel, would certainly add enormous value, said Danziger.

Malcolm Ferguson (former ambassador to Israel in Mexico) has also joined the Board. “He will be providing great value and spearheading the SAICC’s Israel initiative.

“We plan to increase our activity in Israel and, through our association with the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, as well as the ISACC, we are able to source almost anything for our members who export,” he said.

“South African trade has experienced tremendous growth in recent years and we would like to see this increase further, especially between South African and Israel,” he said.



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THINKING JEWISH?

Mizrachi South Africa introduces, Maureen Kendler of the London School of Jewish Studies, premier Jewish Adult Education centre in the UK.

We'd like to invite the community to the following shiurim and tour:

Mizrachi Investec Shiur - at Investec
Wed 17th Aug @ 1:15pm
Topic: The Killing Fields

Mizrachi Shul - at Yeshiva College Campus
Wed 17th Aug
7:45pm-8:30pm, 8:45pm till 9:30pm.
Topic: Sefer Iyov: The Most Dangerous Book In The Tanach?

WITS - at West Campus, FNB Building
Sun 21st Aug @ WITS 11:45am.
Topic : Judaism Meets Art

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LETTERS

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|--|--|

SAJBD - SILENCE DURING STRUGGLE ERA, KUDOS NOW...

THE ABOVE Board column in the SA Jewish Report of July 22, refers.

During the apartheid years the voice of the Jewish Board of Deputies was conspicuous in its silence. The Jewish activists in the anti-apartheid struggle were largely viewed as an embarrassment to the Jewish community.

I therefore find it very strange that the

MERELY A DESPERATE ACTION FOR A ROOF OVER THEIR HEADS

I OBJECT strongly to the front page headline in your edition of August 5: “With protests, Israelis are seeking the revival of the welfare state”.

The headline, in large type, is presented as a clear statement of fact, when in reality, it is nothing more than a generalised opinion, based on the views of a single correspondent, Leslie Susser.

I am lucky enough to be able to watch Israeli television at home and have been following the protests very closely from the start.

The reality is that there is a chronic shortage of housing in Israel. Some estimates put the shortfall at over 120 000 units. There is also a chronic shortage of places in schools and kindergartens.

It is reported that there is a shortage of 80 000 places and thousands of teachers in kindergartens.

There is a massive shortage of places in universities for young people who have already served in the IDF.

Housing prices have escalated to the point where Israeli real estate is now among the most expensive in the world; rentals are unaffordable. It costs thousands of shekels to children to private nursery schools and many Israeli students are forced to study abroad.

Control of both land and the national budget is in the hands of the government. For years, both the Israel Land Authority and the JNF, the primary sources of development land, have deliberately kept the market “short”, raising both land prices and the resultant tax windfall accordingly.

Coupled with the legendary bureaucratic idiosyncrasies of the various authorities, Israel now boasts a chronic housing shortage.

This state of affairs reflects the failure of a bloated government to look properly after its citizens and taxpayers - all this at a time when Israel is prospering and official

SOCIAL PROTESTS IN ISRAEL HAVE LEGITIMATE GROUNDS

I AM a strong Zionist who will support the State of Israel and its right to defend itself, as it sees fit and to determine its own borders, until my dying day.

With that said I cannot support Benjamin Netanyahu’s Thatcherite economic policies which have resulted in the widest gap between rich and poor in Israel of any First World country.

It’s a disgrace that Netanyahu’s dogmatic policies are at least partly to blame for Jewish children going hungry - in a country where resources are so skewed and I fully support the social protests in Israel.

This is an across the board demonstration - it is not only those on the left; it is made up of all of Israel’s poor. Like the current Likud, I believe in free markets to create wealth, but unlike the current Likud, I also support government intervention to support those most in need.

In the’60s and ’70s when Israel did have more socialisation, there was not a single child in Israel that went hungry or was without shoes!

During this time Israel was based on love and community, and was a shining example to developing nations.

Who could throw this out to emulate the policies of Margaret Thatcher, who actually spitefully scrapped the provision of free milk to nursery schools in the poorest areas of Britain and made war on the poor of her own nation.

FOR THE RECORD

NOT ALL FASTS LAST FOR 24 HOURS

IN LAST week’s issue, we erroneously reported that all Jewish festivals and fasts start on the previous night. In fact, while most Jewish festivals do start the previous night, the majority of fasts

Board is now so very proud of the strong Jewish link with the white activists involved with Liliesleaf and the high number of Jewish people whose positive contributions have been largely forgotten or overlooked!

Ellen Ettinger
East London

unemployment figures of 5,6 per cent, show unemployment at its lowest level.

So who is to blame? Your correspondent is correct. This is a multi-faceted problem, but there is little doubt that successive governments are squarely responsible for most of this mess, not least of all the present Netanyahu coalition, a motley, dysfunctional crew of 30 ministers, representing numerous factions, of the 120 member Knesset.

This costly ill-fitting Cabinet has allowed itself to be bullied and blackmailed by various entities, most notably the “tycoons” and the growing religious sector who have benefited most from the growing economy - the “tycoons” who threaten to leave Israel if they do not receive special tax consideration for their prosperous near monopolies, while the religious sector, every year, extracts a greater proportion of the state budget for its unique social and educational needs, with a disproportionately low contribution in financial terms.

The young secular population are being squeezed. They have served their country, have jobs, pay their taxes, yet cannot afford to buy or even rent a home.

On the other side, they see dozens of expensive limousines and private jets at the beck and call of the “tycoons”.

There are stories of extortion of the national budget by the religious sector, a parade of dysfunctional ministers and their aides in fleets of cars, so they demonstrate!

Does this make them “socialists?” I think not. I have seen a few socialist and communist banners, but for the most part, I see unhappy but patriotic Israelis demonstrating for fairness and equality.

This is not a national call for socialism or a return to the welfare state.

Clive Weil
Melrose North, Johannesburg

This letter has been shortened – Editor.

The housing gaps in Israel are unacceptable and are a result purely of Netanyahu’s dogma. Let Israel go back to a caring economy on which the foundation of Zionism was formed and don’t throw out the five basic needs every government must provide to its citizens, according to Zeev Jabotinsky’s philosophy: a home, food, medicine, education, as well as the commandment of the Torah to care for the poorest sections of Jewish society.

Israelis want social security and security from terror. They voted Netanyahu in, in order to receive security from Arab genocide, but now they have to contend with Netanyahu trying to force a Thatcherite libertarian economy on Israel.

Why can’t there be a party that believes in social justice and has a strong deterrent security policy?

Of course, part blame for this poverty has to be laid at the door of the evil boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign aimed at dismembering Israel and forcing a genocidal Arab ruled “one state” called Palestine and ruled by Hamas on Israel’s people.

I strongly admire the Shas Party for the moral guidance it has given Israel and its unwavering support for the poorer sections of Israeli society.

Gary Selikow
Johannesburg

begin at sunrise and last until sunset. It is only Tisha B’Av and Yom Kippur, considered major fasts, that begin the night before and last 24 hours. We regret the error.

NETWORKING IS NECESSARY TO GET ISRAEL’S MESSAGE ACROSS CLEARLY

AS A passionate Zionist activist and co-chairman of Support Association for Zionism (SAZ), having read Daniel Levitt’s letter urging South African Jews to stand up in public support of Israel, (SAJR August 5), I can only agree with him 100 per cent.

This is especially so when taking into account the splendid work that he and his co-director of “Companions of Israel”, Ben Swartz, have been doing in the broader Christian Zionist community.

However, the important question to be considered is: What practical steps can we (SAZ/COI/BFP/ICEJ/CFI/Group18 and so many other South African friends of the Jewish homeland) take to channel that love of Israel into visible public support?

Notwithstanding the fact that our established local Jewish/Zionist organisations are doing a good job according to their own particular mandates, in my opinion a critical stage

WE ALL OWE A WARM THANK YOU TO HATZOLAH AND CAP

I OFTEN marvel at the fact that as a percentage of this country, the Jewish population is really just a dot. However, the impact that we make on people from within and outside on a daily basis, is infinitely measured.

It is important to give specific praise and mention to two organisations, based on the difference they make to both Jewish and non-Jewish life.

Hatzolah came at a time when our provincial emergency services were battling to achieve an emergency response time below 20 minutes and the private providers were carrying the weight of a collapsing system.

As the safety spokesman for a political party, I am unfortunately called to quite a few scenes in and around the city. I am yet to find a poor response time from Hatzolah, but more importantly, you might be one of the luckier patients who gets a response from a doctor or surgeon – all in a day’s work for them.

Community active patrols (CAPs) was an exciting initiative introduced by Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein.

In 2000 in a policy paper I advocated the need for an alternative police reaction unit - a responsible unit with the powers of arrest and able to complement the police force where the latter fell short, namely in training, response times and proactive patrolling.

If you take in any given area the number of minutes spent in priority one crimes, in a year you might only have an hour of crime. This means that if one is going to foil or prevent a crime, the only tactic they can try to rely on, is the power of proactive patrolling.

We do not have to talk about the state of our

RUSSELL TRIBUNAL: BOMBARD ROGER FRIEDMAN WITH E-MAILS

YOUR EDITORIAL two weeks ago in the SA Jewish Report, which refers to the Russell Tribunal due to take place in South Africa during November and also the letters to the editor about the Tribunal, needs a response. And the best way to respond, is to address e-mails to the person in charge of organising the Tribunal, namely one Roger Friedman,

BEV GOLDMAN HAS DONE STERLING WORK AT THE SAZF

IT WAS with sadness that as a member of the South African Jewish community, and further as a member of the South African Zionist Federation’s media team, I learned of the resignation of Bev Goldman.

I was therefore very relieved to hear that while she is no longer at the SAZF, she will continue to lead the media team as she has done so brilliantly in the years of its existence.

Under her watchful eye and guiding hands, we have learned how to best tackle the media, who so enjoy feasting on bias and outright lies concerning Israel and her ongoing fight for survival.

JEWISH PENICILLIN! A PANACEA?

PERHAPS I should patent a project/plan of incorporating an ampule of Voltaren placed in a 500 mg amp of ampicillin.

Ampicillin comes in a dry anhydrous powder form and has to be reconstituted. It is a broad spectrum antibiotic and Voltaren is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent. Voltaren has analgesic as well as anti-inflammatory properties.

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has been reached where we need to call together a top-level meeting of the role-players in South African Jewish and Christian Zionism, to establish an organisational framework to achieve our specific public objective.

It may well be that we require networks like Stand With Us and AIPAC in the US (outside but co-operating with, our existing official bodies) which will link associations/groups and likeminded individuals.

Such networking could galvanise the many hundreds of thousands of Israel supporters in our country - ready to defend the Jewish State against those who are hostile to her existence and welfare.

The people and the money could be there, just waiting to be given such a plan and such a format for appropriate public action.

David Abel
SAZ co-chairman, George

police force to understand the gap the Chief Rabbi’s initiative has filled.

It is therefore important to pay tribute to these two organisations that literally save lives on a daily basis. Comprised of selfless people who risk their own lives for the sake of others, we need to appreciate and support these initiatives.

This year alone I have witnessed scenes where Hatzolah or CAP is on the scene minutes before any other emergency response.

I was at a shooting closer to home, on a Friday night, and the stars of the show again were the Hatzolah and CAP brigade, which made this one different.

While members of Hatzolah and CAP were eating their Sabbath dinners among family and friends, at a moment’s notice they dropped everything to assist a gunshot victim - out of the faith - without complaint or prejudice.

The source of pride was not only how they managed the scene, but more importantly, the response from dinner table to scene was quicker than an advert break between a TV show.

It is with this specific incident in mind that I pay tribute to the heroes of these organisations and call on every reader of this paper to do their bit to ensure these organisations’ success and sustainability.

We cannot all be security officers and paramedics, but we have the power to donate money, time and effort. Even volunteering an hour and a half for blockwatch duty once a month, could make the difference.

Darren Bergman
DA Spokesperson on Safety in
Johannesburg

and tell him and his fellow organisers exactly what your opinion is of them and the Tribunal.

The e-mail address is rogerf@oryxmedia.co.za. I have been doing exactly that!

Bennie Katzman
Telmond, Israel

Bev has led two media teams to Israel where we have furthered our knowledge of the operations Israel is carrying out, the outrageous assaults and insults Israel is reeling back from, and how best we can fight the war of words when back on South African soil.

On behalf of all Media Team Israel members, may I say kol hakevod to you Bev, and may you continue to lead your team onwards so that we may uphold the principles we all so fervently believe in.

Gill Katz
Johannesburg

Depending on the severity of the condition, more than one injection may be needed. Voltaren comes in a 75 mg amp and there are 101 different generics on the market.

Ampicillin is a broad-spectrum penicillin derivative that covers gram positive and gram-negative infections.

The combination is truly a panacea or also known as Jewish penicillin. Try this instead of just having chicken soup.

Dr H D Solomons
Highlands North, Johannesburg

COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD
Zev Krengel,
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

DEALING WITH all cases of anti-Semitism in our society is part of the core mandate of the SAJBD. We take a zero-tolerance approach to this kind of behaviour, following up each and every incident that is reported to us.

Sometimes, the Board intercedes in matters that may not be directly anti-Semitic in the sense of overtly targeting Jews, but are nevertheless extremely offensive to Jewish people. Most often, this involves responding in cases where individuals or organisations can be said to be promoting the hateful ideology of Nazism.

Indeed, this is something that all South Africans should find offensive, but given how Nazism is particularly associated with the genocide of the Jewish people, it is something Jews can justifiably feel especially sensitive about.

The latest high profile case in which the Board intervened, took place last week, when a Pretoria University student radio station sent out a message on a social networking group including a link to a blog encouraging viewers to “go Nazi”.

By this, they meant “displaying oneself in random places in a standing position while your right hand is in the air, and your left hand makes a fake moustache”. To say the least, this venture was tasteless and inappropriate.

The Board formally complained to the university authorities, who responded by unequivocally condemning the students’ behaviour and apologising. We will be meeting later with them to discuss positive ways of taking the matter forward.

Vigilance is the Board’s keyword at all times

There have been a number of other cases of Nazi imagery being inappropriately publicised that the Board has involved itself with this year. In one such case, an antique store selling military memorabilia, had displayed a Nazi flag outside the entrance, in full view of the general public. While the sale of militaria associated with the Nazi regime is not illegal, we took strong exception to its being given such in-your-face prominence in this way, and the proprietors agreed to move the flag from the shop entrance.

In another case, we worked with the governing board of a Johannesburg private school in dealing appropriately with a case of pupils dressing up as Nazis at a school fancy dress day.

In responding to cases of this nature, the Board always has to carefully assess where the line lies between where using Nazi imagery is legitimate and where it can objectively be regarded as offensive. One cannot, for example, reasonably object when memorabilia associated with the Nazi regime are bought and sold by bona fide dealers or collectors in the militaria field. It is regarding the use of imagery or engaging in such behaviour that gratuitously publicises Nazism that we will intervene.

This is true, even when such behaviour (as was apparently the case with the above-mentioned Tuks students) is meant as a “joke” and certainly it is true where the perpetrators intend to publically express support for the Nazis and their ideology. Such acts cross the boundaries of decency, and we will not accept them.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

Rabbinical ‘lekgotla’ spurs lively debate and discussion

RABBI ASHER DEREN
PHOTO SUPPLIED

SO WHAT do you call a gathering of rabbis? A rabble? Well, there was no rabble at the Orion Hotel and Game Lodge near Rustenburg where 70 of South Africa's rabbis came together for the two-day annual conference under the auspices of the Office of Chief Rabbi Dr Warren Goldstein. But there was definitely lots of lively debate and discussion!

The crisp breeze blowing through the Magaliesberg mountain regions, didn't cool down the warm camaraderie and passionate exchange of ideas and strategies that flowed seamlessly through the many workshops, and presentations (and the spirited games of volleyball, squash and tennis).

Of notable mention was Dr Rivkah Blau, who drew on her unique experiences growing up in the home of Rabbi Pinchas Teitz, one of the 20th century's most prominent American pulpit rabbis.

Among his different talks, her husband, Rabbi Dr Yosef Blau of Yeshiva University, offered a critical perspective of the unique challenges that the Jewish world faces today and the bold leadership the rabbinate needs to face them.

Rabbi Baruch Taub of the Bet Avraham Yoseph of Toronto, one of Toronto's largest shuls, used his many decades in the rabbinate to offer wise and sage advice in balancing the many acts of the personal and public rabbinic persona and Rabbi Yosef Carmel from Israel brought an interesting discussion with contemporary halachic challenges in the State of Israel.

The diverse colours in the rainbow of South Africa's Torah community, came together with rabbis from many different organisations, shuls and philosophies, joining together in a remarkable display of our common values and goals, rooted in the eternal divinity of Torah MiSinai.

One particularly noteworthy subject was the rabbinic mandate of energising grass-roots Jewish affiliation and identity. Various presenters from Cape Town and Johannesburg, shared results of recent surveys on these topics in the younger segment of the community and the tragic statistics of intermarriage. This High Holiday season



Delegates at the Rabbinical Conference discussing issues of the day.

will see emphasis placed on the necessity and value of building a Jewish home, with a Jewish partner and values.

As one speaker pointed out, the problem isn't intermarriage - that's a symptom of the problem playing out too late in the game to be remedied. The real issue is the attitude and outlook we give our children, in their upbringing, on what being Jewish means and how we celebrate it.

"Matchmaker, Matchmaker..." wasn't background music, but it definitely played in the subtext of the conference with a number of ideas put forward and agreed on to consolidate the diverse, yet disparate "single scene" across the country, to foster more opportunities where people can be introduced to one another.

And while the mind, heart and soul of the rabbinate were engaged in the intellectually stimulating environment, the body wasn't left out either. From the rigorous exercise on the hikes and sports fields, to the mouth-watering expertise of Gary Friedman's catering, it was a rejuvenating experience for all of the participants.

"It becomes more and more professional each year, and I have come away more informed, in touch and inspired," said Rabbi Dani Brett, "and most important, more connected to fellow rabbonim."

Rabbi Gideon Pogrund of SAUJS shared the sentiments of many fellow rabbis in saying that "it was a tremendous success and I certainly gained a lot from it".

A tight schedule packed all of this in, together with a review on the implementation of last year's resolutions as well as wide arrange of new initiatives for the coming year, to be launched in the months ahead.

JUDAISM MEETS ART

Join us for a fascinating journey into the encounter of Judaism & Art

led by
Maureen Kendler of LSJS
(London School of Jewish Studies)

Sunday
21st August
at 11:45am

Meet at WITS,
West Campus,
FNB building

Bring your own picnic lunch and blankets!

RSVP - Judi :
info@mizrachi.org.za
and
011-485-3624

The London School of Jewish Studies (LSJS), is the centre of modern orthodox Jewish learning and scholarship in the UK. President of LSJS, Chief Rabbi Lord Sacks, said, "The London School of Jewish Studies with its imaginative programmes, high intellectual standards and outreach to the community is one of the most important institutions in Anglo-Jewry."

Under Dr Raphael Zarum, current CEO, LSJS has grown from a small institution to a world-class centre with hundreds of students. Mizrachi South Africa is proud to partner with LSJS to create LSJS South Africa – coming soon!



KDL 11th Graders pack to ‘Stop Hunger Now’.

KD High Linksfield commits itself again to make SA ‘a better place’

KEREN ZWICK
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

LAST FRIDAY morning, August 4, King David Linksfield High hosted its annual Women’s Day Assembly. Academic head Lorraine Srage paid tribute to wonderful women of South Africa today and in the past. Gabi Blumberg read out the letter to Parliament from 1956 sent from the Women of South Africa protesting the pass law system. It is thanks to these women’s courage and determination that a crumbling regime was eventually taken down.

Tarryn Chimes then introduced guest speaker Terry Volkwyn, CEO of Primedia, whose brainchild is Lead SA, a movement towards active citizenry and an inspiration to all. She explained that the year-old organisation sought to awaken the leader in each individual.

Obviously, KDHL, a school synonymous with nurturing “menschen”, is a significant place for such a campaign. The school has been known to be involved in an array of charitable and inspirational activities and engagements in all its years and its learners, staff and alumni, have always given of their best to the less privileged.

It is a community school and central to KDHL’s doctrine is the concept of growing individuals who are positive contributors to society.

Jewish law is said to be an “Ohr Lagoyim” - a light unto the nations - especially in so far as Jewish people are encouraged, as at KDHL, to be moral, responsible and admirable citizens. As South Africans, this is even more valuable, as learners are all too familiar with the concept of “ubuntu” - which makes a perfect parallel to the “menschen” the school strives to create.

“Lead SA is indeed an inspiration to our school and a perfect opportunity for alliance with Primedia’s vision,” said its spokespeople.

As such, Atlas Finance Group has partnered with KDL in the “Stop Hunger Now” campaign.

Former Davidian Danny Halfon, daughter of Atlas’ Jack Halfon, came to explain how in South Africa, a child dies of hunger every three seconds. As she pointed out: “If King David Linksfield gets involved, they do it to the best (of their ability).”

The feeding scheme combines finance from Atlas with the hands and labour of KDHL learners in an agreement to commit to packing 60 000 meals.

“We at KDHL are thrilled to be involved in standing up as King Davidians and South Africans and making a difference in our country,” said the school.

YOUTH TALK

Alison Goldberg youthsajr@global.co.za

Herzlia’s Gary Finkelstein shines at ESI 2011

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

THE ESKOM Expo for Young Scientists has been running for 31 years and has established itself as the premier exposition for South African youth to demonstrate their inventiveness and innovation in the fields of science and technology.

It involves learners from around the country, who submit science and technology projects to 26 regional expositions. It started in July and ends in September. The winners of the regional expos are then invited to



Gary Finkelstein.

compete in the national final, which takes place in Gauteng in October each year.

Last year Gary Finkelstein, a grade 10 pupil at Herzlia, was selected to represent the Cape Town Expo at the national finals, which was held in Pretoria. He was selected to participate at the Milset ESI 2011 Science Expo in Bratislava, Slovakia.

ESI (Expo-Sciences International) is held every two years in a different country and is not a competition, but a multicultural environment, allowing the sharing of experience

Bnei brings cheer to abused kids and women

JESSICA DU PLESSIS
BNEI AKIVA
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

ON SUNDAY, July 31, almost 50 Bnei Akiva madrichim and channichim joined in to have fun, get messy, being creative, doing something fulfilling and making a difference in the lives of others, all in one meaningful outing.

The youth movement had a chessed (kindness) day at the Amazing Grace Children’s Home in Eikenhof, near Alberton on the East Rand, to bring some colour into the lives of the children who stay there.

The home provides a safe haven for abused, orphaned and HIV positive children. Some of the children have been victims of human trafficking and were brought to Amazing Grace by the police after being rescued.

It is also a temporary shelter for abused women and houses them until they are ready to successfully return to their communities. The home currently houses 88 children.

Madrichim and channichim spent the day painting the wendy houses that



Maddies, channies and some of the kids from Amazing Grace Children’s Home, show off their messy hands after a fun day of sprucing up the home.

flank the playground, the jungle gyms and the outside walls of the buildings.

The home, which was previously a dull colour, was left in a mass of bright colours. Murals of trees, butterflies, flowers, inspirational messages and even a complete savannah scene, were painted and have left the home with a more homey and happy ambience. The wendy house roofs got new coats of white paint, which transformed the area and gave some daring channichim a bit of a thrill to paint.

Throughout the day there was much interaction between the members of Bnei and the residents. There were spontaneous soccer matches and lots of laughs as many new friends were made.

The children of the home helped with the painting and happily watched as their playground was brightened and beautified.

This outing comes two weeks after Bnei’s Mandela Day activities. On the morning of July 17, maddies and channies made peanut butter and jam sandwiches, using up 60 loaves of bread!

They then drove around distributing sandwiches to beggars and street-sellers. After that, a group of Bnei members joined the public event run by the organisation Cheesekids at Innesfree Park in Sandton where they helped run a fun day for underprivileged children.

• To find out how you can get involved in the next Bnei outreach event, e-mail jhbchessed@bnei.co.za

Proud morning for women’s Torah learning

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

IN CELEBRATION of the first anniversary of the Shalhevet Programme, Yeshiva College Girls’ High School had the unique opportunity of hosting international guest speaker Dr Rivkah Blau from New Jersey, for a “mothers and daughters” shiur and breakfast on Sunday July 31.

Shalhevet is an extracurricular learning programme that runs five mornings and two afternoons a week in the Girls’ High School. Learners cover a wide variety of topics in both paired learning and shiur settings.



Gila Abrams: Ruthie Aronson; Kaylee Lazarus; and Rivki Bank.

The event was in honour of the success of the programme over the past year as well as a tribute to the learners who are so dedicated to their growth and display a

true commitment to Torah learning.

Dr Blau has had wide experience in high school education for girls and is most in touch with issues facing young women of today. She shares the rich Lithuanian Torah lineage that most of South African Jewry stems from.

She addressed the audience on “The role of the Jewish woman” and shared with them many anecdotes of the milestones and development of Jewish education for women.

It was a proud morning for women’s Torah learning and the school looks forward to the continued growth and success of the programme.

Send a Rosh Hashanah greeting KarD and send a child to school

As Jews, we have been celebrating Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur for generations. This year, celebrate with us by making a donation to our *Dor le Dor* (Generation to Generation) Campaign.

By sending your personalised Rosh Hashanah KarD or by purchasing a rose bush through the KDSF, you will ensure an excellent Jewish education for future generations.

Visit www.kdsf.org to send an e-KarD, or contact Gila Glazer at glazerg@kdsf.org or +2711 480 4701 for personalised KarDs or to place your King David rose bush order.



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The indefatigable Bev Goldman will be sorely missed at SAZF

ALISON GOLDBERG

“PROFESSIONAL exhaustion!” That’s the reason for the surprise resignation of Bev Goldman last Friday from the South African Zionist Federation.

Goldman headed the media, public relations and education department of the SAZF for nine and a half years, assisted by a group of volunteers “all passionate about putting Israel’s case truthfully in the media”.

The team’s work on behalf of Israel has received recognition locally and in Israel as well.

Though Goldman will still play a consultative role with the media team and be involved with a number of other SAZF projects, she wants a less taxing schedule. She hopes to continue her work to alert the media team about published opinion pieces and letters against Israel, sending research pieces to it and negotiating responses with it.

What Goldman would also like to do now is spread her wings a bit and “do something related to editing and writing”. She has edited many doctoral theses and written speeches for community figures.

She has a BA (Honours) in African Politics and a Masters degree in Feminist Literature. She has lectured in African Politics and English (her undergraduate majors) at RAU and the University of Pretoria and for several years was editor of the “Who’s Who of Southern Africa”.

Fighting Israel’s case has been an “uphill battle”. Goldman finds the South African media very hostile to Israel. “Though we have had some victories, got wonderful articles in the papers and received apologies from some of them when we pointed out how unbalanced they were, it has been very difficult.”

In five or six cases taken to the Press Ombudsman, only one case was won. Similarly only one case was won out of three taken to the South African Broadcasting Complaints Commission.

She believes there is an inherent bias against Israel in the Press Ombudsman’s office. “It chooses to overlook blatantly unbalanced reporting and always tries to find a justification for not forcing the print media to retract their articles and apologise.”

Goldman described her resignation as an “extraordinarily hard decision to



Bev Goldman. She is leaving the SAZF after nine and a half years in a very hot seat.

make. I have regrets because I have given so much to the cause. Part of me loved it. At other times I felt shattered.

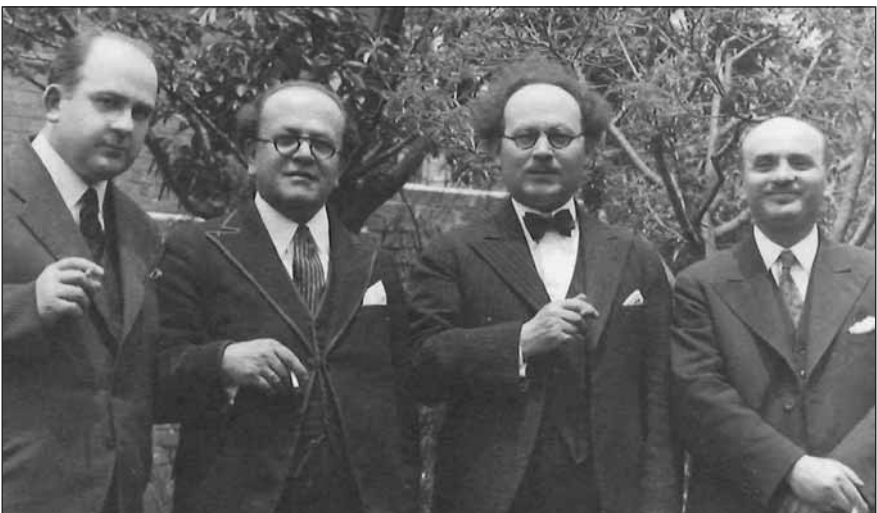
“I’ve attended a lot of government and non-governmental conferences on the Middle East and I would say 95 per cent of those were extremely uncomfortable to sit in on because of the terrible vitriol that came from the majority of the speakers.

“Their naked hostility towards Israel’s actions, their misperception of them, the astonishing amount of ignorance, but worse, the refusal to listen to Israel and not even allow it representation in many instances, has been part of the job.

“As a media team and as the SAZF, we have succeeded in getting the true message about Israel out in the open and have managed to change the perceptions of people prepared to listen.

“Christian Zionist organisations are a case in point. We also were able to reach out to children at Jewish day schools and to the Jewish community as a whole. They probably benefited by those articles and analyses, as well as from our conferences and panel discussions. These tended to counter the negativity in mainstream media coverage of Israel.”

She has no intention of sitting back. Important to her now is keeping her link with the SAZF and her colleagues who have become good friends over the years. At this stage she has no idea who will replace her.



This 1935 photograph shows four prominent chazzonim of the day: Cantors Isroel Alter; Simchah Steinberg; Berele Chagy; and Joseph Badash.

‘I remember it well...’ as Chazzan Emeritus Philip Badash recalls

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

A LETTER to the Jewish Report from the grandson of the late Cantor Simchah Steinberg expressing the wish that it would “revive fond memories” of a “great period in the history of South African Jewry”, has had its desired effect.

It has prompted a spell of reminiscing on chazzonim of the past by Philip Badash, 85-year-old cantor emeritus of the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation, who officiated there for 25 years.

“The four chazzonim featured in the picture, were all actually at my barmitzvah in Johannesburg (in 1938),” he begins. He shrugs off the suggestion that their presence must have been intimidating, saying, “I did my job, I didn’t care.”

The four were the top chazzonim in that city in the 1930s and ‘40s, each with his own distinctive style. “They were always top, nobody can replace them,” he reflects.

“They came from Galicia, Russia, Lithuania, my father from Belarus. They are all still world-famous.”

“Isroel Alter was a dramatic tenor, a European type of classical chazzan. He also wrote compositions, which the chazzonim all over the world sang and sing today.

“He has a grandson who is a chazzan in Johannesburg, who also sings some of his grandfather’s compositions,” he adds, referring to Cantor Avron Alter of the Beth Hamedrash Hagadol Sandton.

“Simchah Steinberg was a very fine musicologist, a beautiful chazzan and a helluva nice man - a real gentleman of the old school. He could write music like you typewrite today.

“He collected a big library of music. If he knew a chazzan was in a picture (film), he would go to that cinema and write the music in the dark that the chazzan was singing, so musi-

cal he was.

“And then there was the great Berele Chagy, whom nobody could forget, the ‘sweet singer of Israel’, a description given to King David. He came here in the early ‘30s because there was a Depression in America and he got a very good salary here.

“The shul where he was chazzan (Beth Hamedrash Hagadol in Doornfontein) is to this day called the Berele Chagy shul.” Chagy had been at the forefront of the golden age of chazzonim in America, in the 1920s.

Badash laughingly describes him as a “prima donna” chazzan who only used to sing twice a month. “But the people of Doornfontein used to go around whistling his tunes.”

Cantor Alter was the chazzan at the Wolmarans Street Shul. According to Badash, its design was copied from a mosque in Turkey as the domes are very good for acoustics.

“And then there was my father who was a people’s man - he loved the people and they loved him,” Badash recalls fondly. “He was a chazzan of the people, not a snob. When he was in a house, he would start singing - he sang from the heart.”

Cantor Joseph Badash, who had been a chazzan in Poland “from the age of eight or nine”, was brought to this country by the Jeppe Synagogue in 1935.

All three of his sons became chazzonim, but they didn’t follow the style of their predecessors. “We already drifted a little to the modern style,” he explains of his brother Max, who served the Great Synagogue, Gardens, for 20 years, and himself.

“We didn’t go to the yeshivot that they did. They were all learned, musically as well.


“It is important to have your own style,” he adds. “But we inherited my father’s sweetness and sincerity in singing.

“If you can’t sing from the heart, you can have the most wonderful voice, but it doesn’t penetrate to the people. You don’t have to have the greatest voice to be a good chazzan.”

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WHAT’S ON

Sharon Akum sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

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

Today Friday (August 12)

• **Israeli Film Festival, Cinema Nouveau, Rosebank**, until August 18. R15 entry - proceeds go to “Vission Mission” charity project. Pre-booking available at www.sterkinekor.com or at box office.

• **UZLC** hosts Arnie Levitan on “The Genius Within”, at Our Parents Home.

Sunday (August 14)

• **UJW Cape Town’s Florentia Group** holds its annual Card & Lunch Afternoon. Entrance: R90.

• **RCHCC** hosts the much awaited exhibition from The SA Jewish Museum: “The Glory of the Game – Rugby and the Jewish Springbok Minyan”. Until October 5.

• **RCHCC** will be screening the multi-award winning film “The Year My Parents Went On Vacation” at 19:30.

• **JAFFA** in Pretoria is hosting their Great Walk/Run (5km and 10km) at 08:30. Cost R50 (family discounts). Phone Rina or Ronny on (012) 346-2006.

Monday (August 15)

• **UJW House & Garden Circle** has its AGM, 09:30 for 10:00. Jackie Simmonds will talk on “Revamping gardens”. Contact: UJW Office (011) 648-1053.

• **RCHCC** hosts political analyst and journalist Moeletsi Mbeki and Helen Rees OBE, who will discuss Mbeki’s recent book, “Advocates for Change: How to Overcome Africa’s Challenges”. Time 19:30.

• **UJW adult education** division hosts Ann Bernstein, executive director, Centre for Development & Enterprise, on “The Struggle for Jobs in South Africa”.

• **SAUJS** in conjunction with The Trevor Huddleston CR Memorial Centre, hosts Prof Ben Turok at 19:00 for 19:30,to launch his latest book “The Historical Roots of the ANC (Understanding the ANC Today)”, at the Sophiatown Museum (73 Toby Street, Sophiatown). Donation R20. Copies of the book will be on sale after the talk for R60. RSVP to liaison@saujs.co.za or thmcentre@mweb.co.za. For more information or direction to the venue call (011) 673-1271.

Tuesday (August 16)

• **WIZO Fortnightly Forum** presents Isaac Reznik and Stan Smookler, who will take you on a humorous trip down Memory Lane. Time 09:30 at Beyachad. Entrance R40. Bookings: Sandy (011) 645-2548.

• **The Chazzonus Club** will be hosting their “Third Annual Dinner and Concert” at the HOD in Orchards. Internationally renowned Chazzan Berel Zucker will be performing with Rabbi Chazzan Ari Kievman and Chazzanim Ezra Sher and Barry Braun who themselves are well-known overseas. Tickets are priced at R250, R350 and R450, depending on the proximity of the seating to the stage. Corporates and others who buy a table will be entitled to one free ticket. Phone Lilly on (011) 485-2645.

• **Shalom Bayit** (Peace in the Home) invites you to the play “Flowers Aren’t Enough”, written and performed by Naomi E Ackerman. Time: 19:30 for 20:00 at Beyachad. Refreshments will be served. Donation R60. RSVP Barbara (011) 645-2591 or email her: ujwexec@beyachad.co.za

• **Second Innings Men’s Group** meeting takes place today, due to the public holiday on Tuesday August 9. George Jameson will speak on “The Important Role of the Older Jewish Community”. Time: 14:15 for 14:30. Venue: Our Parents Home.

• **SAZF** is holding the second semester of the Morris Rutstein evening Hebrew ulpan course until Tuesday, November 29. Times: Every Tuesday night 19:00 - 21:15. Venue: Yeshiva College (classrooms), Corner. Long Avenue and Ridge Road, Glenhazel. Secure parking.

Wednesday (August 17)

• **UJW adult education division** in CT hosts Erin Silke on “My Life as Artist and Self-Centred Nerd”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. R20 includes refreshments. Enquiries: (021) 434-9555.

• **HOD Lodge Negev** is holding its annual bingo evening at the HOD Centre Orchards,19:30 for 20:00. R150 per person includes five games and refreshments. Contact Joel Goldstein 082-857-3107 or the Centre on (011) 640-3017.

• **SFCC** presents Margaret Rawicz on “My Trip to the Arctic in a Boat” at 10:00 at Sandton Shul.

• **UJW adult education division** hosts a visit to the Kim Sacks Gallery, 153 Jan Smuts Ave, Parkwood, Johannesburg, tel (011) 447-5804. Meet at the gallery at 10:00 for 10:30.

Thursday (August 18)

• **UJW Cape Town’s Keshet Group** will be holding a “A

Girls Guide To Rugby” event at the Herzlia Middle school hall at 18:30 for 19:00. Tuition by Toks van der Linde and Gavin Cowley. Cost R180 (includes dinner). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only) or (021) 439-1455.

• **Wiser Seminar series:** SA Holocaust and Genocide Foundation invites you to a seminar by Stern visiting scholar Eva Hoffman on “Lost and Found in Transition - Contested Memories and Moving on From Difficult Pasts” at 16:00 in the Wiser Seminar Room, 6th Floor, Richard Ward Building, East Campus, Wits University.

Friday (August 19)

• **UZLC** hosts columnist David Bullard , who will speak on- “Can We Trust the Media to Protect Our Freedoms?”

• **Israeli Film Festival, Cinema Nouveau, V&A Waterfront Cape Town**, until August 25. R15 entry. Proceeds go to “Vission Mission” charity project. Pre-booking available at www.sterkinekor.com or at box office.

Sunday (August 21)

• **WIZO Johannesburg Aviv’s Reinvention Convention** with Danny K, Gabi Baron and Petra Laranjo. Create your own personal brand, give your image a makeover! Delicious food. Meet young women from all over SA - under 45s only. Book now - call Andrea 083- 677- 8999.

• **RCHCC** presents “Pelham 1, 2, 3 – 3 Sisters in Sync”. Ruth, Naomi and Aviva share moving memories through cosmopolitan song. Time: 19:30.

• **The Sydenham Highlands North Community Centre** is hosting a “Working Mom’s Breakfast” at 24 Main Street, Rouxville, at 09:00, as a fundraiser. There will be an inspiring talk about the challenges of making positive choices every day. There will be a catered breakfast, pamper hampers, spot giveaways and rafle prizes. Contact Tali on 072-492-0664 or tdfranky@absamail.co.za for more information.

• **The annual Limmud Conference** will be taking place at the Riverside Lifestyle Resort at the Vaal River. There are still a few places left for the Sunday. Over 50 sessions and 50 presenters, including 18 internationals. E-mail limmudsa@gmail.com or call 072-356-0651 for more details.

Monday (August 22)

• **UJW adult education division** hosts Peter Harris, author and political commentator, on his book “Birth. The Conspiracy to Stop the 1994 Elections”, at 09:30.

Wednesday (August 24)

• **UJW CT** presents Priscilla Nelson, who will talk on “The History of St Luke’s Hospice”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Cost: R20.00. Enquiries (021) 434-9555.

• **Second Innings** presents Prof Amanda Krause on “Genetic Disease in the Jewish Community”.

• **UJW adult education division** hosts Shirley Ancer, co-chairman UJW and former Johannesburg City Councillor at 09:30 who will talk on Brigitte Gabriel a US-based journalist’s book “They Must be Stopped”, on topics related to the Middle East.

• **WIZO Johannesburg** presents “Live Magazine” function, featuring well-known speakers covering books, health, decor and new trends in cooking. Contact Sandy to book on (011) 645-254.

Friday (August 26)

• **UZLC** hosts Victor Gordon on “Tchaikovsky’s Women”, at Our Parents Home.

• **Israeli Film Festival, Cinema Nouveau** Brooklyn Mall Pretoria, until September 1. R15 entry. Proceeds go to “Vission Mission” charity project. Pre-booking available at www.sterkinekor.com or at box office.

Saturday evening (August 27)

• **SAJBD** Conference kicks off at the Maroela Room of the Sandton Sun and Towers. It carries on, on Sunday August 28. For details phone the SAJBD offices.

• **WIZO** Tzabar hosts a karaoke evening. Contact Sima 072- 338-1185.

Sunday (August 28)

• **SAJBD Conference** at the Maroela Room of the Sandton Sun and Towers continues. For more details phone the SAJBD offices.

• **Friendship Forum for Holocaust Survivors**, presents “The March of the Living”, an audiovisual presentation by a survivor. Time: 10:30. Venue: Gerald Horwitz Lounge Golden Acres.

• **WIZO Johannesburg** presents: “What You Always Wanted to Know, but Didn’t Know Who to Ask” Explore women’s health issues with Prof Guidozzi, “Is It Time for me to Give Men-A-Pause?” and Prof Jenkins, “Do My Genes Still Fit?” Time: 10:00. Venue: HOD. R180, includes delicious tea and prizes. All proceeds to WIZO beneficiaries in Israel. Book your tickets now! Contact Andrea on 083-677-899.

CROSSWORD NO 222

BY LEAH SIMON

ACROSS:

1. Make two trips to African grandmother (4)
3. Bare hell somehow in stube (4, 4)
8. Walk a crooked mile for the boy (4)
9. Fruit makes aspic rot badly (8)
11. Storm in a teacup? No – but a predicament for those needing hot water! (6, 2, 4)
13. A tenor is disturbed, being very decorative (6)
14. Serious learner gets the loose stone mixture (6)
17. Combine one’s aims – and survive financially (4, 4, 4)
20. Single girl vies awkwardly for letters (8)
21. Girl to gamble on the hothead (4)
22. Deserter finds a greened version (8)
23. Ruse confuses employer (4)

DOWN:

1. Divine Athenian – in looks, anyway! (5, 3)
2. Make group leader hear – and shine (7)
4. Have me return to ruse and pay a salary (6)
5. A pretty undisturbed place to have a downfall! (4, 6)
6. At most, a revision of tiny particles (5)
7. The French gets the point – but it’s not that much (4)
10. Paying a crushing compliment? (10)
12. Felt bad about expensive French arrowmaker (8)

15. I swerve somehow for TV audience (7)
16. Mean to stay at home and take care of it (6)
18. An illuminating crime? (5)
19. ---- Sharif, Egyptian actor (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 221

ACROSS:

1. Weds; 3. Disgrace; 8. Test; 9. Scraping; 11. A happy medium; 13. Daring; 14. Stay up; 17. Misadventure; 20. Travails; 21. Onus; 22. Preening; 23. Bind.

DOWN:

1. Wetlands; 2. Despair; 4. Income; 5. Grandstand; 6. Adieu; 7. Edge; 10. Spins a yarn; 12. Appeased; 15. You and I; 16. Evelyn; 18. Irate; 19. Stop.

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| 22 | | | | | | | | | | 23 | | |

Sudoku Puzzle 38

(Hard, difficulty rating 0.62)

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| | | | 8 | | 5 | 9 | | 7 |
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| | 4 | 5 | | 8 | | | | 3 |
| 6 | | 7 | 1 | | 3 | | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | | | 6 | | |

* Answer to follow with next puzzle

Answer - Puzzle 37

| | | | | | | | | |
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| 9 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 4 |
| 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 5 |
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Note to readers: Our bridge column and our Sudoku puzzle alternate week by week.

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AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

ISRAEL BOYCOTT SUPPORTERS ARRESTED FOR VIOLATING BAIL

MELBOURNE - Four pro-Palestinian supporters of an Israel boycott were arrested in Melbourne for breaching bail conditions following a protest outside a Max Brenner chocolate shop.

A spokesman for the Victoria Police confirmed that the four proponents of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign who appeared on Tuesday in Melbourne's Magistrate's Court were among the 19 activists arrested on July 1 outside the Israeli chocolate latier in down-town Melbourne.

Police say they were among more than 300 protesters who marched on July 29 on the Max Brenner store, thereby breaching their bail conditions. More than 10 of the 19 activists arrested on July 1, had been ordered by the courts not to come within 50 metres of the chocolate shop.

Omar Hassan, who was among the 19 activists arrested on July 1, said the four were released on bail, with three paying a surety of \$2 000 and one ordered to pay an extra \$8 000 by next Wednesday.

"It's definitely an attempt to silence these protesters," Hassan said.

The protesters are scheduled to reappear in court on September 5.

The arrests come as the Victorian Liberal government asked Australia's competition watchdog, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, to investigate whether the boycotters had broken Australian law.(JTA)

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It's ton up for our Norman!

JACK MILNER

A YEAR ago I was berated for not carrying a story on former South African Test cricketer Norman Gordon when he turned 99. “I don’t do 99,” I responded rather defensively and, I have to admit, somewhat thoughtlessly. “I’ll wait until he gets to 100.” Now he’s the oldest living Test cricketer in the world.

The way, when Gordon turned 100, arrived last Saturday, August 6, and I was privileged to receive an invitation from Dr Ali Bacher to attend a special celebration to pay homage to this remarkable centurion.

The function was held in the Long Room at the Wanderers Cricket Stadium and was attended by some of the major role-players in South African cricket over the years.

As expected, many speakers used the well-worn expressions about Gordon having reached his century, a rare feat for a bowler, but Ali Bacher spoke about some good captain’s advice he had given Gordon last year. “I told him that on 99, he should not do anything rash. Don’t go for hook shots and don’t play reverse sweeps. Just nudge them one by one into the gaps.

“Fortunately he’s got to his century, although, with all the cold weather, we did have a couple of close calls. His son, Brian, got him to hospital and we had to call for the third umpire and luckily Norman got better and he’s here tonight in great spirits.”

Among the players who came to celebrate the evening were six other fast bowlers – Neil Adcock, who played with Gordon in 1951, Peter Pollock, his son Shaun, Mike Procter, Fanie de Villiers and Mkhaya Ntini.

Also at the function was one the greatest batsmen of all time – Graeme Pollock.

“Five of these bowlers live away from Johannesburg and when I called them to come to the function they all accepted without any reservations,” said Ali Bacher.

Among the guests were former South African Cricket Board Chairman Joe Pamensky, South African Breweries chairman, Meyer Khan, and Sascoc president, Gideon Sam.

As he came into the Long Room, Gordon was introduced to all the dignitaries and as he came up to Neil Adcock he quipped: “I’m glad I didn’t have to face you!”

It was in 1934 that Gordon was first called up to play for (then) Transvaal, but it was an inauspicious beginning. It was his first time on a grass pitch and Gordon had a bad game. It was not until 1937 that he was recalled to the Transvaal team and in that year they won the Currie Cup.

There was no money for them in those days, but Gordon did not care. As he pointed



Former cricketer Norman Gordon with Dr Ali Bacher (right) and Adam Bacher at a function to celebrate his 100th birthday held at the Wanderers last Saturday. (PHOTOGRAPH: DUIF DU TOIT/GALLO IMAGES)

out: “I just wanted to play cricket.”

In 1938 he was called up to the South African team to take on the touring England team and he played in all five Tests.

In the first Test, he took his best Test figures of 7 for 162, including 5 for 103 in the first innings. He was stumped by Les Ames off the bowling of Tom Goddard for a first-ball duck in the drawn match. In the second match he took 5 for 157 in England’s only innings, but was again stumped by Ames off the bowling of Goddard for 0 in another drawn match.

Included in that batch of wickets, was that of Len Hutton – twice! In fact, Hutton referred to him as the best South African bowler he had ever faced.

In the third match, Gordon took 2 for 127 in England’s only innings and was out for 1 and 0, falling to Ken Farnes and Hedley Verity, as England won by an innings and 13 runs. In the fourth match, he took 2 for 47 and 3 for 58, but did not bat in the drawn Test.

In the final Test Gordon took match figures of 1 for 256 and was not out in each innings, scoring 0 and 7. That match in Durban was the famous Timeless Test, which took 10 days and was eventually drawn by agreement as the British team had to board their ship for their journey home. The threat of war was looming in Europe and as the tourists had to get home, the match was called off with

England needing just 42 runs for victory, with five wickets standing.

Norman set a record which still stands today. He bowled 92,2 eight-ball overs. Translated into simple numbers that means he bowled 738 balls in a single Test match. Nobody has ever come close.

“You couldn’t get any movement off the wicket,” said Gordon. “It was like bowling on glass. It wasn’t important that I only got one wicket. I was doing what I loved - playing cricket.”

This was his final Test match. Gordon is the sole survivor of the Timeless Test, and the last living person to have played Test cricket before the Second World War. He is also the only Test cricketer to ever reach the age of 100.

For the record, the next in line to claim the title of oldest living Test cricketer is another South African, Lindsay Tuckett, who is - in comparison to Gordon - still a spring chicken at 92.

Neil Adcock, by comparison, played in 26 Tests and was the first South African bowler to take 100 wickets. “Norman was still playing in 1951 when I was coming through and we played provincial cricket together,” he said.

When Gordon was asked if there was any modern-day bowler who was similar in style to himself, he responded immediately: “My bowling was nearer that of Shaun Pollock

than anybody - good line and length.”

He also said that England captain Wally Hammond used to compare him to Maurice Tate, who was also a right-arm medium fast bowler.

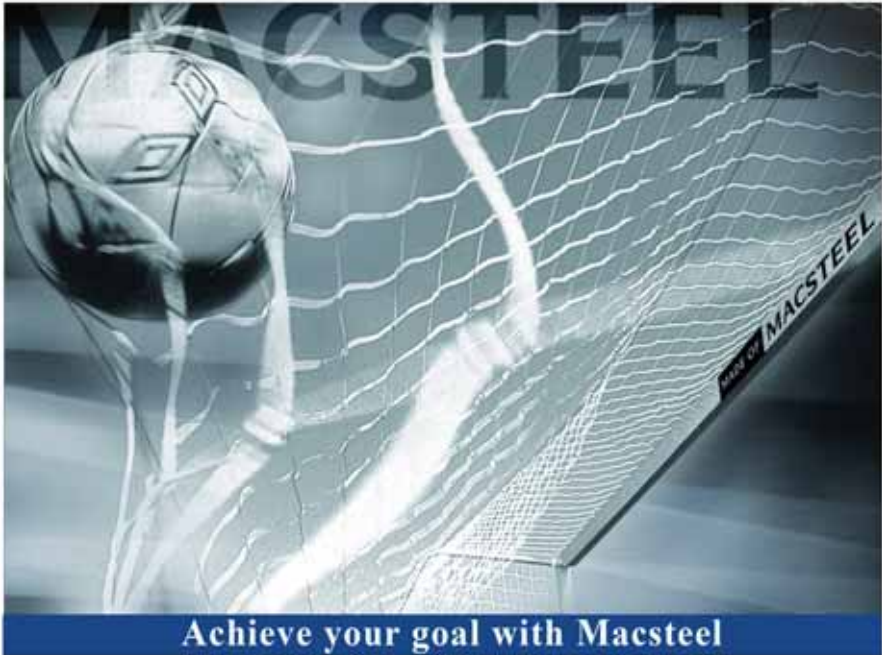
There were a number of tributes, headed up by a touching message from Vince van der Bijl whose father played cricket with Gordon. West Indian cricketer Brian Lara, who recently met Gordon at Houghton Golf Club, called to wish him happy birthday. Dr Mtutuzeli Nyoka, president of Cricket South Africa, presented Gordon with a specially minted commemorative gold coin from the International Cricket Council and commented: “Norman Gordon is a true South African hero.”

Adam Bacher presented Gordon with a gift from the Israeli Cricket Association and chairman Harold Magid, conferred the “Freedom of Houghton Golf Club” on both Gordon and Brian, which gives them the use of the facilities and restaurants for no charge.

“Golf has always been an important part of his life. We will also be playing each year for a new trophy - the Norman Gordon Alliance,” commented Harold.

A day earlier Jeppe High School for Boys, the school Gordon attended, organised a special day for him at the school. The entire school attended and three of the previous headmasters were also there. The scoreboard at the school was named after him.

The final word goes to Gordon, who got up to thank everybody for the wonderful reception. “I promise you, I won’t ask for another one until the next 100 years.”



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Cricket great Ali Bacher for Maccabi Stag

PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

FORMER UNITED Cricket Board chairman, Dr Ali Bacher, will be the guest speaker at Maccabi Stag on Wednesday, August 17.

Bacher needs little introduction to local cricket followers and with all the issues going on in local cricket circles, it will be interesting to hear his take on the current events and investigations.

In addition, Maccabi South Africa will be making a presentation to Norman Gordon, who turned 100 last Saturday and they are hoping to have him present at the Stag evening.

The talk will take place at Beyachad in Raedene, and for catering purposes, those interested in attending, are asked to please confirm their attendance with the Maccabi office, on tel: (011)-645-2557; fax: (011) 458-1011; or e-mail them: maccabisa@beyachad.co.za



Dr Ali Bacher.