



Some good reads. (page 11)

• south african • jewish report

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Netanyahu announces early Knesset elections



JERUSALEM - Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday announced early national elections. He said elections for the 19th Knesset would be held a year early. Though a date has not yet been announced, it is expected that the vote will be held in early 2013. A February election will be four years since the last Knesset election. The Knesset will return on October 15, after which the government likely will pass a resolu-

tion to dissolve. Netanyahu held meetings last week and on Tuesday with the heads of the other parties in his government coalition to decide whether to work to pass the 2013 budget or go to early elections. Going to elections without an approved budget means the ministries will operate on the 2012 budget. A new budget would have seen deep cuts in many ministries. In a statement, Netanyahu

said: "Today, I finished a round of consultations with the heads of the coalition parties and I came to the conclusion that it is not possible at this time to pass a responsible budget. "We are on the threshold of an election year; to my regret, in an election year it is difficult for parties to place national interest ahead of party interest. The result of this is liable to be a budgetary breach and a massive increase in

the deficit, which would quickly put us in the situation of the crumbling economies of Europe. I will not allow this to happen here. "At this time, in light of the two great upheavals around us, the security and the economic, my obligation as prime minister is to put the national interest above everything and therefore, I have decided that the good of the State of Israel requires going to elections now, as soon as possible." (JTA)

BLUMENTHAL: Jewish philanthropy: Charity or reparations?
We cannot afford the level of influence which the "bleeding hearts" have over the Jewish corporate sector in this country. **8**

SAKS: Efforts underway to deny Jewish people their august history
It is sometimes useful to simply turn the other side's propaganda on its head. "See how little of our ancestral homeland had been liberated by 1946, compared with how most of it was back in Jewish hands by 1967 and nearly all of it by today," I would say. **8**

SA Medical Association issues pleas for Professor Cyril Karabus' release from UAE jail
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Strategic investment in Israel's new war
Now, the main arena - the "Durban strategy", which emerged at a 2001 UN conference in Durban - is a battle over the legitimacy of the very existence of Israel. Because the struggle is no longer physical, international financial support has become critical. **6**



Israel's Sephardi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Amar leading the Cohanim prayer during the Jewish holiday of Succot at the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem on October 3.

Photo: Courtesy TheKotel

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Shabbat Times

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Oct 13/ 27 Tishrei
Parshat Bereishit

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18:15	19:33	Cape Town
17:46	18:37	Durban
18:05	18:56	Bloemfontein
18:05	19:04	Port Elizabeth
18:01	18:54	East London

KASHRUT ALERT

SOME SALLY WILLIAMS NOUGATS INCORRECTLY LABELLED

The kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues announces that some batches of Sally Williams 125g Dark Chocolate enrobed Nougat, a parev product, have been made with milchik chocolate. These batches, however, still bear the parev logo.

The affected batch codes are 30112013 and 31122013.

Sally Williams has rectified this error and future batches will revert to parev.

This only applies to the mentioned 125g Dark Chocolate enrobed Nougat; all other Sally Williams products are correctly labelled.

Commit ourselves to one more good deed

This Shabbat is referred to as Shabbat Bereishit. We begin reading the Torah anew to be finished by next Simchat Torah. To many this is considered the first “proper” Shabbat of the year, as it is the first Shabbat not interrupted by the Festivals, as well as the beginning of the Torah reading cycle.

There is a well-known Chassidic vort: “Vee men shtelt zich avek Shabbat Breishis azoi geit dem gantzen yohr. (The way you set yourself up this Shabbos, so goes the rest of the year.)”

Let me share a phone call I received shortly before Yom Kippur: “Rabbi,” he says, “two years ago I decided to make a commitment to Yiddishkeit and after some deliberation, I committed myself to putting on tefillin every day.

“Now I must confess it hasn’t always been easy. There were days I could only put them on and say the Shema. There were days I truly did

not think I would fit them in and somehow managed to put them on just before sunset.

“I carried through with my commitment and felt uplifted by it. I know I’m making a connection with my Creator and it boosts my day. Last year I resolved to wear tzitzit every day. I’m able to observe this without feeling conspicuous as most people are not even aware that I have them on.

“Rabbi, what should I undertake this year?” My reply was that there are certain mitzvoth that are “yes” or “no”, like putting on tefillin or wearing tzitzit. Then there are mitzvoth that are more complex and it is just not saying a simple yes or no to them, but rather they are mitzvoth that can be done in stages, for example kashrut.

Rather, start with making your home kosher; if your home is already kosher, start with items of

food you will no longer eat.

Shabbos is 24-hours. A person can resolve to keep certain parts of it, like committing to keep Friday night, saying the family will assemble for Kiddush. The TV and other electrical gadgets will be off.

What is important is to realise that when it comes to all matters of Yiddishkeit, it is not an all or nothing issue. We should stop focusing along those lines and rather realise that every mitzvah is significant, not merely a good start - it is a great thing in and of itself.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe explains one reason why it is so significant to do a mitzvah. The word mitzvah in addition to commandment, also means connection; when we perform a mitzvah, we are actually creating a bond with the one who gave us the command and as G-d, our Creator, is Infinite every moment spent observing a mitzvah



PARSHAT BEREISHIT
Rabbi Alex Carlebach
Chabad of Lyndhurst

connects us with that Infinite.

The moments you spend doing a mitzvah, may feel like just a couple of minutes; what difference does it make one way or the other? Spiritually during those moments you are performing a mitzvah, you are connecting to the Infinite.

What appears to you as rather small in significance, is perhaps the most significant you can do for your own and your family’s souls, and connecting to the Infinite. So, this Shabbat Bereishit, let us begin by committing to one more good deed and be privileged to the year following, with blessings, success and peace.

Moshal Scholarship Programme opens the door to a better life

ALANA BARANOV

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world,” former President Nelson Mandela, said.

These wise words from a South African icon, are the inspiration behind the extraordinary Moshal Scholarship Programme. Founded in 2009 by Durban-born internet entrepreneur and venture capitalist Martin Moshal, the programme aims to provide financial support to promising young students who would otherwise not have access to tertiary education.

Believing that higher education builds bridges from impoverishment to economic freedom, the Programme provides students with access to university and thereby endeavours to break the cycle of poverty.

By opening the doors to a better life, the lives of the students, their families and communities are also uplifted. The Programme already supports more than 250 students with full scholarships at top universities across South Africa and Israel, with the first batch of students graduating at the end of this year.

The first South African “Moshal scholars” event took place on September 23 at Smuts Hall at the University of Cape Town, Moshal’s alma mater. The luncheon brought together some of the best scholars from the country’s most prestigious institutions, including the University of Cape Town; Stellenbosch University; University of KwaZulu-Natal; University of Pretoria; and the University of the Witwatersrand.

This was the first of many planned opportunities for students to engage and interact with one another and forms part of the Moshal Scholarship Programme’s commitment to build networks for multi-faceted and long-term support to its students.

The gathering was addressed by guest speaker Dr Max Price, vice chancellor of UCT, who stressed that access to higher education was the single most important intervention in moving people into a middle class environment.

He praised the efforts of the Moshal Scholarship Programme, highlighting that it not only provided many young people with the prospect of further study, but also allowed universities to raise the quality of education they provided, to that of “world class”, by funding the fees.

Programme founder, Martin Moshal, told the story of his rise to success from his days at the local Jewish school in Durban, to his university years and business accomplishments.

He stressed that education could not be taken away from a person and urged his students to use this time in their lives to, “soak up knowledge like a sponge”.

Although success was generally measured in financial terms, Moshal felt that, “all we can ever own are the good deeds we have done... success should be measured by what you do in the world”.

He also spoke on the impact of the programme on his own life, how the students had inspired him to do more and assisted him

achieve his own version of success by allowing Moshal to make a difference in people’s lives.

Moshal scholars then had the opportunity to address their peers and the invited guests, with many wishing to personally express their thanks to Moshal and tell the audience what the scholarship meant to them.

“The Moshal Programme said to me: ‘If you believe in yourself, then I will believe in you’,” said one young student studying for a B Com degree with hopes of becoming a chartered accountant.

Another student quoted that “gratitude is when memory is stored in the heart and not in the mind”, to describe his appreciation to the Programme. “Young people today are criticised for taking things for granted... but this gift will keep on giving - for me, my own children and my patients,” said the young man who is currently studying to be a paramedic.

The ethos of the Moshal Scholarship Programme is to make a difference to as many lives as possible.

“There are no strings attached to the scholarships. Pay it forward,” Moshal told the crowd, “wherever and whenever you have the opportunity to help others. It doesn’t have to be in money. It can be in time, advice or effort.”

Moshal also used the occasion to pay tribute to the efforts of the Moshal Scholarship Programme staff, namely President Kate Kuper and South African Programme Director Jodi Bailey, for making the programme one of the leading foundations of its kind.

Photos supplied



Wilton Fredricks, Moshal scholar, at the luncheon.



Martin Moshal, founder of the Moshal Scholarship Programme.



A group of Moshal scholars networking at the event held at UCT.

jewish report

PUBLISHER Bryan Silke - bryan@sajewishreport.co.za • EDITOR Geoff Sifrin - geoff@sajewishreport.co.za • Sub-Editor Paul Maree • Ed Co-ordinator Sharon Akum - sharon@sajewishreport.co.za • Sports Editor Jack Milner • Books Editor Gwen Podbrey • Arts Editor Robyn Sassen • Cape Town correspondent Moira Schneider: 021-794-4206 • Pretoria correspondent Diane Wolfson: 082-707-9471 • Advertising: Adi Lew: 083-407-8034 - lews@tiscali.co.za, Britt Landsman: 082-292-9520 - britt@sajewishreport.co.za, Manuela Bernstein: 082-951-3838 - manuela@sajewishreport.co.za, Marlene Bilewitz: 083-475-0288 - marlene@sajewishreport.co.za • Classified Sales Charissa Newman -jrclassified@global.co.za • Distribution Manager Britt Landsman • Design and layout: Bryan Maron/Design Bandits – bryan@designbandits.co.za • Website: Ilan Ossendryver • Subscription enquiries: Avusa Publishing (Pty) Ltd. Tel: 0860-13-2652. Board of Directors: Howard Feldman (Chairman), Issie Kirsh (Deputy Chairman), Marlene Bethlehem, Bertie Lubner, Benjy Porter, Herby Rosenberg, Howard Sackstein, Jason Valkin, Elton Bondi, Michael Sieff, Steven Krawitz and Denese Bloch.

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SAMA issues strong pleas for Karabus release from UAE jail



The SA Medical Association (SAMA) has issued a plea to Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Maite Nkoana Mashabane, to urgently intervene in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) case of retired Cape Town-based paediatric oncologist, Prof Cyril Karabus (78) (pictured with his wife Jenifer), who has been held in custody in an Abu Dhabi jail since his arrest on August 18.

In a formal statement SAMA notes that it has also engaged the World Medical Association (WMA) and through this body, Amnesty International, on this matter.

The charges against Karabus relate to the death of a child with leukaemia who he attended to while briefly working in the UAE in 2002, following his retirement from a lifelong career in the South African public health sector.

He was arrested at Dubai airport in August this year while in transit while returning to South Africa.

In its letter to the international relations minister, SAMA has stressed that despite several attempts, “this 78-year-

old man has repeatedly been denied bail” - inconceivable, it adds, for someone who cannot leave the country as his travel documents have been confiscated.

Attention is also drawn to the fact that Karabus’ lawyer is not able to access any records to present as evidence in his retrial.

“Minister,” SAMA wrote, “as the representative organisation of doctors in South Africa, the SA Medical Association respectfully implores your department to intervene in any way or means possible to ensure that this elderly colleague of ours who has served the country with distinction, is given a fair chance to defend himself”.

While pleading with all medical professionals and associations to support the release of a colleague who finds himself in such an unfortunate situation, SAMA has strongly advised South African doctors to be aware of the medical liability risks if and when practising medicine in the UAE.

• *SAMA is a non-statutory, professional association for public and private sector medical practitioners.*

World News in Brief

PARIS DISTRICT INKS PACT WITH PA TO HELP EASTERN JERUSALEM ARABS
PARIS - The district of France that includes Paris signed an agreement with the Palestinian Authority to provide funding for programmes in eastern Jerusalem.

The pact between Ile-de-France and the PA, which was approved on September 28 and will be signed this month, will send 300 000 euros (nearly \$400 000) for educational and social welfare programmes to eastern Jerusalem, according to the Times of Israel.

The agreement undercuts Israel’s claim to eastern Jerusalem, a largely Arab district that Israel considers part of its united capital.

“There is very high sensitivity to the Palestinian cause in France,” Ile-de-France Councilman Jacques Picard told the Times of Israel. “This symbolic move is certainly intended to send a political message.”

Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Paul Hirschon told the Times of Israel that the Ile-de-France council “seems intent on ignoring reality and living in a make-believe world”. (JTA)

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‘Fill the Void’: haredi filmmaker looks inward



Hadas Yaron as Shira in a scene from “Fill the Void”. Yaron won a best actress award at the 69th Venice Film Festival in September.

**JOSH TAPPER
TORONTO**

On a dark Tel Aviv terrace, a young haredi Orthodox man and a younger haredi woman discuss love and heartbreak. There is tension and animosity, hurt feelings and broken promises. Then, in an emotional crescendo, the man steps toward the woman, stopping centimetres from her face. His breathing is heavy, their noses nearly touching.

This unusual and powerful scene is one of the climaxes of “Fill the Void”, the award-winning movie debut from Israel’s Rama Burshtein. While the film, Israel’s entry into the 2012 Oscars’ foreign language category,

tackles death, attraction, love and sex inside a community not known for openly addressing emotion, Burshtein, who is haredi herself, insists she’s not a rabble-rouser looking to ruffle feathers in the haredi world.

“Everyone else is trying to interpret what is going on” in the haredi world, the 45-year-old director told JTA in a recent interview, after “Fill the Void” played to critical acclaim at the Toronto International Film Festival. “I felt it was time to tell a story from within, and say something that comes from really living the life,” Burshtein said.

“That’s what I felt was important: to just tell a story that has no connection with the regular subjects you deal with when you talk

about the Orthodox world.”

“Fill the Void” may be the first film about haredi life directed by an insider for a secular audience. Aesthetically daring, intimate and flecked with humour, the film recently earned seven Ophir Awards - known as the Israeli Oscars - including best film and best director.

After showings at the Venice Film Festival - where Hadas Yaron won a best actress award for her portrayal of the lovelorn 18-year-old protagonist, Shira - and in Toronto, “Fill the Void” made its US debut at the New York Film Festival on October 9.

Burshtein, a native New Yorker who grew up in Tel Aviv, became religious at 25, after graduating from Jerusalem’s Sam Spiegel Film and Television School.

The film probes the fraught relationship between Shira and Yochai, the widowed husband of Shira’s older sister, who died while giving birth. After Yochai hints he will remarry and move to Belgium, taking his newborn son with him, Shira’s grieving and desperate mother, Rivka, encourages her son-in-law to marry her second daughter.

The unlikely pair attempt to reconcile the inconceivability of a union with the unexpected reality that they’re falling in love.

That conflict helped Burshtein steer the film toward her central motive: quashing the notion that the seemingly impersonal haredi Orthodox practice of chaste courtship and arranged marriages precludes love or affection. Haredi couples, Burshtein says, simply have their own playbook for expressing emotion.

“We’re somehow portrayed as a bit crippled when it comes to feelings,” she said. But, “the feelings are the same. We just have a different set of rules. It’s about attraction, it’s about sexiness - it’s about all those things that are usually absent when you talk about religion.”

What prompted Burshtein to write “Fill the Void”, she says, was how, just as in the secular world, those rules could be complicated. At a wedding several years ago, she encountered a woman newly engaged to her late sister’s widower. It seemed unlikely, but the story excited her immediately. Her research led to other women who married their sisters’ widowers. As common themes of sacrifice, responsibility, family, sense of duty and learned intimacy began to emerge, it seemed less implausible that the couples actually could fall in love.

“At the beginning, it sounded impossible to understand how it works,” Burshtein said. “Then, at the end, it was like the natural thing to do, to marry in the family.”

With “Fill the Void” set to premiere in Israel in October, Burshtein anticipates some haredi backlash. But the trailblazing filmmaker emphasises her open-ended, interpretative film was not made for haredi eyes.

And yet, despite it all, she hopes that maybe her community will embrace the film.

“The minute the posters come out, we will see what will happen,” she said. “I didn’t try to show something in an inelegant way. I love this world, I chose this world, I believe in this world and in its rules. I hope it’s a voice the Orthodox would like to be heard.” (JTA)

French Jew, US researcher share Nobel Prize in physics



PARIS - Serge Haroche, a French-Jewish physicist (pictured), has won the Nobel Prize in physics jointly with David Wineland from the United States.

The Nobel Prize in physics for this year, went to the scientists “for ground-breaking experimental methods that enable measuring and manipulation of individual quantum systems”, the website of the Nobel Prize said.

According to the BBC, the pair developed solutions to pick, manipulate and measure photons and ions individually, allowing an insight into a microscopic world that was once just the province of scientific theory.

Haroche, who was born 68 years ago in Casablanca, Morocco, told Le Figaro that he “had a hard time understanding” the news when a representative of the Nobel Prize committee called him on his cell phone to say he had won what is considered the highest form of recognition of scientific excellence.

Haroche, of Collège de France and Ecole Normale Supérieure, will share a \$1,2 million

grant from the Nobel Prize Committee with Wineland, a researcher at the Maryland-based National Institute of Standards and Technology and at the University of Colorado.

Le Figaro quotes Haroche as saying he was walking with his wife down the street when he received the call from Sweden. He said he had to sit down on a bench before passing on the news to his family.

Richard Prasquier, president of CRIF, the umbrella organisation of France’s Jewish communities, told JTA: “The achievement belongs to the scientists, but a small part of me is also proud today.”

Mutual friends described Haroche to Prasquier as “a truly brilliant thinker, known for his creativity”.

Prasquier noted that Haroche had worked closely with Claude Cohen-Tannoudji - also a French Jew of North African descent - who won the Nobel Prize in physics in 1997.

The Algeria-born Cohen-Tannoudji, 79, is still an active researcher at Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. (JTA)

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Italian pianist revives music created in concentration camps



Dancers outside the 13th century Scolanova synagogue in Trani, during the Lech Lecha Jewish culture festival, September 2012.

**RUTH ELLEN GRUBER
TRANI, ITALY**

Francesco Lotoro resurrects the music of the dead.

Since 1991 the Italian pianist has travelled the globe to seek out and bring to light symphonies, songs, sonatas, operas, lullabies and even jazz riffs that were composed and often performed in Nazi-era concentration camps.

“This music is part of the cultural heritage of humanity,” Lotoro, 48, told JTA after a concert in Trani, in southern Italy, that featured surprisingly lively cabaret songs composed in the camps at Westerbork in the Netherlands and Terezin (Theresienstadt) near Prague.

The concert formed part of Lech Lecha, a weeklong Jewish festival in early September in Trani and nine other towns in the Apulia region, the heel of Italy’s boot.

“When I started seeking out this music, my interest was based on curiosity, on passion,” said Lotoro, who was the festival’s artistic director. “I felt that someone had to do it. Today it has become a mission.”

Lotoro has collected original scores, copies and even recordings of some 4 000 pieces of what he calls “concentrationary music” - written in concentration camps, death camps, labour camps, POW camps and other internment centres between 1933, when Dachau was established, and the end of the Second World War.

In the 1990s he formed an orchestra to perform the pieces, and in 2001 began recording the compositions. A selection was released earlier this year in a 24-CD boxed set called “KZ Musik.” (KZ is the German abbreviation for concentration camp.) Some of the pieces have long been known, including music by several prominent composers who were interned in Terezin. The Nazis used Terezin as a propaganda tool, allowing cultural life to develop.

Other musical pieces, however, had been long lost until Lotoro deciphered, transcribed and arranged them.

Many compositions had been jotted down in notebooks or scribbled in letters or on scraps of paper. In the Pankrac prison in Prague, the Czech composer Rudolf Karel scrawled music on sheets of toilet paper.

“People continued to create despite being in those places,” Lotoro said. “These composers felt that the camp was probably the last place they would be alive, and so they made a will, a testament.”

“They had nothing material to leave,” he said, “only their heart, only their mind, only the music.”

Jews who were killed in the Shoah wrote most of the music that Lotoro has collected. But his collection also includes pieces by Quakers, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Roma (Gypsies), political prisoners, homosexuals and others held in camps and prisons as far afield as Asia.

He also has music written by German officers and troops in POW camps run by Allied powers and even American GIs held captive by the Japanese.

“Everybody made music, wrote music,” Lotoro said. “Because, you know, music is a social phenomenon. You can be a musician as an amateur, because you have a good ear, you can improvise, you can play the harmonica.”

Lotoro, who lives in the town of Barletta, near Trani, and teaches at a music conservatory, believes he is descended from Jews who were forced to convert to Christianity centuries ago. He and his wife formally converted in 2004. But he said this was not the reason he began his search for the lost concentration camp music.

His first foray to seek out music came long before his conversion – a 1991 trip to Terezin, where imprisoned composers such as Viktor Ullmann and Gideon Klein - both killed at Auschwitz - had written works, such as Ullmann’s opera “The Emperor of Atlantis”, that had become part of the international musical repertoire.

“But from Terezin I went on to research other former camps in the region, and at the end of three weeks I had to buy another suitcase to bring home all the material I found.”

Along the way he has amassed a trove of 13 000 items: scores, notebooks, papers, diaries, microfilms, photocopies, photographs, recordings and other material that he continues to sift through, catalogue and sometimes reconstruct. He hopes to load all the pieces he has found onto a digital database for posterity.

Much of Lotoro’s work also has been self-financed. Although he has received some grants over the years, he told JTA that he had gone into debt and even taken out a second mortgage on his home to cover costs.

Still, Lotoro said, he must continue. “I cannot stop because if I stop, all the research stops automatically,” he said. (JTA)



MACCABI GAMES 2013

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Violence: Govt must act now

A frequent topic at dinner tables - including Jewish ones - in recent months has been the growing violence in the country. And the fear that it will develop into an “uprising” against unemployment, poverty and corruption, where the masses make the country ungovernable, as they did during apartheid.

Industrial actions, service delivery protests, domestic disputes and crime have all become more brutal. The Marikana incident in August, in which 34 miners were killed by police during a wildcat strike, was a wake-up call for many South Africans. Even though we have a black government and a political democracy, it looked like a return to the mayhem we experienced during apartheid.

Is South African society inherently violent? The plagues of robbery and rape, the murder rate, child and woman abuse, violent strikes and service delivery protests would suggest it. Some 18 000 murders occur annually in South Africa (population 50m) compared with some 550 in the UK (population 62m). And there are often no consequences for perpetrators - at Marikana, 259 strikers were arrested for public disorder and quickly released, probably due to political pressure.

It’s not just personal safety at stake. There are negative effects on our country’s image and economy, as people overseas - including investors - come to regard South Africa as an inherently violent, unstable place, where one wouldn’t want to invest one’s money.

Dinner-table talk among Jews often veers into comparing South Africa with life in Israel. That country is surrounded by enemies intent on destroying it, yet it is ironically a very safe place to live. Indeed, the murder rate among its 7 million people, is low; there are some 160 murders per year. Walking in the streets of Tel Aviv day or night, for example, your security is vastly superior to what it would be in Johannesburg.

Has it ever been any other way in South Africa? A prominent Johannesburg community rabbi said often during apartheid that South African Jews could not forever live with their suitcases packed under their beds because of fear of the future - they must engage with society to make it better.

At that time, reports of violence filled our lives, but for whites it was generally out of sight in black areas, where security forces kept the lid on crime and protests. As a response to today’s situation, some local communities have created private security companies, with vehicles manned by trained guards driving around to keep streets safe, 24 hours a day.

The GAP and CAP patrols in Johannesburg’s northern suburbs have been highly successful. It is gratifying to see, in places like Glenhazel, Jews strolling on Shabbos to shul and elsewhere, feeling safe. And the CSO - the Jewish community’s own security organisation - is present at Jewish functions, to prevent anti-Jewish terrorism and other attacks. The underlying message, alas, is that the police are not able to keep us safe.

So what should South Africans do? Should we accept that the status quo won’t change anytime soon and that we will have to continue living behind electrified walls around our houses and in other highly defended ways and that the prospect of political chaos will continue increasing? One occasionally hears the phrase: “South Africa isn’t for sissies.”

Indeed it isn’t, but it is a place with enormous potential, a groundswell of generosity and goodwill between its peoples and an achievable ideal which calls us all to devote our energies beyond our individual lives, into building a better society. And it is an ideal which is fully as compelling as the fears.

We have a good life here and this country is awash with incredible opportunities for doing creative things, whether in business, professions, outreach and development programmes, the arts, and so on.

But beyond small-scale individual deeds, there is a desperate need for government to urgently address the dangerous macro situation and act to re-establish the sense that the country is under control. Politically, with the ANC elective conference at Mangaung approaching in December, it is unlikely that President Jacob Zuma, eyeing a second term as president, will take on the unions and violent workers lest he damage his chances of re-election.

But the country cannot wait. We need to see action - now.

Strategic investment in Israel’s new war



A Open Shuhada Street protester demonstrates against Ahava products in Cape Town in 2010, in solidarity with the BDS campaign.

RONEN SHOVAL JERUSALEM

Foreign governments, acting thoughtfully and strategically, fund dozens of non-governmental organisations that form a flourishing anti-Israel movement within Israel itself.

This movement neither represents the will of the Israeli people nor seeks to operate as a legitimate political opposition. Instead, it is an orchestrated attempt from outside Israel to alter the basic character of the Jewish State. The effort is a new tactic in the old war against the Jewish people’s right to self-determination.

Non-Israelis often assume that Israelis can and should be responsible for dealing with Zionism - and, therefore, with anti-Zionism as well. This assumption ignores a fundamental shift in the balance of power among anti-Zionist forces.

From 1948 to 2001, the struggle was primarily physical; it could take place only in Israel among Israelis. From 1948 to 1973, the struggle was between nation-states at war. From 1973 to 2001, the tactic became terrorism. Now, however, the main arena - the “Durban strategy”, which emerged at a 2001 UN conference in Durban - is a battle over the legitimacy of the very existence of Israel.

Because the struggle is no longer physical, international financial support has become

critical. When UK Foreign Office Minister for the Middle East Alistair Burt, was asked about the \$800 000 he had given to anti-Zionist Israeli organisations, he noted: “Since we began supporting these programmes there have been a number of changes to Israeli civil and military judicial practice and decisions, and increased public debate on these issues.”

Furthermore, he said unapologetically: “We believe that continuing British support will assist in strengthening democratic processes” in Israel.

Britain is not alone. Between 2006 and 2010, European governments transferred some \$20 million to the 15 most radical anti-Zionist organisations operating in Israel.

In America, the New Israel Fund, with a 2010 budget of \$34 million (\$1 million is dedicated to lobbying), has funded 92 per cent of the Israeli groups that accused the Israel Defence Forces of perpetrating the war crimes alleged in the Goldstone Report.

Other NIF-supported NGOs have joined the worldwide witch hunt that condemns Israeli officials like Ehud Olmert and Tzipi Livni as war criminals. NGOs supported by the European Union participate in the anti-Israel Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) campaigns.

Overall, foundations and



organisations trying to alter the fundamental nature of Israel receive approximately \$100 million a year from sources outside Israel. These organisations influence public discourse in academia, culture, the legal system, the economy, and the media.

A New Profile, an Israeli NGO that received \$137 870 from Germany’s Bread for the World foundation in 2009 - 2010, encourages draft-dodging. Breaking the Silence, which got \$135 570 from the British government in 2010, sullies the image of the IDF and its soldiers.

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel - which has received \$71 200 from the Belgian government, \$69 300 from the British government, and \$489 190 from NIF - argues that a Jewish nation-state is, by definition, a racist state.

In academia, Hebrew University’s Gilo Centre for Citizenship, Democracy and Civic Education, which in 2007 received \$200 000 from the Gilo Family Foundation and additional funding from the EU and the Norway Fund - along with similar organisations, like the Minerva Centre for Human Rights, the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations, the Swiss Centre for Conflict Research, and the Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace - host one-sided conferences, grant scholarships to like-minded students, and seek to guarantee that the next generation of scholars will hold the desired views. It is no accident that eight out of nine political science professors at Ben-Gurion University openly support anti-Zionist positions.

Elite lawyers who share an anti-Zionist ideology are groomed by NIF through its Israel-US Civil Liberties Law Programme, described by Ha’aretz as a “crucial” initiative that has “changed the face of public law in Israel”.

The programme places lawyers in dozens of anti-Zionist NGOs - and the State Attorney’s office.

NGOs participating in BDS actions - like the Women’s Coalition for Peace, with \$150 560 from Germany’s Rosa Luxemburg Founda-

tion and \$261 000 from NIF - have begun to have some success.

The Israeli company Ahava had to close a store in London. Deutsche Bahn and Pizzaroti have pulled out of an ongoing Jerusalem-Tel Aviv rail project. Veolia has withdrawn from the Jerusalem Light Rail project, and the Norwegian national oil fund no longer invests in Elbit and Africa-Israel.

B’Tselem, an internationally known, often-quoted NGO that has received \$156 360 from the EU, \$101 300 from the Dutch Government, \$71 725 from the Norwegian Embassy, and \$180 000 from the Ford Foundation, has repeatedly misrepresented international law, skewed statistics, and perpetuated lies about the IDF.

The problem is that no opposing voice is heard, and that there is no one to answer people like NIF’s associate executive director in Israel, who sees an Arab majority in the country as a good idea that would make Israel more democratic. Most Zionist organisations are not adequately equipped to face this strategic challenge, which is one that directly threatens the identity of the only Jewish nation-state.

Those who want to preserve the Jewish State must change the way they use the financial assets at their disposal. Zionist philanthropists should not focus only on projects that ameliorate societal conditions and do not play any role in the current fight for Israel.

They must start spending strategically to neutralise the influence of anti-Zionists in the culture war. They should use their money to fight uncompromisingly against the anti-Zionist organisations that lead the campaign to delegitimise Israel at home and abroad.

A country’s strength is measured not by the number of its tanks and planes or the money in its bank accounts, but by the willingness of its people to tie their fate to that of the nation. The tragedy of pre-Zionist Jews, Herzl said, was that “we lack faith in ourselves”.

Theodor Herzl predicted: “The same day that we will believe in ourselves, our distress will end.” The test of our generation will be whether we can renew this belief in the rightness of our path. (JTA)

• Ronen Shoval is founder and chairman of Im Tirtzu.



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Jewish philanthropy: Is it charity or merely reparations?

DR IVOR BLUMENTHAL

I recently commented that Jewish organisations needed to start prioritising Jewish causes and Jewish NGOs for donations and emoluments and to reduce the amount given to non-Jewish causes. I have since, been swamped by those I consider to be apologists, warning me against the direction my writings may take.

I am told that such a reduction would cause respect, admiration and reverence for the Jewish community among the non-Jewish community especially the black community, to dwindle and be replaced by hatred, mockery and marginalisation.

I have run a billion rand organisation designed to service the NGO sector, particularly in the previously disadvantaged black arena in South Africa. If my experiences have taught me lessons, it is these:

The Jewish community is not respected, admired or revered by the non-Jewish and especially by black communities in South Africa, irrespective of the size of the donations or how many times they are made, or how much we

try to curry favour with political connections or people of influence.

If anything, this behaviour makes us look weak, apologist and desperately vulnerable, especially in the eyes of black youth. These young people do not understand this philanthropy, do not appreciate it and certainly do not revere our community for it. What they know is what is told to them by their parents and that is not a pretty picture.

There is already jealousy, deep-seated hatred, mockery and marginalisation of the Jewish community from within the black community in this country and no amount of charity is going to change that.

Some of these negative sentiments towards Jews are well deserved. Some of those in our community have not always as Jews acted properly towards people of colour and we have indeed, as have other communities, benefitted from the suppression and oppression of people of colour in this country.

The paradox, however, is that the majority of white liberals in this country were and are Jewish

and many good things have also been done for the cause of liberation, particularly by white Jewish heroes.

In many cases of philanthropy, the act of giving is either more about the level of guilt and the need to assuage the guilt of the giver, or alternatively about an opportunity for cheap marketing, branding and ultimately increased profit.

Very few philanthropists give for selfless, morally defensible reasons. Most give for deductables, sound bites and to ensure that their names are generously displayed and lauded and never forgotten.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is today, in South Africa a legally enshrined commodity which the givers use consciously and strategically to gain direct financial benefit from, and which recipient NGOs employ skilled tacticians to exploit the use of.

People can, however give to any cause they want to. I have no right to tell them what is a just cause and what is not. It is their money even if it is blood money. However, my personal belief is that to give elsewhere despite the

need in their own family and community, is a crime before G-d and will not go unpunished.

We need to see some Jewish philanthropy (not all) for what it is in this country. Corporate strategy of this kind is designed to promote the use of the vehicle of reparations to reinvent a tainted, opportunistic, caustic corporate brand, thereby creating a new business advantage and employing otherwise unemployable children into “the Foundation”.

Reparations do not demand appreciation. Reparations smack of victim vindication. “It is just. It is only right that those Jews give back what they have stolen from us, from our parents.”

However, surely there is a window, a time period to this type of philanthropy? Surely it is not interminable? Surely at some stage the level of guilt diminishes and is replaced by a sense of complacency and self-righteousness?

We cannot afford the level of influence, which the “bleeding



hearts” have over the Jewish corporate sector in this country.

I certainly believe that the opportunity, the business case for reparations, has expired. The luxury of wiping the slate of guilt clean can no longer be afforded, lauded or tolerated.

Our Jewish community, is an older, more frail, more vulnerable, more battered one. It needs those who have the means to tackle the problems within, with the same sense of urgency, passion and seriousness with which they have tackled the myriad problems within the black community.

It is time now for those many enabled, wealthy black entrepreneurs, tenderpreneurs and billionaires, to take care of their own, so that our dwindling few can turn their time and attention to their own people.

• *Dr Blumenthal is a former member of the National Skills Authority and previously CEO of the Services SETA.*

Denying the Jewish people their august history



BARBARIC YAWP
David Saks

A national road show of anti-Israel propaganda posters is currently underway. Starting in Pretoria, they have since arrived in Johannesburg and will no doubt soon be appearing in all the other major urban centres.

Already, the images have sparked a furore in New York, where they were prominently displayed on subways and other very public places.

The campaign is being run by local Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions activists. The intention is to depict the entire process of Israel’s establishment as being one of progressive colonisation and theft of Palestinian land, and as such as a complete rejection not merely of Israel’s presence in the 1967 territories, but of its very legitimacy as a nation state.

It is important to understand that the BDS lobby is not campaigning merely against the Israeli occupation, but against Israel’s very existence. Were Israel to withdraw in toto from the entire West Bank tomorrow, it would not change that long-term aim.

Next would come a focus on the “return” of Palestinian refugees, not just those diminishing and now very elderly inhabitants of pre-independence Israel, but all of their descendants as well. At the same time, Israel proper would be portrayed as a racist, apartheid state even within the 1967 borders.

The poster shows three maps of “Palestine”, respectively dated 1946, 1967 and 2012. In the first, there are small pockets of territory marked as white in a sea of green.

By the last, there are only small pockets of green in a sea of white. It is a clever sleight of hand, creating the impression that the entire territory was once Palestinian and was then gradually whittled away until the latter people were left with a fraction of their birthright.

Naturally, there is no mention of how a substantial part of the area was formally demarcated for a Jewish State by the UN. A casual viewer without being familiar with the background, would never know that there never was a sovereign state known as Palestine, that the territory was simply part of a succession of colonial empires and that most of it was largely uninhabited at the time the Jewish return got underway.

At a stroke, the entire Land of Israel is accorded a wholly imaginary history of independent existence as Arab Palestine. Depicted in those terms, the entire Zionist enterprise comes across as an extended act of robbery.

It is sometimes useful to simply turn the other side’s propaganda on its head. If asked what I thought of the posters, I would respond that I found them rather encouraging.

“See how little of our ancestral homeland had been liberated by 1946, compared with how most of it was back in Jewish hands by 1967 and nearly all of it by today,” I would say. In one way, that would be entirely accurate.

Going back into history, the last people to exercise a sovereign existence with the borders of the pre-partition Palestinian Mandate, were the Jews. At no stage following their enforced dispersion, even for a short time, did another people establish their own state there.

In another way, though, making such an assertion would be quite inaccurate since in reality a large part of what the BDS poster asserts has been stolen by Israel - ie most of

the West Bank - is in fact in a state of legal limbo, belonging to neither people. It is only along the pre-war 1967 borders that most Israeli resettlement activity has been allowed to take place.

Moreover, it is difficult to assert that most of Judea and Samaria has been liberated when such cities of such historical and emotional resonance as Bethlehem, Hebron, Shechem (“Nablus”) and Jericho are de facto Arab towns with few or no Jews living there.

I recently set myself the goal of working through one of the Tanach’s most difficult and least-known books, Divrei Hayamim (Chronicles). While the comprehensive genealogical lists can be heavy going, what comes through more and more is how long-established, deep-rooted and well-documented the Jewish connection to Israel is, and how fiercely self-aware the Jews of those time were of their origins, national and familial, and history.

These are not vague, ambiguous national legends located in some undefined, far-back epoch but a living reality. By contrast, the Palestinian Arab newcomers have hardly any hard and fast tradition to draw on, which is why they can resort only to brazen denial and outright fabrications in order to trump the Jewish claim.

It may be laughable, indeed a bit pathetic, but it is dangerous as well. The way to defeat is for us to start being considerably more forthright in asserting the millennia-old Jewish roots in the Land of Israel, both in Israel proper and in the West Bank.

Those roots predate the Arab-Islamic colonial conquest by more than 20 centuries, far longer, indeed, than the Islamic religion has even existed.

Those who pointedly refer to the Palestinians as the “indigenous” people of the land, are in actuality baiting the Jewish people by denying them their august history. Our response must be to speak of Jewish Israel not as something that commenced near the dawn of recorded history, and not in 1948.

World News in Brief

LIMMUD APPOINTS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHAIRMAN

LONDON - Limmud, the international network of Jewish learning conferences, has appointed a new director and a new chairman.

Shelley Marsh, currently the director of informal education for the United Kingdom’s United Jewish Israel Appeal, will become Limmud’s executive director after Succot, according to a Limmud media release. Marsh succeeds Raymond Simonson, who ran Limmud for six years and is the CEO-designate of the London Jewish Community Centre.

Limmud is an umbrella group for pluralist, multidisciplinary conferences around the world on a range of Jewish topics. During Simonson’s term, Limmud has grown to include 60 conferences in 25 countries.

Kevin Sefton, a Limmud executive board trustee for four years, will become the organisation’s chairman at the end of the year. Sefton runs a management consultancy firm and has helped organise Limmud conferences in five continents.

Marsh in the media release called Limmud “a unique organisation” and said she strongly identified with its vision and values.

“I’m inspired by what they have achieved in recent years,” she said, “and I look forward to working closely with Kevin to support the volunteers as they continue to build.” (JTA)

The Jewish World

in seven seconds

The Chronicle Herald, Nova Scotia, Canada:
<http://thechronicleherald.ca>
“**Attack on synagogue, other anti-Semitic incidents rattle France**”
France is boosting security at Jewish and other religious sites after blanks were fired at a synagogue in the Paris suburb of Argenteuil last Saturday night and police accused a suspected cell of radical Islamists of ties to a grenade attack on a kosher grocery.

Jewish Journal, Los Angeles, USA:
www.jewishjournal.com
“**Slovenia, Estonia announce new shechitah restrictions**”
Slovenia’s National Assembly is set to vote on a proposed ban on all ritual slaughter, which the European Union member country’s government recently submitted for approval. Estonia, meanwhile, has reportedly imposed new restrictions on its already stringent slaughter policy.

Ynet news, international:
www.ynetnews.com
“**Romney: Long way to go before Iran strike**”
US Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said an attack on Iran’s nuclear facilities was unlikely to happen in the near future, shortly after a former US official said that the US and Israel were “zeroing in” on the possibility of mounting a strike in Iran.

Jerusalem Post, Jerusalem, Israel:
www.jpost.com
“**Romney seeks to match Netanyahu’s ‘red lines’ on Iran**”
US Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney said he and Israeli PM Binyamin Netanyahu shared the same red lines for Iran’s nuclear programme. He added there should be “no daylight between US and Israel... We share values, and we’re both absolutely committed to preventing Iran from having a nuclear weapon.”

The Australian Jewish News, Sydney, Australia:
www.jewishnews.net.au
“**Students fight budget cuts**”
Students of New South Wales Emanuel School, joined some 800 youngsters in the fight against NSW Premier Barry O’Farrell’s education cuts. Said NSW Parliamentary Friends of Israel Deputy Chairman Walt Secord: “Last week, the Australian Council of Jewish Schools said the cuts would total up to \$3 million across NSW Jewish day schools.”

The Jewish Telegraph, Manchester, UK:
www.jewishtelegraph.com
“**Join Co-Op call to beat Israeli boycott**”
Co-Op party members passed a motion to continue its boycott of four West Bank-based Israeli agricultural companies, Agrexco, Arava Export Growers, Adafresh and Mehadrin, at its annual conference. But the Zionist Central Council of Greater Manchester is urging people to become Co-Op members - to help reverse the decision.

Haaretz, Israel:
www.haaretz.com
“**Prominent SA doctor denied bail in UAE**”
Prof Cyril Karabus (78), arrested in Dubai in August on manslaughter charges stemming from a 10-year-old case, was denied bail after the hearing was adjourned earlier this week. At the time of going to press, he is set to apply again later this week.

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Arts in Brief

ALICE LOOKS AT ANIMAL-HUMAN RELATIONS
Johannesburg-born, London-based artist Bonita Alice, has focused in the past on geography, memory and transience. In “Beast In a Dangerous Landscape”, her third solo exhibition at Art on Paper gallery, Milpark until October 27, she demonstrates a shift in her interests to include the study of animal-human relations. She comments: “In our relationship with animals we’ve perfected their oppression. I suspect there’s a parallel on a grand scale with peoples and nations. In Japanese beliefs there is a theme that destructive events in nature are linked to unresolved emotional human dynamics.” Contact AOP at (011)726-2234 or visit www.galleryaop.com

PENN’S ‘FIELD OF VIEW’ SHOWS IN DOWNTOWN JOHANNESBURG
On October 14, Richard Penn opens “Field of View” an exhibition of new work at Nirox Projects, Maboneng Precinct, downtown Johannesburg. “At any given time there are numerous telescopes on earth and in orbit around the earth, pointing up at the skies,” he says. “The mapping of our sky is a mapping of infinite detail. This is an impossible map.” In this exhibition, Penn shows a large body of monoprints and linocuts, started at a Nirox Foundation residency in The Cradle of Humankind in June. The exhibition is on until October 24. Contact Neil Nieuwoudt: 072-350-4326.

APTEKER’S ‘MATERIAL’ SCREENS AT LONDON FILM FESTIVAL
The movie Material, co-produced by Ronnie Apteker, released locally in March, screens at the London Film Festival this week. Starring stand-up comic Riaad Moosa and Vincent Ebrahim of the popular BBC show The Kumars at No 42, it tells of a Fordsburg Muslim family and their son Cassim who has dreams that supersede the family’s expectations of him continuing the family business. It’s a tale of faribels and family expectations as much as it is one about SA’s inner soul, and is based on some of Moosa’s own experiences as well as on stories he and Apteker had heard.

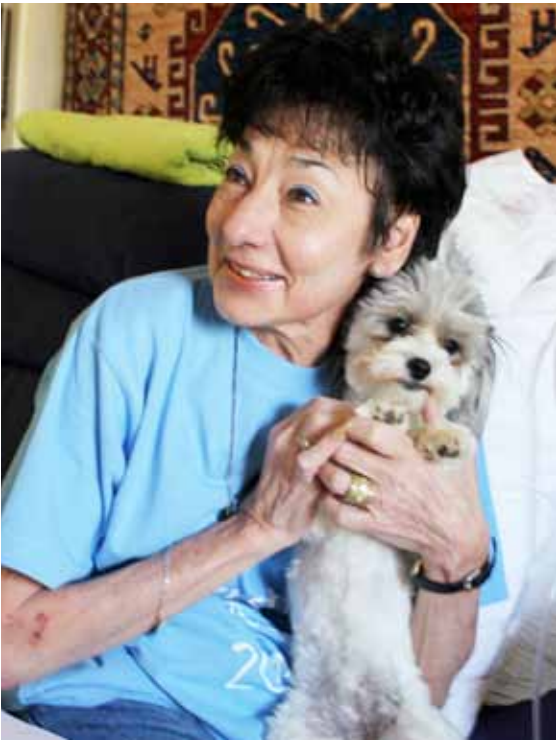


Sleepy village wakes up to the sound of classical music

ROBYN SASSEN

“Three years ago, my husband and I came to Wakkerstroom, a village on the border of KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, to retire,” festival initiator Rona Sonnenberg (pictured) says. “The nearest town is Volksrust; Wakkerstroom’s in a valley famous for bird-ing.” In this idyllic context, Sonnenberg birthed a gem unprecedented in South Africa: a music festival that’s transitioned seamlessly into festival circuits; one focused on giving back to its community. “After we got to know the village, I realised there was no organised cultural activity. Music is my passion, so I started a group called Treble Clef. We met one evening each month, to watch a DVD of an opera, ballet or musical, preceding it with a talk about the show. This evolved into a matinee.”

In 18 months, Sonnenberg’s audience was hooked. “But they needed to be exposed to live music. So the Wakkerstroom Music Festival was born. “Early in 2010 I formed a board and registered a Section 21 company. I started working on the festival in March 2010; it took a year to put it all together, including venues, musicians, sponsors, accommodation and all that goes with setting up a fairly large event for a small village. “The venues are the main NG Church, two smaller churches, two restaurants, a garden, the town hall. I borrowed pianos from Wakkerstroom residents. I turned another restaurant into a musi-



cians’ dining room - the remaining restaurants were jacked up for extra trade. “I had no money, no pianos, nothing. I managed to get together enough to mount the festival. My main selling point to the musicians was I wanted people in this area to hear and see live music; I wanted to expose classical music to all and introduce it to people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Nearly every musician I invited accepted to play for no fee; I was lucky enough to have people like Tessa Ziegler, Wessel van Wyk and Diane Coutts accept. “The first Wakkerstroom Festival was unbelievably successful. The second, in March this year, followed the same lines, but it became easier to get support and I altered its slant. It became the tool to bring in revenue for a bursary. And I decided to make it a place with the public can come and learn more the discipline - a platform to take the ‘fear’ of classical music away.” The inaugural Wakkerstroom Music Competition, in a few weeks “is the culmination of the two festivals we’ve held so far.” It was adjudicated in August by SA’s finest, including music critic Paul Boekkooi. “We believe the interest is not only focused on the prizes - the first prize is R100 000 and there are three prizes in all, totalling R200 000, among the richest prizes for classical music in this country.” She says the “countrysideness of it all”, explains its phenomenal success.

• *The Wakkerstroom Music Competition is on October 20 - 21. Sonnenberg promises a third Music Festival in March 2013. She may be contacted on (017) 730-0778 or ro@eject.co.za*

Singing is the midwife to this show about identity, home and homelessness

ROBYN SASSEN

“About two years ago,” says the Market Theatre’s artistic director, Malcolm Purkey, “I was approached by Sivan Raphaely. She wanted to stop being ‘cattle fodder’ in this industry. She wanted to do something that mattered to her, artistically.” “We wanted to be authentic to who we are,” Raphaely interjects, pitch pipe in hand. “I have always been interested in identity,” Purkey, who collaborated in writing the classic SA play Sophiatown in 1986, under the auspices of the Junction Avenue collective, grins. “The lost Jewish girl is

ubiquitous in my work. I reckoned we could make a piece to speak to Market Theatre audiences. “That, and the fact that Sivan sings like an angel. She brought along Sharon Spiegel-Wagner, another young woman with an angel’s voice; the two introduced Naomi Gottlieb Lieberman, who sings like a goddess. “The three experimented. They sang. They told stories. They argued about everything from history to religion. They laughed and cried. They sang some more. After a very long process, something was born.” “We were not sure if it would be a cabaret,” says Raphaely, who studied at Pretoria

Technikon and recently met Spiegel-Wagner in a show they did for WIZO. “We knew there was no guarantee,” adds Wits-trained Spiegel-Wagner. “Strand by strand, we drew this together,” says Gottlieb Lieberman, a Bar-Ilan University musicology graduate, who moved to South Africa five years ago. “It’s not a cabaret. It’s not a play. It’s unique. It’s a show about identity, home and homelessness. “It’s about belonging. It’s about migration and wandering. And it is overwhelmingly Jewish, but we hope,” says Purkey, “we will get mixed audiences.” Indeed, this show doesn’t speak to the parochial. “Everyone comes from somewhere,” Raphaely is wistful. “Some stories are true. Some aren’t. All are worth telling.” The piece features language from English and Hebrew to Russian and Yiddish. It’s not the conventional Fiddler on the Roof stuff, nor is it about South African kugels whining. These songs, uniquely arranged for three voice a cappella will make your heart soar. The show’s edge is that none of the stories are trodden: they’re the personal accounts of the path the forebears of each of these women took to be in SA. “It’s so personal,” says Raphaely. “It’s universal.” Raphaely, Spiegel-Wagner and Lieberman, who were initially bent on starting a band together, create magic together that



Malcolm Purkey, the show’s director.

you must witness to believe. The stories are about the fear of being in a foreign place with no language, they’re about the hilarity of mispronounced words and faribels that last generations.

- *From the Mouths of Babes is at the Market Theatre, Newtown, October 16 - December 2 and the Baxter Theatre, Cape Town, December 5 - January 6.*
- *Gottlieb Lieberman is shomeret Shabbat and is replaced on Friday nights by Gina Cooperman Stoltz.*
- *The production has a PG-14 age restriction because of language; the team is happy to host women’s only audiences and 11am shows, contingent on audience size: block bookings must be made with the theatre: (011) 832-1641.*



Photo: Dan Rosenthal



Photo: Ivan Giani



Photo supplied

Some good reads

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

The War of the Wives by Tamar Cohen (Random House Struik, R215)

Selina Busfield is a happily married Englishwoman with three wonderful children, a nice home and her husband Simon, who travels a lot, though that has not impacted on their loving 28-year marriage. When he is killed - not in the MidEast, where he is supposed to be on a business trip, but far closer to home, in Limehouse, the blow sends her reeling. An even greater shock awaits, when - at Simon’s funeral - she meets his other wife, who tells her she has been married to him for 17 years and is the mother of his daughter. The two women, betrayed by the same man, must now come to terms with each other and their claims to his memory. A fascinating novel overthrowing many assumptions about “normal” families.

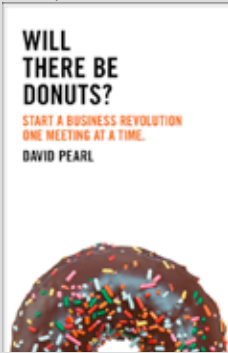


Philida by Andre Brink (Random House Struik, R215)

It is 1832 in SA, where Philida - a Cape slave who has borne four children by Francois Brink, the son of her master - discovers he has reneged on his promise to set her free. Having learnt that he is soon to be married and that she will be sold on to harsh owners, she embarks on a perilous journey across the wilderness to the banks of the Gariep River. Andre Brink’s somewhat laboured characterisation (particularly of women), his expansive, self-indulgent writing and his tendency to arrogate subject matter for his personal pulpit, pall in this novel. Yet it offers intriguing insights into one of the ugliest periods in South African history.

Will There be Donuts? by David Pearl (HarperCollins, R221)

In an attempt to re-energise the workplace, Pearl - an international business consultant - explores the current concept of “meetings” (along with all the wasted time, boredom, poorly ventilated boardroom and bad coffee that word conjures up), and offers a dynamic new take on how employees and managers can turn encounters into exciting, productive and stimulating experiences. Written lucidly and logically, the book is as relevant to entrepreneurs as to executives and introduces a refreshing touch of imagination and sanity into a universally dreaded, formulaic ritual.



IMAGINE ISRAELIS PERPETRATING AL-ASSAD’S ATROCITIES!

Imagine the following scenario: Armed Israeli troops round up a number of Palestinian children and use them for target practice. Imagine the outcry that would follow!

There would be protests from Tunis to Tehran, from Benghazi to Beirut. Embassies would be stormed, foreign-owned enterprises would be attacked. In South Africa, the BDS group would strengthen its call for a boycott of Israel.

Muslim groups here would organise a march to Parliament, and demand that the South African Government break off diplomatic ties with Israel. The pressure against the “wicked Israelis” would be endless.

Now, let’s return to reality. Activists in Syria report that troops loyal to Bashar al-Assad have indeed committed just such an atrocity - schoolchildren used as target practice.

This report has credibility; Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron, when he was at the United Nations, condemned the Syrian regime for this unspeakable act.

Yet there has been complete silence. No protests anywhere, neither in the Arab world, nor here in South Africa. The BDS group and other “human rights” groups, have issued no statements. And Muslim authorities here have not called for diplomatic ties with Syria to be rescinded.

Indeed, throughout the Syrian crisis, there have been no protests outside the Syrian embassy in Pretoria, not for this atrocity, not for any of the other human rights violations perpetrated by the Syrian regime.

What is the reason for this? The reason is quite clear: In the Middle East only Palestinian lives have any value. Syrian lives have no value whatsoever.

Michael Renan
Cape Town

A MOVING TRIBUTE TO EAST LONDON’S RABBI ‘KUTTI’ SHALPID

“Although I was worn out and sick and unable to return for the closing services of Yom Kippur this year, I must say what a privilege it was to sing on the bimah last night and this morning, together with our Rabbi “Kutti” Shalpid.

Although this was his swansong, it was immensely moving to be up there with him, sensing his presence, feeling his once enormous depth of voice, despite the effects of several strokes which have reduced him to a shell of his former self.

Standing next to him, (on his right side because he couldn’t hear on his left,) the raw emotion in his voice, as he prayed fervently on behalf of his congregation, could be both sensed and felt as it raised the feeling of awe and cried out to Hashem on our behalf, to forgive, to grant teshuva, and to seal us all in the Book of Life for the New Year.

Being sight-impaired to a large extent as well, his prodigious memory helped him recite the words of liturgy with conviction and little hesitation, as though he were reading them easily from the Machzor.

The remnants and nuances of this powerful and once moving voice, were discernible even this Yom Kippur, heightening the feeling of spirituality among the congregants amid the four walls of our shul.

The memory of his wonderful voice, the ability he had and still has to overcome physical adversity, the effort and enormous commitment he always gave his congregation, despite his infirmity, is something which I shall always treasure and remember for years to come.

It was a rare experience for me to appreciate and to participate in the harmonies which we sang together, and which Rabbi Shalpid still rendered with such passion, dignity and aplomb.

In life, where men generally have short memories, this is one experience that will endure for many years to come.”

Norman Buchalter
East London Orthodox
Hebrew Congregation

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE FUNDRAISER SUCH A SUCCESS

As loving parents, relative, and friends of Selwyn Segal residents, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those involved in making the recent Selwyn Segal fundraiser such a success.

This thanks is also extended to all the help and generosity given in the past, and, I hope the future.

The Selwyn Segal houses the most exceptional people. It takes exceptional people to care for them, and we wish to take this opportunity of thanking everybody involved in caring for the residents of this blessed institution.

May the Chevrah Kadisha, and all involved in maintaining this “heavenly” home, be for everlasting blessing together with all its residents.

Choni and Baby Davidowitz, and Lana Axelrod
Golden Acres
Johannesburg

LOOKING FOR

Henry Parnes in search of half-sister Gail

Henry Parnes was born in Cape Town 73 years ago to Sigfried and Jeannette Parness, Austrian refugees. His father managed a hotel on the Sea Point beachfront; his mother died when he was seven months old.

Henry’s father remarried Joy and had a daughter, Gail in 1944/45. When Henry was seven, Joy left taking Gail with her and Henry was sent to his grandparents in Johannesburg. Both grandparents died before he was 10 and he was then sent to his father’s brother in England. After taking his GCEs at Oxford, he went on aliyah.

Henry plans to visit South Africa in November and would like to be reconnected with his half-sister Gail. If anyone can help, please contact henryparnes@hotmail.com



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World News in Brief

FLOTILLA SPONSOR TWEETS THAT ZIONISTS HELPED PERPETRATE HOLOCAUST
JERUSALEM - The founder of the Free Gaza Movement, which uses flotillas in trying to break Israel's blockade of Gaza, has tweeted that Zionists were responsible for the Holocaust, then apologised.

Greta Berlin tweeted that she meant to post the tweet to her private Facebook account rather than the organisation's Twitter account.

The original tweet, sent on September 30 from @freegazaorg, read that "Zionists operated the concentration camps and helped murder millions of innocent Jews". It linked to a video of Eustace Mullins, a conspiracy theorist, claiming that the word "Nazi" combines the words "National Socialist" and "Zionist". Mullins died in 2010.

"I posted it from Facebook, not realising that my private account was connected to the FG account. I apologise," Berlin tweeted.

Although the Free Gaza Movement deleted the tweet, Avi Mayer of the Jewish Agency for Israel posted a screenshot of it on Monday, according to the National Post. (JTA)

IN PROTEST, HAARETZ DOES NOT PRINT EDITION
TEL AVIV - Protesting 100 layoffs of its employees, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz last week Thursday suspended its daily edition for one day.

Employees of the paper did not produce an edition that day, protesting the refusal of the paper's management to meet with representatives of the employees, according to the Times of Israel.

The paper was to resume publication last Friday, when Israeli papers print an expanded edition - akin to Sunday papers in the United States.

In an open letter in response to the printing freeze, Haaretz publisher Amos Schocken said the layoffs were a painful but necessary sacrifice to keep the paper running.

"In recent years I've made a huge effort to ensure Haaretz continues to exist and fulfil its unique role in Israeli society, in addition to being a reasonable place of employment," wrote Schocken, according to the Times of Israel. "Keeping Haaretz alive requires harsh measures which made no one happy."

The Israeli daily newspaper Maariv also is facing substantial layoffs due to declining revenue. Maariv's employees have protested the measures. (JTA)

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Candice Bonner and Megan Shankman selling slush.

KDL Market: more than economics

SHAI DAYAN, GRADE 11

The Grade 8 Market Day at King David Linksfield, this year again was one of much excitement and anticipation. The grade 8 group along with the accounting learners of grade 11, teamed up and split into groups.

These groups worked for months on end on their "businesses" and put a lot of effort and work into their day. After much planning and anticipation, the day finally arrived; the KDLHS Grade 8 Market Day was under way!

Each group was a different "business", selling different products and food items, as well as rendering a variety of services - from ice cream, dinky donuts, and croissants, to paintball, tie die, and stress ball making, the day was packed with many exciting food and gaming stalls, pumping music and a great atmosphere

with a large crowd supporting it all.

The Grade 8 Market Day is a project of the EMS department at King David Linksfield and has been an annual event for years. It's a great opportunity for the grade 8 group to learn all about economics, how to handle money, how to run a business and work with others in a work environment, as well as learning all about the responsibilities of running a business along with the rights you have as a business owner.

The learning outcome of this project is always outstanding and extremely beneficial to the grade 8 group. A special thanks must also go to the group of grade 10s who kept the whole market day refreshed and rehydrated!

This day was one of great success and will surely be one for the books. The grade 8s and 11s are to be commended on their hard work, effort, and the months of planning that went into this exciting event.

Building identity at Soul Workout



OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Soul Workout Jewish history workshop was an absolute hit at KDVP primary last week. This workshop as an identity building project, gives the kids a focus on the power of Jewish history and events that shaped history. The workshop is a blend of narration, multimedia and group activity, culminating

in a vote in the Kia/Nandos Journey through history voting box, to win prizes. Voting can also be done at the Kosher Nandos in Savoy.

Rabbi Ilan Herrmann, director of Soul Workout is seen here with Chad Rayd; Dylan Dermiek; Benjamin Melandowitz; and Gabi Shapiro.

- Schools interested in hosting a Soul Workout workshop, can call (011) 440-5995.

Incorrect photo for KDVP SRC



We publish today the correct photograph for KDVP High School's SRC for 2013. A wrong photograph appeared in the SAJR of Sept 28 – last year's SRC. Back: Jayce Davin; Rebecca Eliason; Sebastian Cohen; Dean Salant; Justin Sher; Ryan Kramer; Kyle Kretzmer; Jacob Blou; and Jamie Brouze. Front: Jenna Hertz; Michael Levenstein; Helena Kahanovitz (head girl); Gabriel Zollmann (head boy); Julia Chaskalson; and Sasha Donenberg.

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

Brixton’s lasting legacy

Brixton Jewish Cemetery in Johannesburg is 100 years old and has a special place in the hearts of our community, many of whom still visit. Although funerals no longer take place at Brixton, those buried there form a rich historic tapestry of Jewish South Africa and include pioneers, community leaders and rabbinic luminaries.

A special section is set aside for rabbonim and those who served Jewish community organisations like the Beth Din, Witwatersrand Benevolent Association and Chevrah Kadisha.

Among the many notable names is that of Rabbi Moses Friedman, a distinguished, beloved scholar whose funeral in 1925 was attended by 10 000 people. Brixton is the final resting place of Sir Harry Graumann, first Jewish mayor of Johannesburg in 1909; Annie Slovo, mother of Joe Slovo; Joseph Ratzker, President and honorary life president of the Witwatersrand Hebrew Benevolent Association; Jacques Klisser, president of the Chevrah Kadisha in 1898, as well as many other prominent people, too numerous to mention here.

We know that every Jewish soul is holy and for the sake of our heritage and



ChevrahKadisha
AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY WELFARE

Partners in Chesed
Michael Sieff
Group CEO

the dignity of all the precious Jews buried at Brixton, the Chev has taken decisive steps toward securing and maintaining the cemetery.

Encouragement from our exceptional community - and the great generosity of one major benefactor - now enables us to finally rid the cemetery of vagrants and protect the tombstones, fencing and facilities from vandalism and theft.

These are nationwide problems, not confined to Jewish cemeteries and we attempted, unsuccessfully, to resolve them through municipal channels. Now, thankfully, we can proceed alone.

Anti-theft fencing, lighting and 24-hour security, are all in progress and we expect to begin seeing results within six weeks.

Ongoing monthly security and maintenance costs will be R40 000. In a future phase we hope to repair all broken tombstones and lay them flat.

Anyone wishing to participate in this important project is welcome to contact us on feedback@thechev.org.za

May our partnership continue to thrive!

This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha

Community Briefs

THE AFTERNOON DRIVE IS NOW ABLY STEERED BY CRAIG BERMAN

Craig Berman (pictured), a veteran DJ of 702, has joined the ranks of 101.9 Chai FM as the Afternoon Drive talk-show host. He will bring his wealth of experience, intellect and humour to the weekday slot from 15:00 - 18:00. This martial arts instructor, guitarist, sales manager, lover of Israeli trance music, voice agency and media company owner, aims to turn the Afternoon Drive into an engaging, interesting and aggressive show, while skillfully balancing a lighter side through music and entertainment. Catch Craig Mondays to Thursdays on 101.9 Chai FM or audiostream at www.chaifm.com - RONEL ZEFF



KLERKSDORP JEWISH WOMEN'S ZIONIST LEAGUE SHOWS HOW IT'S DONE

Over the High Holy Days, the women of the Klerksdorp Women's Zionist League, under the leadership of Marlene Waks, Ghita Subel and Shelle Hack, wowed the community, serving four substantial, impeccably kosher communal meals, enabling members of this dwindling community to spend Yomtov together. At each meal the décor, serviettes, main courses, salads and desserts were completely different. Even the vegetarians were catered for. Pictured are (front) Shelle Hack; Joan de Jong; Jackey Shall; and Marlene Waks. Back: Ray Franks; Sylvia Subel; Varda Subel; Maureen Frame; Dorothy Marcus; and Ghita Subel.

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

West Bank re-labelling: putting our case to Parliament

Shortly before Yom Kippur, the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Trade and Industry heard oral submissions regarding the proposed re-labelling of Israeli West Bank products. The Board, as well as the SA Zionist Federation, were each allowed to make a presentation. Ours was delivered by National Director Wendy Kahn, and we commend her for the accomplished manner in which she did so, as well as for its eloquent and succinct content. It can be viewed in full on our website (www.jewishsa.co.za).

As has been discussed in a number of previous columns, the Board has been much involved, in close collaboration with the SAZF and other organisations, in lobbying against this policy, certainly in the form in which it was originally presented.

Both in its content and the high-handed manner in which it was introduced, demonstrated beyond doubt that while framed in terms of upholding simple consumer protection principles, its real aim is to facilitate a boycott of certain Israeli goods and thereby set a dangerous international precedent.

We very much welcomed the fact that we had finally been provided with an opportunity to present our concerns to government, and it was further gratifying that our presentations were allowed a respectful hearing.

Prior to this, our continued efforts to engage with Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies on the issues, had been disregarded, and when finally allowed an opportunity to meet with him, he was wholly dismissive and uninterested in what we had to say.

If nothing else, our persistence in challenging this flawed and biased new measure has shown to government that our views cannot be simply brushed aside



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

and that we will do whatever is required, including approaching the courts for relief, to ensure fair play.

As a result of the oral hearings, it has been decided to call for further submission from all stakeholders.

These will outline what are the minimal demands that each feels would be satisfactory in resolving the matter.

We have been working closely with our various partners in the process in preparing such a document, which will be submitted shortly.

A Succot lesson for SA

The joyous, harmonious week of Succot followed by Shemini Atzeret/Simchat Torah, has just concluded, leaving us all inspired and uplifted. In commemorating our ancestors' long sojourn in the desert, during which time they lived in fragile, temporary shelters, we should recall at the same time how for so many South Africans, living in such crude dwellings is a constant reality and reflective of the crushing poverty in which they are mired.

In turn, this should motivate us, as a Jewish community, to extend a helping hand as much as we are able to, to those who need it.

Earlier this year, we launched our Jubuntu Project, which documents the various social upliftment projects being conducted by Jewish individuals and organisations.

Once again, I urge anyone who can provide us with information on these initiatives, which in due course are to be presented to Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, to get in touch with us via our website.

• Listen to Steven Gruzd on Jewish Board Talk on 101.9 Chai FM every Friday 12:00 - 13:00. Repeats Sundays, 11:00 - 12:00.

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

UJW BRINGS COMFORT TO HAMMANSKRAAL RAPE CRISIS CLINIC

Due to the initiative of clinical psychologist, Lana Levin (pictured fourth from right, with Bev Goldman, Lynne Raphaely, Levin's daughter Alyssa (5) and Bev Cohen), the Union of Jewish Women was recently able to present much needed comfort packs to a rape crisis clinic in Hammanskraal, north of Pretoria. Aware that the UJW makes up packs for the medico-legal clinics at Chris Hani-Baragwanath Hospital, the Hillbrow Community Health Centre and the Jubilee Clinic in Hammanskraal, she handed over a huge collection of toiletries and underwear.



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Bringing a sparkle to Israel’s diamond industry



Sorting diamonds in Israel, the fourth-largest diamond market in the world. Photos: Supplied

**KARIN KLOOSTERMAN
RAMAT GAN**

White or yellow, round, brilliant, heart or rose cut in one carat or two? Whatever the style, or size, diamonds are still a girl’s best friend, and the engagement ring stone of choice.

As the leader in the industry, the Gemo-logical Institute of America (GIA) sets the standard for assessing diamond quality and value.

This gold standard in the diamond indus-try has now set up shop in Israel, the fourth-largest diamond market in the world. The centre, one of 16 across the world, will include the eighth diamond lab in the world - the sixth

outside the United States. It is based in the Israel Diamond Centre in Ramat Gan and cur-rently employs 20 people.

The opening of the centre will cut the time to market, and reduce risks and insurance premiums of Israeli-traded diamonds in the industry, says Udi Sheintal, managing director of the Israel Diamond Institute, the non-profit organisation that encouraged the GIA to come to Israel.

The Israeli diamond market was worth about \$20 billion in 2011, he says. Until now, Israeli diamond traders would buy their raw diamonds close to the source outside of Is-rael, or in a trade, and then ship the diamond to the United States in order to get a certifi-

cate of quality issued by the GIA. This created backlogs of weeks and months, and a high cost associated with insurance premiums while the gems were in transit.

Having an American centre of excellence in Israel, will accelerate Israeli diamond turno-ver, Sheintal says.

No less important for international trade with Israel, in the next phase in the coming year or two, the GIA will create an educational and learning centre for cutting and polishing diamonds at the Israeli facility, only one of a handful of such facilities outside the US.

“Once there is a school and training in place, it will give a boost to the industry,” Sheintal believes.

Expected to enrol about 100 students a year, this new centre could attract young Europeans looking to be diamantaires - dia-mond manufacturers or producers. Normally trainees go to the GIA’s centres in Carlsbad, California, or New York City. For Europeans, Israel is a much shorter plane ride away, and with fewer time zones to cross.

Sheintal doesn’t think the move will at-tract more buyers and sellers to Israel, but the process will cut costs, which may be translated to the seller and ultimately the end buyer.

“The easiest thing would be for the GIA to stay in the United States, but we convinced them that this is the place to be,” says Shein-tal, who heads an umbrella organisation to help Israeli diamond traders in the interna-tional marketplace.

The centre came about after intense nego-tiations with the Israel Diamond Institute and the Israel Diamond Manufacturers Associa-tion.

“The GIA is the world-leading centre for gemological certifications, which is grading diamonds,” Sheintal tells Israel21c. “This is the most appreciated certificate in the dia-

mond industry and their labs are the most respected in the world - they are like the Rolls Royce of standards, mainly because they are a non-profit organisation.”

It is customary for any diamond weighing more than one-third of a carat to come with a certificate estimating the stone’s worth, along with a gemological report looking at the “four Cs” - colour, clarity, cut and carat.

While the GIA certificates do not specify whether or not the gem is a fair-trade, cruel-ty-free diamond, Sheintal assures that every diamond trader in the Israeli industry is well aware of the problem of blood diamonds.

In fact, he notes, Israel was one of the founders of the Kimberly Process to stop the trade of blood diamonds, he tells Israel21c. “We were there when the process was started 10 years ago, and the rules and regulations are adhered to by the Diamond Controller’s Office in Israel’s Ministry of Industry, Trade and La-bour,” he says.

With a history of the Holocaust behind them, “none of our members had a problem with those rules and regulations. I can say that no one can identify more with [conflict and suffering] than the Israeli diamond commu-nity. It’s easy for them to identify with what’s happening in other parts of the world and to be part of the effort to stop the suffering.”

Sheintal hopes that Arabs from the West Bank, Jordan and elsewhere will take advan-tage of this new diamond centre in Israel as a learning hub.

“Israel has long been a centre for the global diamond trade,” said Donna Baker, GIA president and CEO, who came to Is-rael in September to inaugurate the new centre. “We hope that having direct access to GIA diamond grading services in Israel will support the success of Israeli compa-nies. (Israel21c)”



Products of the Israel Diamond Institute in Ramat Gan.

World News in Brief

CONVICTED OF SOLICITING A MINOR, RABBI IS BANNED FROM DC-AREA SHUL
WASHINGTON - Rabbi David Kaye, who was convicted in 2006 for trying to sexually solicit a minor, has been told he could no longer worship in a synagogue in suburban Washington.

The board of Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation in Bethesda, Maryland, notified congregants of the decision just before the High Holidays, the Washington Jewish Week reported last week Wednesday.

In a September 12 note to its membership, the board wrote in part that it spent a “backbreaking amount of time” researching and discussing the legal and ethical dilemmas presented, including the “safety of our children, responsibility, teshuvah (repentance) and the compelling needs of the community at large”, according to the Washington Jewish Week.

Kaye, a former vice president of programming at Panim: The Institute for Jewish Leaders and Values, based in Rockville, Maryland, was caught in a sting on “To Catch a Predator”, a reality series featuring investigations by the television newsmagazine “Dateline NBC”.

Rabbi Fred Scherlinder Dobb, the spiritual leader at Adat Shalom, spoke at length about the board’s deliberations and decision during a Rosh Hashanah sermon, according to the newspaper. He said it had not been unanimous,

“The process was painful, but it was something to be proud of. We were guided by balancing safety with the respect for individuals,” he told the Washington Jewish Week.

Some congregants supporting the decision said that since Adat Shalom’s religious school meets on Shabbat, they were uncomfortable with Kaye’s presence during services, the newspaper reported.

In 2006, Alexandria US District Court Judge James Cacheris convicted Kaye on one count of coercion and enticement, and one count of travel with intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct. Kaye eventually was sentenced to 78 months in prison and 10 years of supervised release.

Last January, he was released from a transitional house in Baltimore. Now 61, Kaye said he was divorced, living in suburban Washington and still wanted to pray in a congregation.

“I’ve done teshuvah,” he told the newspaper. “And I feel that G-d has forgiven me.”

Kaye had been attending Shabbat services at Adat Shalom since February. He believes that because “Dateline NBC” rebroadcasts “To Catch a Predator” periodically that someone in the congregation may have recognised him, which triggered the congregational debate over his presence. (JTA)



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HORWITZ GERALD JACK
passed away Thursday 20th September.
Deeply mourned and will be sadly missed by his sister Selma, brother-in-law Harry Jackson, nephews Michael, Daryl & Raymond, nieces Caren, Nicole & their children Gabi, Natasha, Dean & Adam, in Sydney, Australia.

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Today, Friday (October 12)

- Jewish Women's Benevolent Society second-hand shop, Benevolent Bargains, has relocated to Shop no. 4, 17 Anne Street, behind Sandringham Spar. All drop-offs and pick-ups welcome. Phone (011) 485-5232.

- UZLC hosts Shirley Zar who will speak on "A Tour of Old Doornfontein". Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 14:00. Contact: Gloria, (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.

Sunday (October 14)

- Chai FM together with the King David High Schools, is hosting a "Battle of the Bands and DJs", in aid of Generation Earth. Venue: King David High School Linksfield hall. Time: From 18:00. Cost: R40 pre-booked by e-mailing Yakira Amoils at yakira.amoils@gmail.com or R60 at the door.

- Big Band Music Appreciation Society meets at St Johns College in the Jeffrey Auditorium St Johns Road in Lower Houghton. Time: 14:15 sharp. The

movie "Funny Face" is included in the line-up. Information: Dave at (011) 885-3525 or Barney on (011) 440-1996.

- RCHCC hosts an exhibition of works by Miriam Stern. Time: 17:00. Hours: Monday- Thursday 09:00 – 16:00, Friday 09:00 – 12:00. Sunday 18:30 - 21:30. Exhibition closes: Sunday November 4. Contact: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net

- Second Innings hosts Scully Levine, retired SA Airways captain currently flying Mango, on "The Role of the Black Box in Aircraft Accident Prevention and as a Tool That Enhances Safety". Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Contact: Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718.

- WIZO Etgar invites you to visit three of Johannesburg's prettiest gardens. There will be a guest speaker and

(011) 728-8088/8378. E-mail: hazelc@great-park.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.

- Orchid Florist, a project of WIZO Johannesburg, offers beautiful arrangements of flowers and fruit for every occasion. No occasion too large or too small. Contact Annette (011) 728-4513.

- JWBS Johannesburg, urgently requires secondhand clothing, kitchenware, household goods, books and bric-a-brac for its secondhand shop. Contact (011) 485-5232.

- Celebrating a bar-/batmitzvah? Why not give a donation to WIZO's bar-/batmitzvah

a sumptuous tea. Cost R190 per person. Bookings: Helen Maisels Trisk, 083-267-2607. Credit card bookings can be made through Sandy on (011) 645-2515.

Wednesday (October 17)

- RCHCC is showing the highly acclaimed film, "Taking Sides", by director Istvan Szabo, starring Harvey Keitel and Stellan Skarsgard. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net, www.great-park.co.za

- Chevrah Kadisha hosts a parenting group for parents of children between the ages of 2 - 10 years, starting today. Gain practical parenting skills, understand your own parenting style, your child's world, and learn how to equip your child with the necessary skills they need to thrive in today's world. The group accommodates working

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.

- Don't miss the opportunity to do a mitzvah. Visit the Selwyn Segal Shop. Gifts priced from R45. Glassware, pewter, silver, white ceramics and Selwyn Segal products. Phone: (011) 485-1344 or (011) 640-5171.

- Benarc Gift Shop - 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.

parents.Information: Caryn: (011) 532-9716.

- UJW CT adult education division hosts Esther Kluk (Russo) will talk on "Collectors, Philistines, Lovers, Experiences From My Art Gallery". Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

- Great Park Synagogue invites you to "The Impact of Relationships on Your Baby's Brain Development" - a parenting workshop with Dr Ronel Duchen, aimed at expecting parents and parents of young children. Starts 19:30. Cost: R30 pp. Bookings essential. Contact Goldie 072-832-2001; goldiesimpson@gmail.com

Thursday (October 18)

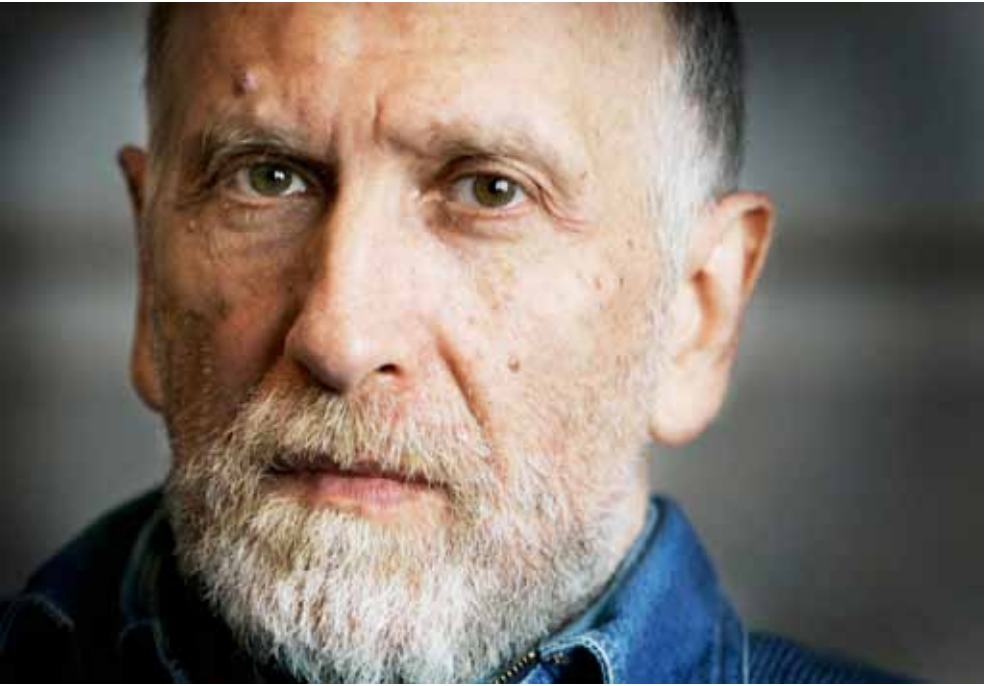
- JWBS is holding a "Bridge and Kaluki Morning". Venue: The Links Bridge Club, 147 10th Street, Linksfield. Time: 08:30 for 09:00. Cost: R100 per player. Tea and prizes. Information: Isabel 083-266-5837."

- 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. All are welcome. Tuesdays: Guest lectures. Contact Rabbi Ari Kievman (011) 440-6600 or e-mail rak@chabad.org.za

- WIZO Elise Gift Shop in the Genesis Shopping Centre, Fairmount, entrance from Bradfield Drive opposite Shula's Bakery. Exciting range of baby gifts and gifts for all occasions available at reasonable prices. Hours: Mon - Thurs 09:00 - 17:00, Friday 09:00 - 13:30, Sunday 10:00 - 13:00. (011) 640-2760.

- WIZO's Wise Buys in Raedene, requires nearly-new clothes, shoes, kitchenware bric-a-brac, etc. Phone Sandy (011) 645-2515 for goods to be collected, or deliver to WIZO office at Beyachad, Raedene.

Chess – a game Jews excel in



An older Bobby Fischer. FBI files have revealed that American chess star had two Jewish parents.

JACK MILNER

This time of the year is usually seen as a period for reflection, where one looks back at the past year and reassesses one’s life. Well, here is something to ponder over if you are at a loss.

How come about half of the world’s chess champions have been Jewish?

In his 1978 book, *The Rating of Chess Players, Past and Present*, Professor Arpad Elo, numerically rated some 476 major tournament players from the 19th century onward. Of the 51 highest ranked players, approximately half were Jewish, or of Jewish descent.

The listing of world chess champions of Jewish descent given below is based on the list of so-called “undisputed world chess champions”, a category whose definition reflects the fact that the world chess championship was in dispute in the years 1993 - 2006.

In 1993, the then world champion Garry Kasparov and his challenger, Nigel Short, broke with the Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE), which had sponsored the world chess championship matches since 1948, and organised the Professional Chess Association (PCA) to sponsor their 1993 championship match.

As a result, between 1993 and 2006 there were both FIDE and PCA champions. Kasparov was the PCA champion from 1993 until 2000, when he lost the title to Vladimir Kramnik. Former world champion Anatoly Karpov was announced the FIDE champion in 1993 and held that title until he lost it to Alexander Khalifman in 1999.

In 2006, Kramnik became the first undisputed world chess champion since 1993 and

was succeeded shortly thereafter by Viswanathan Anand, who won the title from him in 2007. Excluding the disputed period 1993 - 2006, the chess players of Jewish descent listed below held the world chess championship approximately 55 per cent of the time since its inception in 1886:

- Wilhelm Steinitz (1886 - 1894)
- Emanuel Lasker (1894 - 1921)
- Mikhail Botvinnik (1948 - 1957, 1958 - 1960, 1961 - 1963)
- Vasily Smyslov (1957 - 1958)
- Mikhail Tal (1960-1961)
- Robert (Bobby) Fischer (1972 - 1975)
- Garry Kasparov (1985 - 1993)

Of course, we have the usual debate as to who can be defined as Jewish. There is no debate about Steinitz, Lasker, Botvinnik and Tal. They were de facto Jews. We can also claim Smyslov. He had a Jewish mother but a non-Jewish father and that would technically make him Jewish.

Kasparov is in the so-called “grey area”. His father was Jewish but not his mother, so he is probably out.

That brings us to the most enigmatic player of all time - American Bobby Fischer. Brilliant, introvert, and a man who lived by his own rules, Fischer was said to have been born of a Jewish mother and that his father was the German physicist Hans-Gerhardt Fischer, who was not Jewish. He adopted the surname and turned away from Judaism - if there was ever anything there - and became a Seventh Day Adventist.

He vehemently denied any Jewishness and in fact, made strongly anti-Semitic statements. His series against Russia’s Boris Spassky in 1972 was widely publicised as a Cold War confrontation. The match, held in

Reykjavík, Iceland, attracted more world-wide interest than any chess match before or since. In 1975, Fischer declined to defend his title when he could not reach agreement with FIDE over the conditions for the match.

He became more reclusive and did not play competitive chess again until 1992, when he won an unofficial rematch against Spassky. The competition was held in Yugoslavia, which was then under a United Nations embargo. This led to a conflict with the US government, which was also seeking income tax from Fischer on his match winnings. Fischer never returned to his native country.

In his later years, Fischer lived in Hungary, Germany, the Philippines, Japan, and Iceland. During this time he made increasingly anti-American and anti-Semitic statements. After his US passport was revoked over the Yugoslavia sanctions issue, he was detained by Japanese authorities for nine months in 2004 and 2005 under threat of deportation.

In February 2005, Iceland granted him right of residence as a “stateless” alien and issued him a passport. When Japan refused to release him on that basis, Iceland’s parliament voted in March 2005 to give him full citizenship. The Japanese authorities then released Fischer to Iceland, where he lived until his death in 2008.

However, despite all his protestations Fischer had a secret. In February 2003 unsealed FBI files and other independent archival materials indicated that his biological father

was not Hans-Gerhardt Fischer, but rather the Hungarian-Jewish engineer and fluid dynamicist Paul Nemenyi, making both of his parents Jewish.

Paul Nemenyi was a research scientist who worked on the development of the atomic bomb in the Manhattan Project at the University of Chicago. He worked on the mechanism which triggered the bomb.

His work remains classified and little is known about what he did or about the circumstances of his death in 1952. However, all this has not answered the question as to why so many Jews have been brilliant chess players.

Here is an interesting answer, proposed by Alphonse Goetz in *The Parallel Progress of Chess and Civilisation* in 1918.

“Since chess entered upon its third period of splendour, the period in which we actually are, the Israelitish element has exercised a predominance out of all proportion to the number and position of the Jews.

“The branches of activity are well known in which the Israelites have excelled for so long, and, as it were, by the force of atavism - banking, business, industry.

In chess their supremacy began to manifest itself scarcely two generations ago. It has not ceased to grow stronger and stronger since then.”

There it is - it’s just in the genes!



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Mandy Wiener is to address the Maccabi Stag

JACK MILNER

In a complete break from tradition, Maccabi Stag will have a woman as its keynote speaker at its function on Tuesday October 23. Eyewitness News reporter and author of the book “Killing Kebble”, Mandy Wiener, will address the gathering. As a result, this event will be open to women as well.

Maccabi Stag has taken a 180 degree turn here as previous speakers have all been sporting personalities.

The function starts at 18:00, at which time a finger supper and drinks will be served. Wiener will talk at 19:00.

The cost is R100 per person and that includes the food.

Booking is essential so please confirm




Journalist and writer Mandy Wiener will be the guest speaker at this month’s Maccabi Stag.

your attendance with the Maccabi office on 011 645 2557 or call Max Klass on 011 485 1485.

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