

35  
DAYS

TO  
JEWISH  
ACHIEVER  
AWARDS!  
(page 2)

# South african Jewish Report

www.sajewishreport.co.za



Photo: Ian Ossendryver

Wendy Kahn explains the meaning of the challah to Winnie Dlamini and Lorraine Mayisela.

## Mass challah baking to support Madiba

Numerous challot, baked by Jewish women, were delivered to the Ithlokomeng Old Age Home in Alexandra township, last week, after a mass challah baking evening to show support for ailing former President Nelson Mandela and his family. The project, initiated by the SAJBD and run in partnership with Emunah, represented a Jewish way of praying for the recovery of someone seriously ill. SAJBD National Director Wendy Kahn, who was one of some 50 participants, explained the tradition for women to collectively bake challot, invoking the spiritual significance of each ingredient. One hundred and twenty three challot were delivered to Ithlokomeng and Phutaditshaba Facility for the Aged.

### Marilyn's 'vegetable patch' an extraordinary green beacon

Bassin identified an old rubbish dump, adjacent to a school, and is building a community vegetable garden. It will soon "fill tummies of not only the kids, but the volunteer parents and hostel-dwellers".



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### Remove your shoes - this is hallowed ground

The 50th anniversary of the Rivonia Raid marks a significant event in SA history and the Jewish community. When you visit Liliesleaf, remove your shoes because this spot in Rivonia is hallowed ground.

6

### Overcoming the Muslim-Jewish divide

By creating a "safe space" for the exchange of personal experiences, the Muslim-Jewish Conference unites participants from across racial, religious and gender divides.

7

### Removal of Morsi in Egypt a source of hope in Israel

"To get rid of the Muslim Brotherhood is great for Egypt and for the region," said Zvi Mazel, Israel's ambassador to Egypt in the late 1990s.

8

### Young and old, this dynamic hands-on rabbi oozes Yiddishkeit

A young bright star in the Johannesburg Jewish community's firmament is Rabbi Ari Kievman, who shines his light on seniors through his Chabad Chai Seniors Club weekdays at Chabad, Savoy.

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## WALKING? THE SKY'Z THE LIMIT!



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Parshat Devarim		
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July 13 / 6 Av		
17:14	18:05	Johannesburg
17:36	18:30	Cape Town
16:54	17:47	Durban
17:15	18:08	Bloemfontein
17:07	18:01	Port Elizabeth
16:59	17:54	East London
Fast of Tisha B'Av		
July 15/ 8 Av		
July 16 /9 Av		
Begins	Ends	
17:30	17:57	Johannesburg
17:52	18:23	Cape Town
17:11	17:38	Durban
17:32	17:59	Bloemfontein
17:23	17:54	Port Elizabeth
17:16	17:44	East London

# Tisha B'Av - good mourning!

During the third day of the Six Day War in 1967, Israeli soldiers finally burst through into the Old City of Jerusalem and were able to fight their way to the area of the Western Wall. As soldiers both old and young fell upon the Wall they wept with emotion, all the while kissing and caressing with awe the last remaining segment of the Temple.

This, in large part, was what they had been fighting for, this holy place to which Jews had not been allowed to come for close to two decades. Now they, at the high cost of many soldiers killed and wounded, had captured it from the enemy’s hands.

The picture of those anxious weeping soldiers at the Western Wall is etched forever in the minds of those who saw it first-hand.

Standing back from those huddled close to the Wall, were two soldiers who came from a non-observant kibbutz. They had no religious background, and thus the holiness and significance of the place was lost on them. They looked around, overwhelmed by emptiness, and then suddenly one of them began to cry uncontrollably.



Parshat Devarim

Rabbi Daniel Sackstein  
Sunny Road Shul

The second soldier, surprised by this sudden outburst, turned to the first and said: “Why are you crying?”

The first soldier looked up as tears rolled down his cheeks and replied sadly: “I cry because I don’t know what there is to cry about.” (From Rabbi Paysach Krohn, Around the Maggid’s Table)

Tisha B'Av is not everyone’s favourite day, but its observance is confirmation that we are a people who remember and know that our past leads to a future.

Babylonia, Persia, Assyria, the glory of ancient Egypt, Greece and Rome - who remembers, who sheds a tear?

Tisha B'Av is so important because only a people that can weep will someday learn to laugh. As the Talmud (Taanis 30b) teaches

us: Whoever mourns for Jerusalem will merit sharing in her joy.

Tisha B'Av reminds us of the basic tenet of Jewish belief that everything is in G-d’s hands. Jewish history does not follow the standard patterns of political and economic forces; rather it is a function of our relationship with G-d.

If the Babylonians and the Romans were able to destroy the Temple, clearly G-d let them do it because the transgressions of the Jewish people had already destroyed the Temple at its spiritual roots. An invaluable lesson for the Jewish people for all time.

In the midst of all our affluence and creature comforts, we remove our leather shoes, and dim the lights. We fast and do not indulge ourselves. We weep for our people’s bloody history and we focus on Jewish destiny.

The mourning of Tisha B'Av puts us in touch with reality and imparts a depth of experience needed to awaken us to grasp our individual role and responsibility in building the people of Israel.

Jews in the News

An overview of the SA media

Correct on July 12

**BEELD**  
[www.beeld.com](http://www.beeld.com)  
“Grahamstown Festival’s stars”  
The winners of the Standard Bank Ovation award at the National Arts Festival have been made known. This year’s only Gold Ovation award went to blues guitarist Dan Patlansky whose acoustic work and collaboration with Karen Zoid were well received by critics and audiences.

**NEWS 24**  
[www.news24.com](http://www.news24.com)  
“Karabus aiming to sue UAE government”  
Cyril Karabus, 78, is adamant he will sue the Abu Dhabi government, Emirates Airlines and the hospital group he worked for, his lawyer Michael Bagraim says. “We’re consulting with advocates about taking the hospital group to court and we’re also consulting with the senior council in South Africa to take Emirates Air to court and Dr Karabus feels upbeat about this.”

**THE STAR**  
[www.iol.co.za/the-star](http://www.iol.co.za/the-star)  
“Three Held Over Murder of Hero Dad”  
Almost five months since Bedfordview father Shaun Lipshitz, 37, was gunned down in front of his 12-year-old son, the police have

finally arrested three men for the crime. On January 28, two armed men got into Lipshitz’s home through a window. Police said the men then opened fire on Lipshitz. In the ensuing gun battle he wounded the two, but paid the ultimate price himself.

**BUSINESS DAY**  
[www.bdlive.co.za/](http://www.bdlive.co.za/)  
Plunging circulation figures and shrinking advertising revenue have forced the marketing and media magazine AdVantage to shut down after 20 years in print. AdVantage founder and former publisher Sandra Gordon said it was evident that Media24 lacked knowledge and experience of niche magazine publishing, hence the closure of many of its consumer titles.

**THE WITNESS**  
[www.witness.co.za](http://www.witness.co.za)  
“Enjoy Clegg at Botanical Gardens”  
Johnny Clegg performs at the Durban Botanic Gardens on July 14, as part of the Old Mutual Music at the Lake concert series. Clegg has sold over five million albums worldwide, and has won several national and international awards, including the Presidential Ikhamanga award in 2012.

# Jewish Achievers judging hits home stretch



Howard Sackstein, chairman of the Jewish Achievers planning committee, with one of the judges for the business awards of the Jewish Achievers Awards, Dr Len Konar, at last year's Jewish Achievers.

## OWN CORRESPONDENT

This Sunday sees the behind-closed-doors judging process for the winners in the listed and unlisted business categories of the Jewish Achievers Awards.

The illustrious panel of judges comprises Banie Classen (head of Retail and Franchise at Absa Bank); corporate governance expert Dr Len Konar; international businessman Steven Blend; and the JSE’s Geoff Rothchild.

The process is independently audited by the accounting firm Grant Thornton, represented by Garun Chaitowitz.

Seating for this prestigious and well-co-ordinated event, on August 15 at the Maroela Room, Sandton Sun Hotel, is filling up quickly; contact Elanit on 083-655-5392 or e-mail [elanit@sistersact.co.za](mailto:elanit@sistersact.co.za) for further details.

Jewish Report

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# The Jewish World

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**The Jewish Chronicle, London, UK:**  
*www.thejc.com*  
**‘Second “Prisoner X” charged with more severe crimes’**  
Avigdor Feldman, attorney of the late “Prisoner X” Ben Zygier reveals that the anonymous inmate held under similar conditions to his former client is charged with more severe crimes. Feldman says the prisoner is “a man of the secret defence services, whose work resulted in a grave security breach” . . . more serious than the allegations brought against Zygier.

**Canadian Jewish News, Toronto, Canada:**  
*www.cjnews.com*  
**‘Alleged terror plotter made anti-Semitic postings’**  
A Vancouver man charged with an alleged terror plot to bomb the Legislature on Canada Day had previously made anti-Semitic YouTube posts. Nutall, who posted as “Ana Nimity”, reportedly also said “Israel attacked the USS Liberty in a false flag op[eration] to try and bring us to war. We are sick of Jews trying to run our lives; it is about time they fought their own war.”

**Ha’Aretz, Tel Aviv, Israel:**  
*www.haaretz.com*  
**‘IDF to establish new Golan division to contend with Syria threat’**  
IDF chief believes that the Golan Heights, which turned into an active front because of the ongoing battles between rebel and military forces in Syria, is in need of constant security.

**The Algemeiner, Brooklyn, UK:**  
*www.algemeiner.com*  
**‘Canada, Israel universities reach collaboration accord despite BDS pressure’**  
In an announcement earlier this week, the Association of

Universities and Colleges of Canada and the Association of University Heads of Israel agreed to “work together to facilitate, promote and support international research collaboration between Israeli and Canadian universities”, representing an important escalation of already burgeoning Canada-Israel academic ties.

**The Australian Jewish News, Melbourne Australia:**  
*www.jewishnews.net.au*  
**‘Pro-Palestinian Albanese is “okay” say communal leaders’**  
Australia’s new Deputy Prime Minister Anthony Albanese is, by his own admission, “very critical of a lot of Israel’s policies”. But communal leaders this week said they had no issue with his vocal support for the Palestinian cause.

**Arutz Sheva, West Bank, Israel:**  
*www.israelnationalnews.com*  
**‘Paul McCartney: They threatened to kill me if I played in Israel’**  
When former Beatle Paul McCartney came to Israel in 2008, he was taking his life in his hands. He was threatened by BDS anti-Israel groups. He is not alone. Dozens of artists are lobbied, bullied, threatened, and even attacked at concerts by anti-Israel groups bent on isolating Israel culturally and economically.

**Ynetnews.com, International:**  
*www.ynetnews.com*  
**‘Hezbollah may be preparing for war’**  
Israel is bolstering its forces on the once-quiet frontier with Syria where it believes Lebanese Hezbollah militants are preparing for the day when they could fight Israel. Hezbollah, also backed by Iran, has sent thousands of its own fighters to combat Syrian rebels, according to Israeli and Western estimates.

## Women of the Wall prayers provoke thousands of ultra-Orthodox



Women of the Wall members mark the beginning of the Hebrew month of Av, July 8, 2013

Between 5,000 and 7,000 ultra-Orthodox women and seminary girls turned out at the Western Wall on Monday morning for a prayer event in response to the monthly prayer service held by controversial prayer-rights activist group Women of the Wall. Approximately 250-300 members of the Women of the Wall initiative showed up to participate in Monday’s prayer service, which seeks egalitarian practices in the women’s section at the Western Wall – including permission for women to wear a tallit and tefillin, and to read from the Torah, all practices women do not perform under Orthodox tradition. The Women for the Wall group, which seeks to preserve the “traditional sanctity of the Western Wall” and to “make sure that when women come to pray at the Western Wall, the

experience should be as profoundly meaningful as possible,” organised Monday’s appearance of the Orthodox women and seminary girls. United Torah Judaism, an ultra-Orthodox political party in Israel, helped with logistics for Women for the Wall’s prayer event. Meanwhile, a much smaller group of under 100 ultra-Orthodox men stood nearby, according to Women for the Wall. The Associated Press reported that Women of the Wall accused the Israeli police of cooperating with the Orthodox protesters. Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld, however, denied that allegation and said the police were protecting the women’s group. The police arrested three Orthodox male protestors for public disturbance. (JNS.org)



## CHOIR AUDITIONS

The Sydenham-Highlands North Hebrew Congregation will be holding auditions, for choristers to join its synagogue choir.

We are committed to the highest quality of Jewish music and are therefore looking for talented and dynamic singers to join our 17 choristers, under the leadership of Chazan Yudi Cohen and conductor Daniel Tucker.

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Males of all ages are invited to apply.

No previous choral experience is required.

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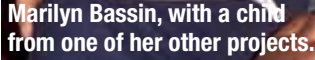
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# Marilyn's 'vegetable patch' a green beacon

The school itself was labelled in a Johannesburg newspaper as one of Gauteng's four worst performing schools last year. There was only one working tap for the staff and



Bassin, who is, by her own account, not a gardener, says she is battling her way along.

Bassin's Boikanyo project is still in need of funding to fence and secure the vegetable garden. Anyone who would like to assist, can contact her on 083-617-7520.



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# Israel Now Tour delves into the start-up nation



Ryan Cresswell; Frans Cronje; Reeva Forman; Georgina Jammie; Azar Jammie; Ruan Jooste; and Vuyisa Qabaka.

## STEVEN GRUZD

Vice-chairman of the South African Zionist Federation Reeva Forman has just returned from facilitating another successful trip to Israel and the West Bank. Like 2012, this year’s “Israel Now” tour was built around the Israeli President’s Conference held in Jerusalem from June 18 – 20, but in contrast to previous years which have had a strong political focus, this year Forman decided to examine economic issues more closely.

Her group included some of South Africa’s leading economists, media personnel and opinion-makers.

The focus of the trip was economy, business and creating jobs for minority and disadvantaged communities, with a view to learning lessons for South Africa. Emphasis was placed on job creation in hi-tech industries and industrial parks, focusing on manufacturing jobs on the periphery.

“I have been taking trips annually since 2002, and in that time I have witnessed how the Israeli economy has boomed,” Forman said

The scene was set for the delegation by political scientist Professor Reuven Hazan who unpacked Israeli politics and complexities of coalition governments. This was especially relevant with the current make-up of the Knesset, with several new parties, a quarter of the members women, and many first-time Knesset members.

At the Knesset, the group met with Deputy Speaker Penina Tamano-Shata, Israel’s first Ethiopian woman Knesset member, from Yair Lapid’s Yesh Atid party.

For Forman, one of the most inspiring speakers the group heard, was Saul Singer, co-author with Dan Senor of the bestseller, Start-up Nation: The Story of Israel’s Economic Miracle.

“This book has singlehandedly and brilliantly branded Israel as a start-up nation. It has tapped into the heart and soul and spirit of what Israel is all about,” Forman said.

“Without natural resources, Israelis have a positive mindset, take calculated risks and succeed against all odds.”

She noted that this “start-up nation” mentality was in evidence everywhere; it was mentioned at the President’s Conference by Bill Clinton, Tony Blair and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Said Forman: “Including the outstanding President’s Conference in the itinerary was a unique opportunity to expose the group to great minds and phenomenal speakers.”

Another speaker who addressed the group, former Governor of the Bank of Israel Professor Stanley Fischer, also noted how he took risks in helping to steer the Israeli economy to new heights.

Forman also believes South Africa could learn from Israel’s efforts to integrate Israeli Arabs - who make up some 20 per cent of the population - into the hi-tech economy. There’s a unit situated in the Prime Minister’s Office tasked with this.

The group also met with the incoming Israeli Ambassador Arthur Lenk, incoming Deputy Chief of Mission Michael Friedman and head of the Africa Desk at the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Avi Granot.

Forman’s tours always aim to see both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict, and allow participants to draw their own conclusions. In this regard, the delegation also travelled to Ramallah in the West Bank, where they met the Palestinian Authority’s Dr Nabeel Shaath.

There, a strong message was that the Palestinian economy is restricted by the conflict and that if a two-state solution that brings real peace could be reached, both sides would benefit enormously because of the potential of the people.

On why she takes her groups to Ramallah, Forman said: “I believe strongly that the only way to understand and thereby perhaps be part of a solution instead of reinforcing conflict and separation, is to meet with all players involved, and to hear from both sides.

“Particularly in the economy and business sectors, there is always a unifying factor, in any conflict situation, focusing on development that will benefit all.”

The trip also entailed a visit to a hi-tech hub in the northern city of Nazareth. “There again we saw evidence of risk-taking, no fear of failure and visionary leadership,” said Forman.

One of the participants, Frans Cronje, deputy CEO of the South African Institute of Race Relations, said: “This trip was a rare privilege to explore and ask questions of a country I only read about.

“It was extremely useful to understand how this private-sector-led economy functions. Israel’s ability to develop and empower its people - its most important resource - is unbelievably impressive.

“I also noted how the Israelis we met don’t constantly blame others - something we often see in South Africa. They just get on with it. It’s up to them how successful they will become.”

## World News in Brief

### Michael Oren, Israeli ambassador to US, stepping down this autumn

JERUSALEM - Michael Oren, Israel’s ambassador to the US since July 2009, plans to step down this autumn. “Israel and the United States have always enjoyed a special relationship and, throughout these years of challenge, I was privileged to take part in forging even firmer bonds,” Oren said in a statement. Oren, who grew up in New Jersey, is Israel’s first American-born ambassador to the US and his replacement could be the second. Army Radio reported that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would appoint his close aide Ron Dermer, a native of Miami Beach, Florida. (JNS.org)

## Rabbinic Post

### West Street Shul invites applications for the position of Rabbi.

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The position becomes available from January 2014.

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south african

Jewish Report

On beggars and politics

We’ve all seen black beggars at intersections in Johannesburg. They kneel on the road between speeding cars, or walk out from the pavement among the vehicles as the traffic light turns red.

As you pull up, they are at the window staring blankly, holding a plastic bag open, or the palms of their hands outstretched from ragged clothes.

You are generally unsure how to respond: You might give something, or stare straight ahead, pretending they aren’t there, or look at them and shake your shoulders to indicate you “don’t have anything”.

You ask: “Why don’t they get a job instead of begging?” There aren’t many jobs in this country, with an unemployment rate of some 25 per cent - and this man is probably unemployable, without education or skills. You ponder: “If I give to him, it encourages more beggars to come onto the streets” Then there’s the Jewish ethos of charity.

Then the traffic light changes and you drive off.

Mandela Day is coming next week – when all South Africans who are able to, are urged to give something or do something for the underprivileged. Poverty in this country is dangerously high; the beggars are the tip of the iceberg. Most people don’t know just how bad things are, the magnitude of the chasm between the haves and have-nots. South Africa has reputedly the largest gap between the two in the world.

If things don’t change, we might face our own “Arab Spring”, where the masses rise up screaming that they won’t live that way while the elite live like kings. Violence erupted and governments fell in Arab countries, where instability now rules the day. The same could happen here. The likes of demagogues like Julius Malema are waiting in the wings to lead the way.

What’s to be done? Firstly, let’s be clear that the veneer of stability in South Africa conceals tremendous anger under the surface; the Truth and Reconciliation Commission we went through in 1996 did not alter the fact that most beggars are black and most people in fancy cars are white. That is a dangerous mix to still be in place after apartheid officially ended two decades ago. Taking the easy way out by saying, “Apartheid’s over, let’s move on!” is delusional.

The fact that so many so-called “Black Diamonds” nowadays also drive latest model fancy cars, cuts no ice with the desperately poor have-nots.

We must stop whingeing about the crime, corruption, how embarrassed some of our politicians make us feel, and so on. Then roll up our sleeves and get involved in changing things at all levels, by giving not just money, but time and effort in initiatives that make a difference to people living in desperation. If you’re going to stay in this country, you have to help make it work.

In recent years, ventures in this vein have emerged from parts of Jewish society. Schools like King David have outreach projects, where Jewish kids go into townships and elsewhere, interact with and do something for black youngsters and invite them to the schools for various activities. Jewish organisations and religious groups such as Chabad are doing the same. Stories in this issue of the Jewish Report highlight some.

Is it enough? No. Giving to beggars is one type of involvement, but we have a huge amount to contribute in more effective ways.

While SA Jewry punches above its weight in business, the professions, arts and other areas, it is almost totally absent in politics, where it might influence government policies from within. This was not always so. There were once Jewish politicians on many levels.

It’s not easy today for a white person - Jewish or not - to get into Parliament or other political posts, even if they have major skills to contribute.

But it is our right as South Africans, as much as it is our duty.

# Remove your shoes – this is hallowed ground

HOWARD SACKSTEIN  
PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

On July 11, 1963, 50 years ago this week, a dry-cleaning van rolled down a dusty dirt road in Rivonia, just north of Sandton. Govan Mbeki, father of former President Thabo Mbeki, moved to the window and announced that it was only a service vehicle.

Rusty Bernstein looked through the window and screamed: “My G-d, I saw that van outside the police station on my way here!” Suddenly a group of men sprang from the van and the police raid on the ANC underground at Liliesleaf Farm was underway.

Walter Sisulu jumped through the window of the small room in which they were meeting directly into the arms of the waiting police.

Liliesleaf Farm at the end of a deserted road, was purchased by the South African Communist Party as a safe house for its members and the ANC. The money for the purchase was funnelled from Russia, through a middleman named Ezra and the money was given to the flamboyant architect, artist and socialite, Arthur Goldreich to purchase the smallholding.

Goldreich moved his family onto the property and Nelson Mandela moved in as a gardener, using the name David Motsamayi.

Soon Liliesleaf became headquarters to Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation) and home to the ANC radio station, Radio Freedom.

Hidden in the coal cellar of Liliesleaf and uncovered by the police, were Mandela’s handwritten notes for Operation Mayibuye, a plan to overthrow the apartheid government, hatched by Joe Slovo and Raymond Mhlaba.

Mandela had asked Goldreich to destroy the documents but Goldreich was determined to keep them as a historic record of the fight against apartheid.

The far-fetched, Operation Mayibuye called for a concerted effort of targeted bombing of government infrastructure, coupled with an external invasion of South Africa. Although Umkhonto we Sizwe claimed responsibility for many of the attacks on power lines and infrastructure of that time, much of that work was actually carried out by the heavily Jewish African Resistance Movement.

Those arrested at Liliesleaf stood trial at what became known as the Rivonia Trial, together with Mandela, who at that stage, was already serving a five year prison sentence for the campaigns of 1961 intended to disrupt Republic Day celebrations and for leaving the country illegally.

Among those arrested during the raid were Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Ahmed Kathrada and a large group of white Jewish anti-apartheid activists including Denis Goldberg, Arthur Goldreich, Lionel Bernstein, Bob Hepple and Harold Wolpe. Later Wolpe’s brother-in-law, Jimmy Kantor, would be arrested as part of the follow-ups to the raid.

Goldreich had spent his youth in the Palmach, a branch of the underground Jewish army fighting against British colonialism for Israel’s independence.

Goldreich and Wolpe escaped from



Moyi and Shaka Sisulu re-enact their grandfather’s escape through a window at Liliesleaf Farm.

*Among those arrested during the raid were Walter Sisulu, Govan Mbeki, Ahmed Kathrada and a large group of white Jewish anti-apartheid activists including Denis Goldberg, Arthur Goldreich, Lionel Bernstein, Bob Hepple and Harold Wolpe.*



Walter Sisulu

prison in Johannesburg shortly before their trial, by bribing a prison warden. Goldreich once told me the story of how during their escape they attempted to steal a car from a drunken man near Nugget Street in Johannesburg, only to find that the driver of the vehicle was their friend Barney Simon. Simon hid the two before Manni Brown and Ewan Crawford smuggled them to the Swazi border. Goldreich landed up in Israel, Wolpe in London.

In the mid-1980s Israeli diplomats negotiated the release of Goldberg from prison in exchange for a commitment from Goldreich to renounce violence.

When the Liliesleaf Trust re-purchased the property, Nic Wolpe (son of Harold Wolpe) and I hosted a Jewish tour of

Liliesleaf and proposed that the organised Jewish community fund a negotiation and reconciliation centre at Liliesleaf in recognition of the enormous contribution of Jews to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Regrettably this proposal met with little enthusiasm.

In 2003 I hosted the Sisulu family at Liliesleaf where Shaka and Moyi Sisulu re-enacted their grandfather’s leap from the window during the raid.

The 50th anniversary of the Rivonia Raid marks a significant event in the history of our country and the Jewish community in South Africa. When you visit Liliesleaf, remove your shoes because, for South African Jews, this spot, this piece of Rivonia is hallowed ground.



# Muslims and Jews bridge the divide in Sarajevo

ALANA BARANOV attended the Muslim-Jewish Conference in Sarajevo and wrote about her experiences.

The ancient, stirring words of kaddish drift slowly across the stark cemetery, as a group of 100 young Jews and Muslims from 39 countries taking part in the Muslim-Jewish Conference (MJC) pray and weep together for all those lost in the genocide in Srebrenica.

This scene echoes that of a previous MJC visit to Babi Yar in 2011, where Muslim prayers were recited in memory of the massacred Jews.

Embodying the phrase, “your pain is our pain”, the prayers for the genocides which have scarred two separate communities, connect them in profound ways, one of the main goals of the MJC which I was privileged to attend last week for the World Jewish Congress.

The MJC, a registered non-profit and grassroots organisations based in Vienna, was first established in 2009 by young visionary Ilja Sichrovsky. Its first conference took place in 2010 with a mere handful of volunteers hoping “to provide the next generation with a learning experience for life and a positive outlook for establishing intercultural relations and sustaining Muslim-Jewish partnerships”.

By creating a “safe space” for the exchange of personal experiences

and breaking down stereotypes, the MJC unites participants from across racial, religious and gender divides to unite against Islamophobia and anti-Semitism. Subsequent conferences have attracted more than 300 young leaders from 50 countries and were held in varied locales including Kiev, Ukraine and Bratislava, Slovakia.

With each passing year the MJC has grown in size, scope and savvy. The hundreds of applicants to the conference this year were chosen not only those with an important perspective to share, but also individuals who are willing to listen to the opinions of others.

A careful balance of both Jews and Muslims, as well as a healthy mixture of religious and secular, is carefully maintained.

This year’s MJC was convened in the symbolic “Jerusalem of Europe” - Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. A city which was an example of multiculturalism and religious tolerance for centuries has been deeply scarred by some of the worst war crimes and acts of violence in modern times.

The struggles of Sarajevo to overcome this fractured and hateful past are reflected in the recent genocide, war and ethnic tensions - the perfect place for lessons of the past to be put into practice in interfaith relations.

Over five days of sustained dialogue, the participants and future opinion-makers sought to make the



The Old Sephardi Shul of Sarajevo.

Photo: Alana Baranov

seemingly impossible possible by defying the accepted notions of their elders on the futility of interfaith discussions.

These young people, many of whom faced opposition from family and friends back home for their involvement with the “other side”, are determined to forge a future of greater peace and understanding.

With a programme that included visits to the Ashkenazi Synagogue and various mosques across Sara-

jevo, to a day spent in Srebrenica for interfaith prayers for genocide victims, the MJC 2013 was intense and productive.

The list of guest speakers included respected rabbis and imams as well as Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. Participants took advantage of the opportunity to engage with other young people in an open and honest dialogue with the “other side” which is usually much more difficult in their home nations.

Participants were organised into various committees, examining topics ranging from “Gender and Religion”, “Education and Historical Narratives”, “Hate Speech”, to “Conflict Transformation”. The proposed projects emerging from these committees set the agenda for the coming year and keep participants in touch and engaging with each other after the event.

One of the surprising outcomes of the conference was the plethora of intrafaith conversations which took place alongside the interfaith debates - both of which will have an impact on participants and the communities that they return home to.

Although the success of the MJC can be hard to quantify, the very fact that young Muslims and Jews from across the globe take the time and expense to journey to Sarajevo to overcome the barriers between their respective communities and build ties of friendship, speaks volumes about their belief in this initiative.

The attendance of a few South Africans, both Jewish and Muslim, gave the MJC a unique insight into the state of Muslim-Jewish relations in our country and allowed us to forge a plan for the future.

The attendees of the MJC are not simply the leaders of tomorrow, but are the change-makers of their communities and countries today.

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# Removal of Morsi in Egypt a source of hope in Israel

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For the second time in less than three years, Egypt is erupting in chaos, with a popular protest movement leading to a swift change in the country’s leadership.

For Israelis, the Egyptian military’s removal of Mohamed Morsi from the presidency last week, is a cause for optimism.

An Islamist and a leading figure in the Muslim Brotherhood, Morsi’s brief tenure saw a further estrangement between Israel and Egypt. The Brotherhood advocates Israel’s destruction and supports Hamas, the terrorist group that governs in Gaza. And while Morsi upheld the 1979 peace treaty with Israel during his year in office, his refusal of contact with Israel and his warm relations with other Islamist governments, portended future tension between the countries.

With Morsi gone and the Egyptian military reasserting itself, Israel can breathe a little easier. Israel has enjoyed close co-operation with the Egyptian army in recent decades, born of their shared interest in combating terrorist groups and maintaining stability.

“To get rid of the Muslim Brotherhood is great for Egypt and for the region,” said Zvi Mazel, Israel’s ambassador to Egypt in the late 1990s. “It’s the best thing that has



A protest against now former-President Mohamed Morsi in Egypt on June 28.

happened this year. One of their central goals is to destroy Israel.”

The takeover also poses risks for Israel.

A weak and unstable Egypt will be less able to maintain calm in the Sinai Desert, act as an anchor of stability in the Arab world or step in as a mediator between Israel and its enemies.

And while dealing with a country led by secular pragmatists is obviously preferable to one led by Islamists, the 2011 Egyptian uprising showed that a government inclined positively toward Israel may only be possible amid significant repression at home.

Israel thus far has stayed silent in response to the unrest in Egypt’s capital, neither praising nor condemning the military’s actions nor reaching out publicly to the new government in formation.

In an interview last week with the Italian newspaper La Corriere Della Sera, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said only that Israel was watching events in Egypt very carefully. Netanyahu also made only passing reference to Egypt in his weekly speech to the Cabinet last Sunday.

The Israel Defence Forces also have reacted calmly. Troop activity on Israel’s southern border has not

increased meaningfully, despite a rocket exploding last week near the resort town of Eilat and the bombing of an Egyptian gas pipeline to Jordan.

Last week, Israel allowed Egypt to move troops into the Sinai - a move prohibited by their peace treaty - as an added security measure.

Despite ongoing close co-ordination between the Israeli and Egyptian militaries, the Sinai has been a hotspot of terrorist activity since Hosni Mubarak’s ouster, a situation that could get worse with Egypt’s top brass focused on containing the unrest in Cairo, which already

Lilian Wagdy via Wikimedia Commons

has claimed dozens of lives. In addition to the pipeline bombing, an Egyptian soldier was killed there last Sunday.

Morsi’s fall also has weakened Hamas, which enjoyed a small uptick in prestige during his administration. In October, the Emir of Qatar became the first head of state to visit Gaza. The following month, Morsi’s mediation of the conflict between Hamas and Israel led to a slight easing of Israel’s Gaza blockade.

Now, Hamas again is on the ropes. Its parent organisation has been removed from leadership after only a year and it has lost some financial support from Iran for choosing to back the rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, an Iranian ally. If the Egyptian military clamps down on weapons transfers in the Sinai and underground tunnels to Gaza, it could stanch Hamas’ supply chain.

For now, Israeli officials are reacting with a poker face. But if the Brotherhood’s fall portends a decline in Islamist fortunes across the region, Israelis will likely smile and collectively exhale.

“The interests of the [Egyptian] government are pragmatic - to work in Sinai against terror and to revive the Egyptian economy,” Mazel said. “They may even co-operate with us more economically. It was a cold peace. We’ll see what happens now.” (JTA)

## World News in Brief

### ‘Historic’ equal service bill does not apply to Israel’s Arabs



JERUSALEM - A bill requiring eligible ultra-Orthodox men to report for military duty or civilian service in Israel, was approved in a 14 - 4 vote by the Israeli Cabinet last Sunday.

The bill, proposed by a committee headed by Israeli Science and Technology Minister Yaakov Peri, states that starting in 2017, all eligible haredi men over the age of 18 will be expected to report at the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) induction centres for enlistment, excluding 1 800 students who will be granted exemptions.

The proposal allows for a three-year deferment of service, after which each individual will have to decide whether they wish to serve in the IDF or a civilian programme.

“After 65 years, we are righting the wrong of inequality in sharing the burden,” Israeli Finance Minister Yair Lapid said last Sunday, Israel Hayom reported. “It is for the good of the haredi community and for the good of Israeli society. There will be true equality after this Cabinet meeting. This is a historic day.”

Israeli Arabs were excluded from the proposed bill’s requirements. “I attach a great deal of importance to involving [haredim] and Israel’s Arab citizens in sharing the national burden, and the current proposal does address the issue, but I feel that it isn’t complete yet,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. “We will have to continue dealing with the matter.” (JNS.org)

### Emunah sues Chief Rabbinate to allow female supervisors

JERUSALEM - Emunah has sued Israel’s Chief Rabbinate to compel the body to recognise the kosher supervision certificate offered for the first time by the women’s group.

The lawsuit filed last week, calls on the Chief Rabbinate to allow the 16 female graduates of the group’s course in kosher supervision to work in their chosen profession. It also asks the court to compel the rabbinate to explain its policy.

One of the course graduates, Avivit Rabi, is a co-petitioner in the suit. Rabi is a mother of seven from the haredi Orthodox city of Beitar Illit. The Emunah course reportedly is in accordance with the curriculum recognised by the Chief Rabbinate.

Part of the policy that prevents women from applying for jobs as kosher supervisors is the requirement that they have a certificate that they studied in a yeshiva for a minimum of four years after age 18. Several female kosher inspectors have been working for years; they were hired before the rabbinate required special training courses starting in 2010. The female inspectors reportedly are highly respected. (JTA)

### Girls on PA TV call Jews ‘barbaric monkeys’

JERUSALEM - Two young sisters demonised Israel and the Jewish people in a poem they recited on Palestinian Authority TV (PA TV), with one of the girls calling Jews “barbaric monkeys, wretched pigs”, Palestinian Media Watch reported in its July 7 bulletin.

On the PA TV programme, “Palestine This Morning” July 3, one of the girls said of Jews: “Oh, you who were brought up on spilling blood; you have been condemned to humiliation and hardship. Oh Sons of Zion, oh most evil among creations; oh barbaric monkeys, wretched pigs.”

The other girl advocated for armed violence against Israel in the name of Islam, saying about Jerusalem: “As long as my heart is my Qu’ran and my city; As long as I have my arm and my stones; As long as I am free and do not barter my cause; I will not fear your throngs; I will not fear the rifle.” (JNS.org)

### Snowden says US and Israel created the Stuxnet virus



BONN - Whistleblower Edward Snowden has told a German magazine that Israel and the United States created the Stuxnet computer virus that destroyed nuclear centrifuges in Iran.

Snowden made the statement as part of an interview with the German news magazine Der Spiegel in which he answered encrypted questions sent by security software developer Jacob Appelbaum and documentary filmmaker Laura Poitras. Excerpts of the interview were published on Monday on the Spiegel website.

Snowden was asked if the US National Security Agency partners “with other nations, like Israel?” He responded that the NSA had a “massive body” responsible for such partnerships called the Foreign Affairs Directorate.

He also was asked: “Did the NSA help to create Stuxnet?” Snowden responded: “NSA and Israel co-wrote it.”

Stuxnet in 2010 wrought havoc on equipment at Iran’s Natanz nuclear plant and complicated the manufacture of highly enriched uranium, which the West suspects is intended for making atomic weapons. The virus temporarily disabled 1 000 centrifuges being used by the Iranians to enrich uranium.

Snowden, a former technical contractor for the NSA and employee of the CIA, last month revealed the existence of mass surveillance programmes by the United States and Britain against their own citizens and citizens of other countries.

He said Germany and most other Western nations were “in bed together” with the NSA.

Snowden said a private citizen would be targeted by the NSA based on Facebook or webmail content.

“The only one I personally know of that might get you hit untargeted are jihadi forums,” he said.

Snowden is a fugitive of the United States who is believed to be in Moscow’s Sheremetyevo Airport. Three Latin American countries - Venezuela, Nicaragua and Bolivia - have offered him asylum, NBC reported. (JTA)



# This fruit salad needs fresh ingredients

**Rebirth, written by Josh Ryba and Daniel Browde, with artwork by Josh Ryba and lettering by Thenjiwe Nkose and Daniel Browde (Reach Publishers: 2013) R320. Visit [www.rebirthgraphicnovel.com](http://www.rebirthgraphicnovel.com)**

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

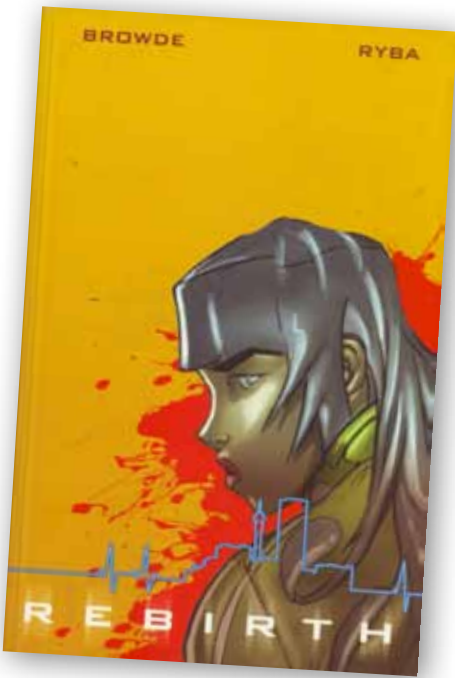
A gothic graphic novel with a complex back story which sucks South Africa’s famed first early Dutch settler, Jan van Riebeeck, into a historical coterie of vampires with a legacy and a mission, Rebirth is an ambitious project bringing together a fruit salad of cultural and violent references.

There’s an HIV twist regarding poisonous/diseased blood, and others which touch on issues of homelessness, prison dynamics and bullying.

Chronological swings between the 17th century and modern times, as well as regular shifts in the perspective of images, is nothing short of filmic, contributing breathlessly, if not always successfully, to the work’s readability.

Ultimately, however, the project is thwarted; in many respects, it lacks freshness. It is heavily reliant on the traditions of gothic narrative in a comic format - or as a filmed animation - before it, and while some of the drawing is superb, it is not consistently so.

Sometimes, the frames are handled with such enthusiasm that objective



distance gets lost and the zooming into details of scenes is so dramatic, images become abstract, their impact and context diluted.

Also, there’s a curious lack of attention to physiognomical stereotypes; more focus is attributed to the sexy violent vamps and ugly werewolves than to the other racial types dotting the story.

For instance, a foray with vast potential brings San culture and trance dancing into this yarn of European monsters. But the San characters look

more like Disney-fied hobbits with big bushy eyebrows than like the distinctive ancient community that peopled the Kalahari desert and much of the African interior, and the characterisation becomes heavily generic.

Also, too much reliance on digital effects tends to blur over some solid and beautifully handled line marks and capturing of movement and space in some of the consecutive frames.

The project has immensely provocative potential but its tendency to fit the genre is so earnest that the initiative, however shocking and innovative it attempts to be, is dulled.

We meet Westerford Samuels, a young man with dodgy roots and an inability to get a date or find focus in his life.

With his yellow eyeballs, he’s the pivot to the tale, which reveals an earnest but morally crooked scientist, some freaky monsters, a young girl turned vampire against her will and a miscellany of corrupt authority figures and victims.

Lacking a clear narrative voice, and embodying assumptions on the part of the reader as to the different proclivities and vulnerabilities of vampires, the story at times collapses into gratuitous violence; details and nuance get lost in the wash. It’s also damaged by red herrings, a casualty of its ambitious complexity.

## Arts News in Brief

### London Road opens at Alexander Bar in CT

London Road, the play by Nicholas Spagnoletti and directed by Lara Bye, which has taken audiences by storm for the last couple of years, opens this week at Alexander Bar in Cape Town. Featuring Robyn Scott and Ntombi Makhutse, it is a moving essay on the plight of an elderly Jewish woman, a resident of a Sea Point apartment in an area that has become notorious for crime. A widow, she is abandoned by her children, and becomes confidante to an African refugee. The season ends July 24, when the company travels to Scotland for the Edinburgh Festival.

### Shapiro among exclusive retailers showing their work

Cape Town-based ceramicist Anthony Shapiro is among the exclusive retailers who will be showing work at the upcoming St Leger and Viney’s Annual Fabric Sale, between July 24 and 27, in Sandton. The work has been described as “swoonworthy”. St Leger and Viney’s is a leading distributor of fine furnishings, fabrics and wallpaper in South Africa. It was established under the leadership of Gary Searle in 1989. Visit [www.stleger.co.za](http://www.stleger.co.za) for further details.

### Hilariously dark ‘The Last Show’ for Wits 969 Festival

On July 13 and 14, as part of the Wits 969 Festival, which comprises a selection of work performed at the Grahamstown National Arts Festival, “The Last Show” directed by Jemma Kahn and conceived of and written by Gwydion Beynon in collaboration with the cast, Toni Morkel and Roberto Pombo, performs. The play is about the end of the world, featuring a wrought mother and son, and promises to be hilariously dark. Visit [www.wits.ac.za/witstheatre/20372/](http://www.wits.ac.za/witstheatre/20372/) for more details about Wits 969 and the other 10 shows on the festival, which has been curated by Wits Theatre’s new artistic director, Gita Pather.

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‘NOBAMA COALITION’ AND COHORTS MERRILY USE AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY

The “Nobama Coalition” who protested US President Barack Obama’s visit to South Africa, were doing so because they say: “Millions are denied academic freedom as a result of US imperialism.”

They should go to any Arab country to experience the lack of freedom which they accuse the US of. The US is the world’s largest democracy and accounts for 25 per cent of the world’s GDP, although it has less than five per cent of the population of the world. This is more than all the Arab nations’ GDP put together.

To top it all, every single Arab and Muslim country import Chevrolet and Ford vehicles, not to mention Apple iPhones and iPads, computers and Windows software.

The organiser of the protest, Shaheed Mahomed and his followers should get real: The US is a world leader in almost every facet of technology - even the cell phones used by Arab terrorists to set off IUD devices (bombs).

The protests by the “Nobama Coalition” are as devoid of logic as that of suicide bombers.

Nathan Cheiman  
Northcliff, Johannesburg

IS THIS MERELY ALL A LOT OF HOT AIR?

The article “Shaking hands not so cool” (SAJR June 28), about the danger of spreading germs by way of shaking hands after shul, refers. By shaking hands I assume it is meant grasping another person’s hand rather than hand tremors.

My opinion is that one’s immune system can cope with a handshake, assuming that the other party in the operation has used a handkerchief or tissue rather than wiping his runny nose with a bare hand!

Seriously though, one is likely to be infected if one is subjected to high concentration of bacteria for a relatively long time, say five to 10 minutes. The bacterial concentration will build up if someone is coughing and/or sneezing and there is a lack of airflow. Some examples are classrooms in winter, shuls in winter, parties and bedrooms in winter.

I am more concerned with another phenomenon as described by Barry Ronge (Sunday Times 20/2/11) where he describes the efforts of the minister of justice in Malawi who failed to have a law passed regarding rear end winds from being launched in public places.

From a legal perspective it would be as difficult to prove who had given one flu as if would be to prove who had contaminated the air space in a busy shopping mall.

John Brenner  
Johannesburg

JWBS’ L’Chaim sure to be a popular acquisition

The Jewish Women’s Benevolent Society (JWBS) is publishing a new recipe book, L’Chaim, the JWBS said in a media release.

Endorsed by the Chief Rabbi, this beautiful recipe book illustrates how Shabbos provides a vital opportunity for Jewish people to connect with each other and enjoy delicious food. Dedicated to a stalwart of the JWBS, Vera Davimes, this recipe book has been compiled by her granddaughter, Sherri Hanson, and her friend Nicki Toys.

A labour of love, L’Chaim contains tried and tested recipes, each of which can only enhance the experience of Shabbat.

The JWBS has played a pivotal role in the lives of so many people since its inception 120 years ago and it is hoped that this book will make a substantial contribution towards further assisting those in need as well as provide wonderful recipes for Shabbos and other special occasions.

L’Chaim is officially being launched on August 7 at the Waverley Shul Hall where books can be purchased between 08:30 and 12:30, at a price of R270.

The JWBS invites members of the community to come and enjoy a muffin and coffee with them and to buy their own copy of L’Chaim at the same time.For more information, call (011) 485-5232 or e-mail Gloria@jwbs.co.za



MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT COMMUNAL FUNDING SHOULD BE CLARIFIED

I take issue with the view proposed by Keren Chazen in her letter in last week’s Jewish Report, titled “Addressing top of triangle while bottom crumbles underneath”, regarding the funding of community organisations.

There are two things, about which she is miseducated. The first is, she uses Maslow’s hierarchy as a guide to the giving of charity. A basic principle of the Torah, is that a person’s neshoma (soul) is much more valuable than his body.

It is just that without the body’s needs being tended to, a person cannot perform the real task of life, which is for the neshoma to get closer to Hashem - that is why one can even do certain aveiras to ensure the survival of the body.

But other than being a means to serve Hashem, the body is utterly inconsequential to the real creation of man, which is his neshoma. That being so, one cannot merely neglect those institutions which are the driving force behind a person’s neshoma, such as shuls, yeshivot, kollels, etc.

The Rambam, in teaching the laws of tzedakah, states that the support of Talmidey Chachamim (Torah scholars) and those who uphold authentic Torah study and prayer, is one of the greatest fulfilments of the mitzvah of tzedakah - no less than welfare.

The second point that needs correcting, is the reality on

the ground regarding the funding of our institutions. The overwhelming majority of people’s charity distribution here in Johannesburg is allocated to the Chevrah Kadisha and similar welfare organisations.

I know this because I have been involved (on a silent basis), in community funding for over 15 years. From the major donors right to the man on the street, there is no question that the greater proportion of their generosity, is given to welfare.

Our Torah and tefilla institutions struggle tremendously to cover their budgets because their criticality is not as easily understood, due to the miseducation referred to in the first point.

One need merely acknowledge the sad reality of assimilation in Johannesburg Jewry which is now estimated to be between 30 - 40 per cent, to understand the criticality of more kiruv trips and structures.

Thus, while welfare organisations need their share of the pie, the reality on the ground is that they are the least neglected of all. May Hashem bless us as a community that we are able to cover the needs of both the neshoma and the body.

Jonathan Kaplan  
Illovo, Johannesburg

MIND BOGGLING THAT SA PEOPLE OF COLOUR WOULD TRAMPLE OBAMA PHOTO

The front page in last week’s Jewish Report, showing South African people of colour kicking a photo of US President Barak Obama, is dumbfounding.

African people were slaves in the United States for over 200 years and legal discrimination against them followed for a century. The Civil Rights Movement, with the Dr Martin Luther King at the forefront, put a stop to the discriminatory notion of “separate but equal”.

Discrimination is learnt and deep-seated, therefore discrimination in many parts of America is alive and well till this day.

With this in mind, it is an incredible feat that Pres Obama was democratically elected as the first African American to ever become a US president; indeed his wife, Michelle, is descendent from slaves.

It astounds me that there are Africans (and other

people of colour) in this country who are not proud of him and for the equality that has been achieved for minorities in America. That they can dismiss everything in their hatred for Israel, is stupefying and counterproductive.

They claim that Obama supports “the racist Israeli regime...” Israel is not racist; in fact, it is they who are racist and too ignorant and blind to recognise this fact.

Martin Luther King said: “When people criticise Zionists, they mean Jews. You’re talking anti-Semitism.” Targeting Jews just because they are Jewish is racist. Anti-Zionism is denying Jews their right to a homeland. That is also racist.

Michelle Engelberg  
Johannesburg

World News in Brief

German newspaper’s cartoon depicting Israel as wild monster draws ire

BERLIN - Israeli Ambassador to Germany Yakov Hadas-Handelsman and Jewish activists, have criticised a major Munich newspaper, Süddeutsche Zeitung, for publishing a cartoon demonising Israel.

The cartoon - which the newspaper has since apologised for and called “a mistake” - depicted Israel as a wild monster about to feast with a fork and a knife while being served by a woman, along with the wording: “Germany is serving. Israel has been given weapons for decade- and partly free of charge. Israel’s enemies think it is a ravenous Moloch.”

Associate Dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre Rabbi Abraham Cooper said: “The characterisation of the Jewish State as a ravenous Moloch - an idol to whom children were sacrificed - is a blatant anti-Semitic canard,” the Jerusalem Post reported.

Hadas-Handelsman wrote a letter to

Kurt Kister, the German paper’s editor-in-chief, stating that the drawing “crossed the line of acceptable journalism”. (JNS.org)

Agudath Israel of America: Rabbi Sacks needs to apologise

WASHINGTON - At his recent retirement dinner, Rabbi Jonathan Sacks (pictured) of the UK, decried the insularity of certain Jewish groups as inimical to the progress of Judaism. Now, Agudath Israel of America, perceiving a slight against its community, has issued a statement criticising Sacks.

The gist of the complaint is that Sacks is misguided about the haredi community:

“Portraying the “ultra-Orthodox” world as detached from awareness of, and interaction with, the larger world betrays an astounding ignorance of reality. Not only are haredim in the workplace and the “outside world,” but the haredi universe has played a leading role, if not the leading role, in outreach to the rest of the Jewish community with a wealth of chesed,

limud haTorah and kiruv projects.

“Many haredi-sponsored initiatives touch the non-Jewish world as well. Haredi communities have developed healthy, sophisticated relationships with governmental representatives and public institutions. Rabbi Sacks appears not to know the world he arrogates to judge. Moreover, on top of these falsities, Sacks misunderstands the nature of Judaism:

“Most important, Rabbi Sacks seems not to comprehend that the very insularity and intensive focus on Torah that characterise the haredi world are no mere sociological trends. They are, rather, the means to accomplish the ultimate mandate for all Jews: the preservation of our mesorah, and its transmission, in as pure and clear a way as possible, to the next generation and beyond.” (JTA)





# ABCs of Tisha B'Av and the Three Weeks

**RABBI SHRAGA SIMMONS**  
**AISH HATORAH**

The “Three Weeks” between the 17th of Tammuz and Tisha B'Av, have historically been days of misfortune and calamity for the Jewish people. During this time, both the First and Second Temples were destroyed, among other tragedies.

During this time, various aspects of mourning are observed by the entire nation. We minimise joy and celebration - no weddings are held, we don't listen to music, nor are there haircuts or shaving. The expressions of mourning take on greater intensity as we approach the day of Tisha B'Av.

On Shabbat during the Three Weeks, the Haftorahs are taken from chapters in Isaiah and Jeremiah dealing with the Temple's destruction and the exile of the Jewish people.

Agonising over these events is meant to help us conquer those spiritual deficiencies which brought about these tragic events. Through the process of “teshuva” - self-introspection and a commitment to improve - we have the power to transform tragedy into joy. In fact, the Talmud says that after the future redemption of Israel and the rebuilding of the Temple, these days will be re-dedicated as days of rejoicing and festivity.

The story is told of Napoleon walking through the streets of

Paris one Tisha B'Av. As he passed a synagogue he heard the sounds of mourning and crying. “What's this all about?” Napoleon asked. An aide explained that the Jews were in mourning the loss of their Temple. “When did this happen?” Napoleon asked. The aide replied, “About 1 700 years ago.” Napoleon said: “Certainly a people which has mourned the loss of their Temple for so long, will merit to see it rebuilt!”

**The Nine Days**

The period commencing with Rosh Chodesh Av is called the “Nine Days”. During this time, a stricter level of mourning is observed, in accordance with the Talmudic dictum (Ta'anit 26): “When the month of Av begins, we reduce our joy.”

During this time the additional “signs of mourning” include abstaining from meat and wine (except on Shabbat) and from doing laundry or wearing freshly laundered clothes (except on Shabbat). We also do not bathe for pleasure, though it is permitted to bathe in cool water in order to remove dirt or perspiration.

**Tisha B'Av - Ninth of Av**

The intensity of mourning reaches a peak on Tisha B'Av, five national calamities occurred:

1. During the time of Moses, Jews in the desert accepted the slanderous report of the 12 Spies,



- and the decree was issued forbidding them from entering the Land of Israel. (1312 BCE)
2. The First Temple was destroyed by the Babylonians and Nebuchadnezzar. (586 BCE)
3. The Second Temple was destroyed by the Romans. (70 CE)
4. The Bar Kochba revolt was crushed by Roman Emperor Hadrian. (135 CE)
5. The Temple Mount was plowed under, and Jerusalem was rebuilt as a pagan city.

Other grave misfortunes throughout Jewish history coincided with the Ninth of Av, including the expulsion from Spain in 1492, the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, and the mass deportation of Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto

in 1942.

During the late afternoon prior to Tisha B'Av, it is customary to eat Seudah Hamaf-seket - a meal consisting only of bread, water and a hard-boiled egg. The food is dipped in ashes, symbolic of mourning, and eaten while seated on the ground. (The rules are slightly different when Tisha B'Av falls on Shabbat or Sunday.)

Sundown marks the commencement of Tisha B'Av, where no eating or drinking is permitted until nightfall the following evening. It is also forbidden to bathe or wash, wear leather shoes, or engage in marital relations. We also do not learn Torah, except for texts relevant to Tisha B'Av and mourning.

The Book of Eicha (Lamenta-

tions), Jeremiah's poetic lament over the destruction of Jerusalem and the First Temple, is read in the synagogue as part of the evening service. Special “Kinot” (elegies) are also recited, both at night and during the day.

Other mourning practices include sitting on a low chair (after mid-day, a regular chair permitted; We also minimise business and leisure activities.

Following Tisha B'Av, all normal activities may be resumed, except for the following which are delayed until midday of the 10th of Av, because the burning of the Temple continued through the 10th of Av: haircuts, washing clothes, bathing, listening to music, and eating meat and wine.

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# To young and old, this dynamic hands-on rabbi oozes Yiddishkeit

SUZANNE BELLING

One of the young bright stars in the Johannesburg Jewish community’s firmament is Rabbi Ari Kievman, who shines his light on seniors through his Chabad Chai Seniors Club every weekday at Chabad House, Savoy.

He also brings “heaven on earth” to congregants, visitors and neighbours through Chabad’s Goodness and Kindness Centre Shul in Central Sandton, as well as embracing the youth, who play their role in mitvto’im - showing the elderly how to lay tefillin - and teaching them how to become computer literate.

Rabbi Kievman grew up outside Crown Heights, New York, and came to South Africa in 2002 as a yeshiva bocher and shaluach, obtaining smicha from the SA Institute for Rabbinical Training in Pretoria.

“My parents wanted to keep me close, but I had a yearning to study overseas for personal growth.”

After graduating from the Lubavitch School, New York, he became the proprietor of a newspaper The New York Jewish Consumers’ Guide.

“The publication comprised 50 per cent advertorial and I was able to make enough money to pay my ye-

shiva fees.”

He also studied for a year in London at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Chabad Yeshiva.

Back in New York, on the eve of his marriage to Batya, she asked him in which US state he would like to live.

“My reply was ‘South Africa’. She protested it was not an American state, but I returned with her in 2008.”

His schedule is filled to the brim. At Chabad House there is a daily programme for seniors regardless of age. “At one stage, Issy Singer, a 101-year-old resident of Sandringham Gardens, (he passed recently at 103) participated.”

The seniors programme includes Project Connect. “We received a donation of 10 iPads from the Ichikowitz family and Jewish high school boys and girls teach them computer literacy and how to get connected through Skype with their family and friends throughout the world.

“This takes place twice a week, but the iPads are available to any of the seniors who want to use them more frequently. It has made such a difference to their lives.”

On Mondays, an occupational therapist Cynthia Liptz conducts memory enhancement (mind stimu-

lation), relaxation therapy and arts and crafts. On Tuesdays there is learning for women with Aviva Goldman and arts and crafts with Bracha Jasvin, Thursdays and Fridays Rabbi Shlomo Raitport conducts Torah learning, while Thursdays also embrace an exclusive women’s shiur with Rebbetzen Chaya Haller.

Rabbi Kievman gives a shiur on a daily basis as part of the programme. “I use video and multimedia, to bring the subject matter to life.

“The seniors are served a hot, nutritious meal after the morning’s programme and, on Fridays, if we have a sponsorship, there is take-home food for Shabbos, as well as food-for-thought.”

As if the Chabad House project was not enough for the intrepid rabbi, he accompanies boys and girls to retirement villages, hospitals, offices and homes where they bring Yiddishkeit into the lives of members of the community. One man in his 90s was taught how to lay tefillin which he had never done throughout his life.

Seniors are also offered transport, festival and birthday celebrations, workshops pertaining to the various chagim such as mishloach manos packing, a model matzah bakery, olive oil press, candle factory and a mikveh tour. There are also outings



to places of interest and job placements for seniors able to work in the open market.

Rabbi Kievman does not rest on his laurels - he is excited about the development of the Chabad Goodness and Kindness Centre in central Sandton, a vision of Rabbi David Masinter. The shul, having started in the Garden Court, Sandton, has its own premises which are a national heritage site.

To avoid interference with the original building, a glass facade is to be built on the outside. This will be a walk-around museum, aimed mainly at children and which people of all persuasions are expected to patronise.

“Perhaps the most essential feature is the establishment of unique experiential exhibits, where children

will be able to feel and taste the horror of fanaticism, countered with the exciting feeling of success generated by belief in oneself and a dream for the future, with genuine caring for others.”

Themes of audiovisual presentations will educate the children on poverty, bullying, acrimony, family issues, humiliation, blindness and deafness, disabilities, drug abuse and responsible living.

The shul at present has daily minyanim, Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) courses which include themes on the Temple, Talmud, Kabbalah and ethics.

Rabbi Kievman hosts Friday night dinners for visitors - some from abroad - to the area and holds shiurim for business people in the Sandton CBD.

# Jewish Comradeship for a good cause

SHIRA DRUION

The Comrades Marathon is viewed as one of the greatest ultra-marathon in the world, where athletes from all over the globe set out to conquer the approximately gruelling 90 kilometres between Pietermaritzburg and Durban. It attracts thousands of runners, spectators and television viewers every year.

This year this more than challenging run had a noble goal in sight for a large group of participants as they collaborated to run in support of the Malka Ella Fertility Fund which aids couples struggling to afford fertility treatment.

Four years ago, two Johannesburg long-distance runners recognised that running the Comrades was a personal achievement and that the success upon the completion was limited to the runners themselves.

They knew that in a number of international races, the entry to participate could only be obtained by raising funds for a charitable cause. With this in mind, they decided that running for a charity would bolster their purpose and also simultaneously assist a worthy cause.

They approached the Malka Ella Fund, knowing that if the financial burden of fertility treatment could be lessened, the struggle for the desperate couples would be less laden with angst and anguish.



**The Frankel family at the Comrades this year: Back: Tali Frankel's mother, Leonie Rootshtain; Tali; and Dani (10). Front: Amit (7); and Amalia (4).**

The motto they adopted is: “Running for the next generation”. They believe that every step taken helps to bring a new Jewish soul into the world. So far the funds raised from the Comrades collaboration, have helped to allow more than 10 babies to be born through fertility treatment.

The group of Comrades runners decided on the Malka Ella Fertility Fund as a worthwhile cause not only for the unique and important work that they do to help bring Jewish life into the world but this year, the group also ran in loving memory of Ilana Klaff, a

young mother who passed away from cancer earlier this year.

“When I found out that this year’s Malka Ella fundraiser was to be run in honour of Ilana Klaff, I knew for certain I had picked the right one,” says, runner, Tali Frankel.

“My husband, three children, my sister and mother, all dressed in official Malka Ella supporter T shirts and caps, met me four times along the route. At Camperdown with 27 km still to cover I worried that I had not left myself enough time to finish. My overriding thought was that my children would be waiting at the finish line. They had put so much faith in me, they had supported so trustingly, there was no way I would let them down. With 62 minutes left on the clock from the top of Polly Shorts, I ran as if my life depended on it.”

The Malka Ella runners included: Kevin Black; Lawrence Diamond; Ryan Perel; Dani Smith; Rael Smith; Tali Frankel; Tali Zulberg; Ilan Zwarenstein; Adam Greenblatt; Gary Lefevre; Jason Lemmer; Menachem Kay; Selwyn Kahlberg; Mike Greenblatt; Saul Greenblatt; Gabrielle Den-nill; Candy Kagan; Ivan Shewitz; Glen Lazarus; Steven Isaacson; Norman Krom; Neil Jankelowitz; Craig Ner-wich; Peter Williams; Jeffery Froom; Mark Lapedus; Philip Froom; Yaron Zimble; Meir Zaiden; Shira Zadikov; Nirit Mindel; Uriel Gochin; Eldon Beinart; and Neil Lewus.

# Innovative fundraiser with a marimba beat

Sydenham Highlands North Community Centre presents “Sounds of Celebration”, an Education Africa project, at the Theatre of Marcellus at Emperors Palace, on Wednesday, July 31.

In a media release the Community Centre - of the Sydenham Highlands North Hebrew Congregation - describes Sounds of Celebration as “an instrumental blend of Jewish and African music”. Guest performers are Alex Jacobowitz, classical marimba master, Andy Narell, “steel pannist extraordinaire”, Alan Thompson (clarinettist), Sonja van Zyl (pianist) and the Stoneridge Marimba Band from Eden Park, Tokoza. The Stoneridge Marimba Band (pictured), has performed internationally in Vienna and New York.

It is scripted and hosted by David Bloch. Tickets can be obtained from Computicket. Ticket prices range from R80 to R140.

Pieces performed will include a world premiere of Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph’s classical marimba composition, with artful blends of musical cultures.

The NGO Education Africa “strives to

reach and uplift the poorest of the poor”, according to the background material. “They aim to assist disadvantaged South Africans in their quest to obtain a quality, relevant education in order to ensure membership among global citizens in a competitive, productive job market.”

Beneficiaries of the main event will include Education Africa, purchase of marimbas, including a training programme, and the Sydenham Highlands North Community Centre.

In an appeal for donations the Community Centre offers three “tiered opportunities”, ranging from R10 000 to R50 000.

Education Africa’s projects include the Walter Sisulu Scholarship Fund; social architecture (architectural students from international universities come to South Africa to design and construct pre-schools, skills centres and facilities for the disabled); Cycle Aid for Africa; My Maths Buddy (a maths dictionary for both learners and teachers); Masibambane College in Orange Farm; early childhood development training workshops, etc.





A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

## Honouring our top achievers

Since 1999, it has been the regular practice of the Board to honour at its national congress members of our community adjudged to have rendered outstanding service to South Africa and to its Jewish community.

The SAJBD Human Rights Award, inaugurated at the 1999 conference, recognises those who have contributed significantly to the struggle for justice in South Africa. Arthur Chaskalson was chosen to be its first recipient, since which we have honoured such legendary human rights activists as Albie Sachs, Helen Suzman, Arthur Goldreich, Isie Maisels, Sydney Kentridge and Michael Schneider.

The awards have been formally presented in the presence of such leaders of South Africa as Presidents Thabo Mbeki and Jacob Zuma and Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe.

At this year's post-conference gala dinner, it will be our great pleasure to present our award to Benjamin Pogrand. In the course of his distinguished journalistic career, Benjamin was at the forefront of those who exposed and confronted the myriad injustices of the apartheid system.

In 1997, he moved to Israel, where he founded Yakar's Centre for Social Concern to foster dialogue between the country's diverse peoples, including between Israelis and Palestinians. In recent years, he has consistently made himself available to helping us combat anti-Israel propaganda.

In 2003, the Board introduced the Eric Samson Mendel Kaplan Communal Service Award, which recognises those who have made a particularly noteworthy

contribution to Jewish communal affairs. The tradition that has emerged has been to present two awards, one for service to the community in a professional and the other in a lay capacity. This year, the recipients will be Isla Feldman and Professor Michael Katz.

Isla has served for over three decades as head of the Jewish National Fund and latterly at the head of the SA Zionist Federation as well. She has always mirrored in her tremendous commitment the devotion of the greater Jewish community to Zionism and the State of Israel.

Michael's service to our community likewise goes back over 30 years. In addition to the official positions he has held, including as national chairman of the SAJBD, he has played an invaluable role in an informal capacity, placing his valuable time and professional expertise at the disposal of the Jewish community and assisting its leadership in resolving some of the most pressing challenges that have confronted it.

### Kitkes for Madiba

As reported elsewhere in this issue, last week the Board arranged for dozens of Jewish women to come together to bake challahs in a traditional Jewish gesture of prayer and solidarity for someone who is seriously ill.

The challahs were then personally delivered to two aged homes in Alexandra, where participants joined with the residents in sharing their feelings for our beloved former president and praying for his recovery.

I warmly commend our National Director Wendy Kahn and everyone else who was involved in putting together this beautiful initiative and ensuring that, despite the short notice, it was such a success. Special thanks go to Emunah, who partnered with us and made their premises available for the purpose.

• Listen to Steven Gruzd on Jewish Board Talk on 101.9 ChaiFM every Friday 12:00-13:00.

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

## Love brought out the poet in centenarian Henry Kerr

LEILA ROSE (HENRY KERR'S SISTER IN JOHANNESBURG)

Henry Kerr, who spent the bulk of his working life in South Africa, celebrated his 100th birthday on July 1 in a retirement home in London.

Kerr arrived in Johannesburg from London in 1954 and worked here in the insurance industry until the 1980s when he moved back to England to be with his daughter and family.

The couple lived in Bournemouth until his wife, Gladys, died. After that he moved to a retirement home in Golders Green, London.

It was there that he met, fell in love and married Valerie Berkowitz three years ago when he was 97.

Vallerie originally came from Kinross and later taught for many years at King David High School. The coincidence was great that they should have met in London, having both lived in South Africa.

They are both very active. He likes writing poetry and has written many poems dedicated to her and has started a poetry society in the retirement home. Mentally he is still as sharp as a pin, although he is now confined to a wheelchair.



### World News in Brief

## Holocaust survivors to receive compensation from Hungary

BUDAPEST - Hungary will resume compensation to Holocaust survivors after settling a dispute with the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), ending a year-long freeze on payments. About 600 000 Hungarian Jews were killed in the Holocaust.

The Hungarian government had signed a five-year agreement with the Claims Conference in 2007 to distribute \$21 million to Holocaust survivors, but then accused the Claims Conference of improper calculations. The Claims Conference denied that accusation.

The parties have now agreed to bring in an independent international auditing firm to monitor all accounting.

"Holocaust survivors of Hungarian origin living abroad will be able to receive as soon as possible the compensation to which they are entitled... In order to now faster disburse restitution monies, the government will transfer \$5.6 million within three days," said Janos Lazar, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's chief of staff, according to AFP. (JNS.org)

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# Maurice puts his money where his mouth is



The City Masters Sport and Education Club, is an initiative of the Pauline Podbrey Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation committed to uplifting the circumstances and opportunities of youngsters in the townships of Cape Town.

The Foundation provides the children who belong to the club, with a safe place to do homework in the afternoons, computers, tutoring, regular outings and the equipment and clothing required to play football.

The teams play regularly against other teams, both within the city and the township. There are also girls’ football teams. The Foundation receives no support from government and is grateful for any donations it receives, either from corporate or private entities.

The children live in the most terrible, barren, desperate place in Khayelitsha. Maurice Podbrey (pictured with a team of young soccer players) has built a clubhouse for them with showers, desks, a kitchen, a little library and of course the football field (no grass of course - all dust and stones).

He has paid for much of this himself, though the Canadian government did donate at one point, as did an Austrian businessman.

The club is audited professionally and now Podbrey is trying to train up some of the youngsters by sending them on bookkeeping, business management and computer courses, The youngest kids are about eight, the oldest ones in their late teens.

Contact Maurice Podbrey at 082-6696-432.




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# ‘Generation Sinai’ teaches little ones Torah value



OWN CORRESPONDENT PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

Generation Sinai at Sandton Sinai Nursery School, took the form of a “Moms Morning, where Torah values were taught. Pictured are Elisheva and Danit Marcow, with mom Kerry Marcow and grandmother Dorian Shear.

# Hirsch Lyons boys bring warmth to an Orchards shelter

ELANA GORDON

Two of Hirsch Lyons Primary School’s big chesed projects this term, have been to collect Yomtov clothing for Divote for child victims of terror in Israel.

Divote provides these children with a little joy in very tough situations.

The Hirsch Lyons children also collected blankets and toiletries in honour of former President Nelson Mandela and the grade 6 boys delivered the items to a shelter in Orchards in Johannesburg.

A big thank you goes to our very generous parents.



Hirsch Lyons grade 6 boys deliver blankets to a shelter in Orchards, Johannesburg.

# YCNS tots wish Madiba well

BATYA BRICKER

Yeshiva College Nursery School wishes Madiba well with a giant “get well card” presented to his family at his home in Houghton.



Photo by Lisa Chaitowitz

# Youngsters at KDLPP get into Maccabi spirit big time

ROMY BRAVO



King David Linksfield Pre-Primary School had a most successful Maccabi Day last week Friday. Each year represented a different country and all the parents were invited to attend.

The children started off by singing Hatikvah and Nkosi Sikelel iAfrica, followed by a song and dance from each country that they represented.

The school then had various sports activities for the children . At the end of these activities, each child was presented with a medal and a certificate.



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What's On

SA JEWISH REPORT 15

Sunday (July 14)

- Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St John's College in St John's Road Houghton at 14:15, with a programme of great Big Bands and artists of yesteryear. Information: Dave, (011) 885-3525 or Barney, (011) 440-1996.

Wednesday (July 17)

- UJW CT adult education programme hosts Janet Perrott Goedgedacht who will talk on "The Biggest Community Development Organisation in SA". Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (July 18)

- JWBS' 120th AGM takes place at the at Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Guest speaker Emilia Potenza, curator at the Apartheid Museum, will talk on "The Life and Times of Nelson Mandela". To facilitate catering, please advise whether you will be

- UJW - Leora offers the community the lending of rehabilitative equipment such as a wheelchair, walker or crutches on a short-term basis for a refundable deposit. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

- JWBS Johannesburg, urgently requires second-hand clothing, kitchenware, household goods, books and bric-a-brac. Proceeds to support the less fortunate in our community. Contact (011) 485-5232

- Celebrating a bar-/batmitzvah? Why not give a donation to WIZO's bar-/batmitzvah project in Israel? You get a beautiful certificate to give to the bar-/batmitzvah child here. Certificates are available from WIZO tel (011) 645-2548.

- Second Innings runs a series courses and activities including scrabble, bridge, discussion groups, play reading groups, women's and men's reading groups, symphony concert rehearsals, bowls, pilates, Yogic Pranayama, walking and aerobics, Golden Oldies Cine Club, weekly workshops (by arrangement) on "falls education for the elder adult", and organises regular activities. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

- The Benevolent Gift Shop (formerly Benarc Gift Shop) has gift presentations for all occasions, made to order. Call (011) 485-5232, JWBS. All kosher under the Beth Din. Proceeds to support the less fortunate in our community.

- Elise WIZO Gift Shop has an exciting range of gifts avail-

attending by July 10. Contact: (011) 485-5232.

Monday (July 22)

- UJW adult education division hosts Prof Barry Schoub, former director of NICD and renowned virologist, who will talk on "Science Versus Religion" Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Tuesday (July 23)

- UJW adult education division hosts Arlene Bernstein, former head of LifeLine, on "Issues Worrying You, followed by a group discussion. Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

Wednesday (July 24)

- Liliesleaf Trust, the SAJBD and the JHGC, present and evening of dialogue and reflection: a panel discussion on "What Do We Remember?", reflecting on the roles of Jews in the Struggle. With Justice Albie Sachs; Denis Goldberg, AnnMarie

able. Contact (011) 640-2760 or call in at Genesis, bottom level of the Genesis Shopping Centre, 3 Bradfield Drive, Fairmount.

- Chabad House hosts a series of events throughout the year. Chai Seniors - Holistic & Kabbalistic Nourishment". Daily programmes: Men's Kolel Mon-Fri at Chabad House Library, 09:00 -11:00, followed by lunch. Ladies Kolel Tuesdays & Thursdays. Special programmes: Mondays: Brain Worx with occupational therapist, Cynthia Liptz for brain exercises, 09:00 – 13:00. Both men and women welcome. Tuesdays: Guest lectures. For more info contact Rabbi Ari Kievman (011) 440-6600 or e-mail rak@chabad.org.za

- Bnoth Zion Association WIZO is collecting anything of value for its store. Contact (021) 464-6729 or Linda Saban 072-245-3225 or Cherna Kredo 084-589-8588.

- Intimate Antiques Fair held on last Sunday of every month at Cedar Square corner Witkoppen/Cedar Avenue in Fourways, from 09:00 - 16:00. Contact Robyn 083-311-4768.

- The Selwyn Segal Gift Centre has a wonderful selection of well priced gifts for all occasions. Visit them Monday to Thursday from 8.30 to 4.00 and Friday till 2.00 Phone (011) 640-6413 or (011) 640-5171 Web site: www.selwynsegalgifts.co.za

- Join WIZO every Thursday for a "Lunch & Learn" shiur

Wolpe; and Zev Krenkel. Venue: Liliesleaf, 7 George Ave, Rivonia. Time: 18:00 for 18:30. Booking essential. Contact Thuli on (011) 640-3100.

- UJW adult education division hosts Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, former lecturer in the Department of English at Wits on the first of a series of five lectures on "Contemporary Poetry". Venue: 1 Oak Street, Houghton. Time: 09:30. Donation: R30. Contact: (011) 648-1053.

- Second Innings hosts an outing to Kibbutz Lubner. Meet the bus at 09:00 in front of Golden Acres. Cost:R110 includes bus and tea for members; R130 for visitors. Contact: Grecia at grecia@jhbchev.co.za, or (011) 532-9718 or 082-561-3228.

Friday (July 26)

- UZLC hosts Ronnie Mink on "The Fate of the Hungarian Jews in the Holocaust". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact: Gloria, 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

with Rabbi Michael Katz, 13:00 - 14:00 at Beyachad. Information: WIZO office (011) 645-2515. Joyce, (011) 640-2416.

- Stellenbosch Hebrew Congregation has a Friday evening service every week in shul, starting at 18:45. Contact (021) 886-5257.

- The Yiddish Academy offers weekly basic, intermediate and advanced classes on Monday evenings at 19:30, Tuesday mornings at 10:30 and Thursday evenings at 19:30 at the RCHCC, Glenhove Road, Houghton. Conversational groups. Details: e-mail yiddishacademy@gmail.com or call Hazel Cohen on (011) 728-8088.

- Supervised bridge with Jeff Sapire Tuesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (intermediary) and Wednesday morning 10:00 - 12:00 (advanced), at the Clive M Beck Auditorium. Booking: Hazel or René, (011) 728-8088/8378. E-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za

- Beis Midrash Chofetz Chaim is offering a second ma'ariv minyan every weekday evening (Monday - Friday) at 21:00, cnr Elray and Michel Streets, Raedene. Open to broader community. Don't fret if you need a later minyan. Secure parking provided.

- Sunday Scrabble Club meets every Sunday at 10:00 at Zahava's, Grant Avenue, Norwood, off 9th Street. Cost R5. Players of all strengths welcome. Larry 082-888-5355.

**WINNERS OF THE SELWYN SEGAL 200 CLUB DRAW ON JUNE 27**

**1st Prize R20 000** E Frohlich **2nd Prize R10 000** Bev Leon **5 x 3rd Prizes of R3 000 each** Colin Meyerowitz, Gerald Rubinstein, Sid Forman, Jeff Bortz, Bernie Sher **10 x 4th prizes of R1 000 each** Irwin Sacks, Sean Melnick, Gerald Rubinstein, Norman Stein, Ronald Ungar, Barry Resnick, Sean Silverman, David Behr, Mervyn Aires, Larry Nestadt. *Our sincere thanks to to all who participated and Grant Thornton for their supervision of the draw. Thank you*



# MSA predicts a hoard of Maccabiah medals



The under-18 and under-16 football teams who will represent South Africa at the Maccabi Games that begin in Israel next week.



## ROCKING THE BOAT *Jack Milner*

On Saturday night the South African onslaught on the Maccabiah begins when the first wave of the 355-strong contingent of athletes and officials flies to Israel. They will be followed on Monday by the balance of the team.

The delegation comprises athletes of all ages and according to Maccabi South Africa (MSA) Chairman Cliff Garrun, some 210 are under the age of 21.

“It’s a massive delegation and we have some really strong teams,” said Garrun. “The guys have trained very hard and have focused on their training over a lengthy period of time.

“As always our cricket teams look very strong and I believe we have a powerful cycling team which includes a South African champion in the form of Kevin Evans. Our half-marathon team is good and for the first time we are taking basketball and girls’ soccer teams along.”

South Africa has always fielded a strong rugby team and for the first time junior rugby will be played in Israel and MSA will have a team participating in the event.

“We have some good players in the rugby team. From Western Province we have Paul Cohen and David Geffin, who is a forwards and plays for False Bay first team. Josh Durbach plays for Wits University at Varsity Cup level while we also have Jason Hirschovitz, who is a former Kearsney College boy from Durban and has a bursary at Tukkie’s where he plays for their under-20 team,” said Garrun.

Cape Town will be sending some 77 participants to the Maccabiah while Durban has six. There are also some athletes from East London and Port Elizabeth. There will be about 25 swimmers - mainly juniors - and around the same number of golfers

“We are hoping for hoping for a big haul of medals,” said Garrun. “We got 20 in 2009 and we anticipate at least double this time.”

Almost 100 members of the delegation will be involved in football or futsal. Football is usually the most competitive

event at the Maccabiah and the opposition, especially from the South American and European countries, is fierce. Israel also fields strong teams.

South Africa will field a senior team, to be captained by Neil Jankelowitz, an under-18 team with Aaron Witz at the helm and Dean Kowalski as his vice-captain, and an under-16 team to be led by Aaron Levinthal with Greg Surmany and Asher Valentini as the dual vice-captains.

“Their appointments are not undeserving and their levels of commitment and performances on the pitch have warranted their appointments,” explained convener Daniel Witz.

“They all bring great qualities in their respective positions and attitudes and I know that they feel that this is a challenge to relish.

“All of the boys bring great qualities in their respective positions and they all feel that this is a challenge to relish.

“The football teams have come a long way from where we started. This has been an exciting time for all involved and Maccabi would like to take the opportunity to thank Ryan Kalk and Mannie Witz for all their time and effort spent getting all the football teams ready for Israel and ensuring this massive delegation runs smoothly.”

One has to give credit to the soccer squads as they have worked hard in the build-up to the tournament and have brought in a top brains-trust to assist them. Included in that group is technical director development for Mamelodi Sundown, Shawn Bishop, who prepared the senior team, Clive Bedel and Mpumalanga Black Aces coach Ceaser Maphalla, who put in all the hard work with regards to the under-18 football squad, and Rui de Sousa and Daniel Witz, who took the time to prepare the under-16 squad.

The girls’ team is an under-18 one and the preparation was organised by Ashley Robinson, Shaul Feinberg and Jerry Gem-bolo, who all worked relentlessly.

A lot of credit has to go to Brian Joffe of Bidvest, who allowed Maccabi Football full use of their football fields in order to train and prepare the teams. In that regard MSA also has to thank Robbie Segal and Debbie Ilouz who allowed them the use of Balfour Park Football Club and Highlands Park Football Club.

“All we can say is that we are looking forward to Israel very much,” says Witz. “We believe all the football teams are ready and will have the right mindset to put in a strong challenge.”

The under-16 and under-18 teams will be playing at Wingate Sports Institute and the senior team will be in action at Bait Vagan, Givaat Ram and Kiryat Yovel.

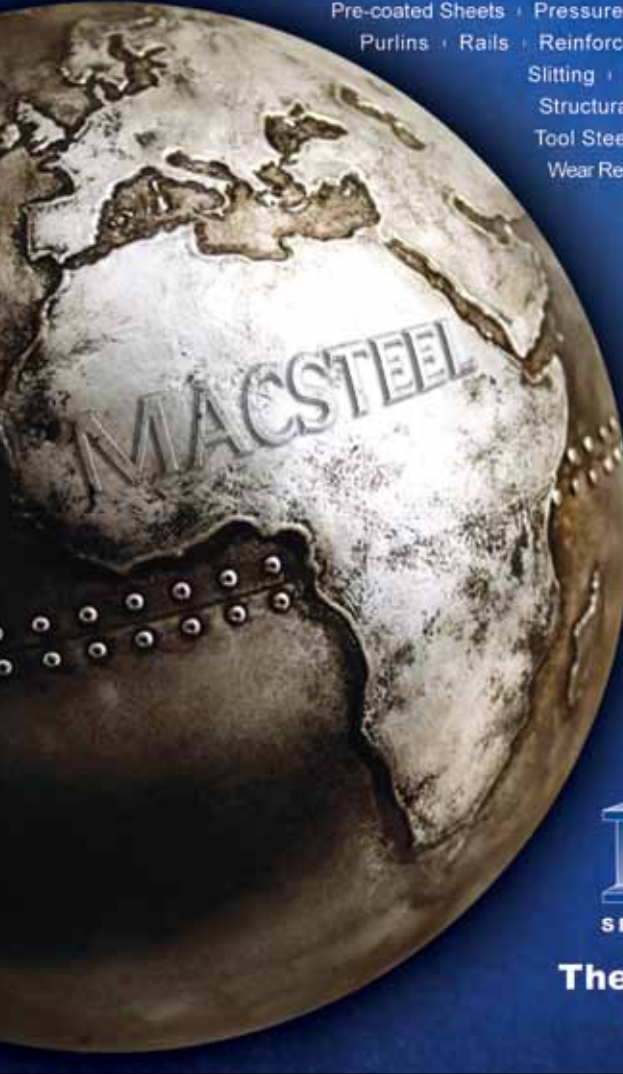
Garrun believes that for many of the youngsters this trip will develop life memories.


“A lot of them have never been to Israel and the fact you have 70 countries and thousands of other kids to interact with, will be a real eye-opener to them. The opening ceremony alone is an extremely emotional occasion.”

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