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onstage in
Johannesburg's
CBD - page 9*

• south african • jewish report

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Israel's Olympic hopes rest on them

Israeli President Shimon Peres, seated second from right, with his country's Olympic delegation for the London Games, July 9. The Games start on July 27 and end on Sunday, August 12. Thirty eight Israeli athletes will compete in 18 events. (NOAM MOSKOWITZ/FLASH90/JTA)

SEE PAGE 4

GOLDSTUCK: Meet the car of the future

"The car of the future won't have wings, and it won't be able to do your thinking for you. But it will be voice-controlled, have high-speed wireless broadband serving an on-board WiFi hotspot. It may even have Back to the Future-style lifting doors."

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Ruth Gruber says: "Europe's Jews still chasing an elusive collective identity"

Today it is clear that the optimistic ideal of a pan-European Jewish identity remains elusive and the political goal of European Jewry as a strong third pillar has yet to materialise. Yet, rejuvenated efforts are under way to tackle the challenge.

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Brian Joffe is new president of ORT SA

Joffe, ranked highly by Forbes on its list of the 20 most powerful businesspeople in Africa, founded Bidvest in 1988 and built the group into one of the continent's largest conglomerates.

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Ambassador Segev-Steinberg presents credentials to Mswati 111



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MTI strongly queries rationale and motivation behind Davies' 'relabelling' proposal

Rob Davies' unilateral action runs counter to the spirit of SA's Constitution, lending itself instead to the "groupthink" pervasive during the time of apartheid.

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Shabbat Times

July 13/16 Tammuz
July 14/ 17 Tammuz

Parshat Pinchas

17:15	18:07	Johannesburg
17:37	18:31	Cape Town
16:56	17:49	Durban
17:16	18:09	Bloemfontein
17:08	18:03	Port Elizabeth
17:01	17:55	East London.

Community Briefs

BRIAN JOFFE IS NEW PRESIDENT OF ORT SA

One of South Africa’s most successful businessmen, Brian Joffe, has taken on the presidency of ORT SA.

Joffe, ranked highly by Forbes on its list of the 20 most powerful businesspeople in Africa, founded Bidvest in 1988 and built the group into one of the continent’s largest conglomerates.

Last year, ORT SA launched its first formal fundraising campaign in 17 years with the aim of raising R5,5 million in addition to its existing operational income streams and so build on its education and training programmes.

ORT SA receives a further boost with the addition of management consultant Darryl Weisz as chairman.- MARCELLE RAVID

MARGOLIAS AND SHALPID BID YAD AHARON FAREWELL

After six years, Sonia Margolias and Laureen Shalpid (pictured) have resigned from their duties as fundraisers, project/event co-ordinators and PR managers for Yad Aharon & Michael.

The past six years have been filled with so many initiatives, events and projects that have inspired both them and the community to reach out and help those in need. They commented in a media statement that their goals would not have been possible without input from the community.

Yad Aharon & Michael plays a vital role in the community and its primary focus is to feed those Jewish families who are in need.



What would you do?

Someone forwarded me a short video clip on the Internet, which depicts a scene set up to determine the reaction of bystanders when witnessing a prejudicial confrontation. The clip is titled: “What would you do?”

Two young adults wearing T-shirts with Hebrew writing and identifying them as representatives of a nearby Jewish centre, enter a local bakery and request permission to put up a sign advertising a job fair that will take place at the Jewish centre. The response from the clerk behind the counter is a flat refusal followed by a tirade of anti-Semitic remarks.

The show then chronicles the different responses of the other customers as the skit is repeated a number of times throughout the day. While many remain indifferent or shy away, the encouraging thing is that each time there are some who leave in protest, others even take a stand, and in defence of these young Jews voice their disdain for the biased behaviour they’ve just witnessed.

Our parsha this week opens with the



PARSHAT PINCHAS
*Rabbi Pini Hecht
Claremont Wynberg Hebrew Congregation*

praise and blessing received by Pinchas, the grandson of Aaron the High Priest, for his courageous act of standing up to the moral corruption taking place in the Jewish camp.

Many had succumbed to the enticement of the Moabite women and where others chose tolerance, Pinchas stood up for the law and the Divine values that he had been taught.

Most of us are not witness to overt prejudice or unabashed immorality as in the examples above. However, are we really

untouched by instances of moral degeneration? Is not society at large filled with a barrage of influences that are offensive to the basic moral and ethical fibre of our Jewish values?

How do we respond to the incessant demands of today’s media which by their nature call for the breakdown in basic levels of physical modesty? Do we not all encounter individuals with questionable moral values?

Pinchas was a great man, He saw the need of the hour and responded. And Torah testifies that the unequivocal quality of his morality saved the entire nation. In our times of such moral relativism we too are called on to make a choice between moral tolerance or vigilance and the courage to take stand and make a difference.



Rabbi David Masinter of Chabad and Daniel Schechter from One Time Shoe Shine, with one of a hundred new young business owners.

Some 100 underprivileged kids now business owners

Recently, close to 100 underprivileged teenagers from homes and orphanages across Johannesburg, were given a once in a lifetime opportunity to start up and manage their own shoe shining business, under the banner of One Time Shoe Shine, a Chabad Miracle Drive job creation initiative.

In a media release Chabad says that in addition, Standard Bank has agreed to

open accounts for every young man, each with a small amount of start-up money.

A motivational talk was given to the gathering by Standard Bank representative, Thomas Malada, who also told his personal story of how he has managed to turn his life into a success story, emerging from a poverty-stricken background.

In addition, the young men were given words of encouragement from

Chabad’s Rabbi David Masinter, director of Miracle Drive, who explained to the young men that as long as one has a dream, one can make it a reality as long as one works hard, stays focused and has integrity.

He concluded by saying: “If the only job you can find is polishing shoes, take it because you don’t know whose shoes you are polishing.”

News in Brief

PROBE INTO SAFED RABBI’S COMMENTS DROPPED

JERUSALEM - Israel’s attorney general has closed a criminal investigation on suspicion of incitement to racism against the chief rabbi of Safed.

The probe of Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu, who signed a religious ruling against renting apartments to non-Jews, stemmed from anti-Arab comments he allegedly made last year during media interviews. Numerous complaints were lodged with the attorney general’s office over the comments.

The investigation was closed last Sunday after

the prosecutor’s office said there was not enough evidence that Eliyahu had made the comments attributed to him. The statements were not recorded, and it is believed that what Eliyahu said and what was attributed to him, was somewhat different. Some reporters admitted that they might have tweaked the content, Ynet reported, citing the attorney general’s statement.

Eliyahu reportedly said that “Arab culture is very cruel” and “Arabs have different codes and norms that

have become ideology. Such as the agricultural thefts, which have become part of Arab ideology.” Also: “A Jew should not run away from an Arab. A Jew should chase away Arabs,” and “Expelling Arabs from Jewish neighbourhoods is part of the strategy.”

Eliyahu signed a rabbinic letter in October 2010 calling on Jews not to rent or sell apartments to non-Jews. It is believed that the letter, which was signed by 50 rabbis, was directed against Arab college students in Safed. (JTA)

• south african

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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 •

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The Jewish World

in seven seconds

ABC news:
www.abcnews.go.com

“Ernest Borgnine, star of McHale’s Navy’, dead at 95”

Jewish actor Ernest Borgnine, who began his career playing the heavy, but won an Oscar for gentle comedy and may be best known for his starring role as the lovable, skipper in the TV series “McHale’s Navy,” has died of renal failure. He was 95.

World Jewish Daily, international:
www.worldjewishdaily.com

“Olmert not guilty”

The Jerusalem District Court has exonerated former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert of the majority of the corruption charges brought against him and which prompted his impeachment in 2008.

Yeshiva World News:
www.theyeshivaworld.com

“HaRav Yitzchok Sheiner: Prepare to go to prison”

HaGaon HaRav Yitzchok Sheiner Shlita, Rosh Yeshiva Kaminitz and a member of the Moetzes Gedolei Torah, speaks out against what the rav calls “The Shas HaShmad”. “They want to eliminate Torah and we must be prepared to go to prison”.

Arutz Sheva, West Bank:
www.israelnationalnews.com

“Iran producing deadly anti-tank ‘Kor-net’ missile”

Iran is copy-cattng the deadly Russian Kornet anti-tank missile that Hezbollah used against Israeli soldiers in the Second Lebanon War and which Hamas used to kill a student on a school bus last year

The Australian Jewish News, Sydney:
www.jewishnews.net.au

“Parents step in to save Yeshiva College”

Unless Rabbi Pinchus Feldman can raise more than \$20 million, Yeshiva in Bondi could collapse. That was the message from Yeshiva’s spiritual leader when he recently approached a major communal philanthropist for desperately-needed funds.

Haaretz, Tel Aviv:
www.haaretz.com


“Just don’t call her ‘Monsieur le Rabbin”

As one of two women rabbis in France, Delphine Horvilleur is trying to expose the country’s Jews to a more liberal line of Judaism.

The Palestine Free Voice, West Bank:
www.thepalestinefreevoice.com

“Legal expert: If Israel isn’t occupying West Bank, it must give up land held by IDF”

Prof David Kretzmer, an expert on international law, commented on the findings of Judge Levy’s committee, appointed to investigate the legality of building outposts in the West Bank.



Nathan Englander takes short story prize

CORK - Jewish-American author Nathan Englander has won the 2012 Frank O’Connor International Short Story Award.

The award, for his short story collection “What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank”, garnered Englander a \$30 000 prize. The collection of stories won out over collections by Israeli writer Etgar Keret, as well as Sarah Hall and Kevin Barry.

The prize is funded by the city of Cork in Ireland.

Englander teamed up this year with Jewish-American author Jonathan Safran Foer to publish the “New American Haggadah”, a more modern take on the traditional Passover Haggadah. (JTA)



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The power of
‘voetsoolvlak’

When Israel’s Ambassador to South Africa Dov Segev-Steinberg last week also presented his credentials as Israeli ambassador to King Mswati 111 of Swaziland (see story on page 3), it highlighted the Jewish state’s long involvement in the African continent, and the twists and turns it has taken over the years. It hasn’t always been an easy ride - there have been enduring successes, but also ugly disappointments.

Prior to the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Israel - particularly under the premiership of Golda Meir - put a lot of energy into development work in African countries through its Mashav programme with its irrigation schemes, agricultural, medical, educational and other projects with the local people.

Then came the 1973 war and the global oil crisis perpetrated by the Arab oil-producing countries. Huge pressure was put on African countries by the Arabs to cut ties with Israel. Many did so, to the distress of Israelis, among whom the saga left bruised feelings and a sense of betrayal. Gradually, over the years Israel has again become active all over Africa in a myriad activities with governments, businesses and communities.

In the big scheme of things, formal relations with little Swaziland - whose ruler is very far from democratic, and is vehemently criticised for his extravagant lifestyle while his people remain desperately poor and dying of hunger - is not exactly a diplomatic coup. The king is frequently described as a corrupt despot. Recently Swaziland asked South Africa for a R2,5 billion loan to help its financial crisis, and the Swazis complained when it came with strict conditions about how it was to be used.

In fact, there is something of an odour underlying Israel’s relationship with Swaziland. Some people ask: “What is there to crow about? Is that the best Israel can do?” And, of course, there is the risk that when Mswati departs the scene, Israel might be tainted by the association with him. We remember well the stench emanating from Israel’s relationship with the apartheid regime and the political price it still pays for this.

Israel was partly driven by its isolation in the world at the time and its need to find friends wherever it could - South Africa was one of the few countries willing to have an open relationship with it. And many Western and other countries - including France, the UK, Iran, etc - also had strong connections to the racist regime. Nevertheless, Israel is the one often targeted for criticism in this regard.

Ultimately, much of the resilience of Israel’s connection to Africa lies in the “voetsoolvlak” (Afrikaans for “on-the-ground”) nature of its projects: not coming in as if on a pedestal, but engaging directly with the locals. Israel, with its seven million people on a tiny sliver of land with few natural resources, cannot throw vast amounts of money into African projects, as America has sometimes done. Nor can it bring in its own large labour force for its schemes, as China does, leaving the Africans with little to show for it and unable to carry on after the Chinese leave – and creating dependency.

Offering expertise is a long-term view - “teaching a man how to fish rather than giving him a fish to eat”. Through this, even a change of regime or ruler does not easily destroy its effects.

On many fronts Israel is losing the public relations war around the world quite dramatically. Indeed, its increasingly tainted image in many places is seriously worrying. It is obviously vital for Israel and Jews to do what they can to counter this - dare one say it, increasingly anti-Semitic? - trend.

In the long run, one would hope that continuing ground-level involvement in Africa will carry weight and benefits - moral and practical - for Israel which might counter the problematic nature of certain high-level political links. Time will tell whether this is the case, in Swaziland as well as elsewhere.

Europe’s Jews are still chasing an elusive collective identity



Hungarian sociologist Andras Kovacs, who co-ordinated a 2011 survey on Jewish identity in five post-communist European countries.

**STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY
RUTH ELLEN GRUBER
BUDAPEST**

Is there such a thing as a European Jewish identity? Can such an identity be created? What clout can European Jewry wield in global Jewish affairs?

Jewish policymakers have debated these questions ever since the fall of communism in the early 1990s erased east-west borders and opened the way to a new Jewish chapter in Europe. Back then, some strategists saw fostering a European Jewish identity as key to the political goal of making European Jewry a “third pillar” - or equal player - alongside Jews in Israel and North America.

Today it is clear that the optimistic ideal of a pan-European Jewish identity remains elusive and the political goal of European Jewry as a strong third pillar has yet to materialise. Yet rejuvenated efforts are under way to tackle the challenge.

But what happened to damper the initial enthusiasm for the idea?

‘French Jews are very French; UK Jews are very British’

For one thing, “French Jews are very French; UK Jews are very British. It’s a simple fact,” said Rabbi Andrew Baker, director of international Jewish affairs for the American Jewish Committee. “Eastern European communities had many challenges during these last two decades in re-establishing Jewish life. But in the process we have also seen how they were pulled closer to their respective governments’ policies and views.”

Or, as put by Barry Kosmin, who recently directed a survey of European Jewish leaders for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee’s International Centre for Community Development: “We have aspirations versus reality.”

The survey polled 328 “Jewish leaders and opinion formers” in 32 countries, and as far as Europe was concerned, it demonstrated a dramatic gap between theory and practice.

Most respondents “strongly supported” Jewish solidarity and a European Jewish identity, but only 22 per cent had “direct knowledge” of other Jewish communities in Europe and only 15 per cent said they were familiar with “the goals and programmes” of the main European Jewish organisations.

Finally, more than 70 per cent agreed that “European Jewry is not composed of

integrated communities across the continent.”

Kosmin presented the survey finding in June at a conference in Barcelona sponsored by the JDC and the European Council of Jewish Communities, an umbrella organisation that recently revived operations in an attempt to kick-start closer European co-operation.

The data, said ECJC President Evan Lazar, prove the need for his group.

“The fact that the survey shows that so few community leaders know what is happening with other European Jewish communities validates the purpose and reason for being of the ECJC,” Lazar, a Prague-based lawyer, told JTA.

The survey findings in fact reflect how both prospects and conditions have changed since the heady post-communist days of the 1990s.

“There was a lot of optimism at the time, and looking back now it is clear that it was not justified,” Baker said. “But understanding why is more difficult.”

Baker, who helped organise a number of conferences and other initiatives promoting European Jewish identity and integration, said the lack of success was due to a combination of factors. Changed realities in the global arena, of course, played a major role: among them the collapse of the Middle East peace process, the second intifada, the rise of Islamic extremism and spikes in anti-Semitism largely linked to growing Arab and Muslim communities in Europe.

Changed realities in the global arena played a major role, among them the collapse of the ME peace process.

“Most European Jewish communities today face significant security concerns that no one imagined at the time of our conferences in the 1990s,” he said.

The official report on a 1995 meeting in Prague - the first major conference on pan-European Jewish identity issues - declared in fact that it had taken place at a time “when Israel is not under threat and the problems of anti-Semitism no longer pose an immediate danger.”

But, Baker told JTA that internal Jewish failures also helped thwart expectations. For one thing, the AJC official said, strategists had not realised how “nationally connected” European Jewish communities were and still are.

Ironically, he added: “Today it is the need to confront common concerns and



Ionel Schlesinger, president of the Jewish community in Arad, Romania; Evan Lazar, president of the European Council of Jewish Communities; and Ivan Bloch, president of the Jewish community in Lugoj, Romania, at the “meeting of presidents” sponsored by the European Council of Jewish Communities and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Barcelona, in June this year.

threats - anti-Semitism and anti-Israel campaigns primarily - that serves as the basis for pan-European and pan-Diaspora co-operation.”

Against this background, Jewish strategists and policymakers are attempting to chart new courses.

“We are living in a time of multiple and shifting identities,” said Mario Izcovich, director of pan-European programmes at the JDC. “It is not a fixed picture; people don’t seem to want to belong to anything permanently.”

Concept of European Jewry as third pillar of world Jewry remains a viable political model to aim for.

Still, he told JTA, the concept of European Jewry as the third pillar of world Jewry remained a viable political model to aim for.

“It simply cannot be that political issues regarding Jews can be discussed just by Israel and the US,” Izcovich said.

Hampering efforts, say some strategists and researchers, is a growing disconnect in some countries between mainstream Jewish institutions and the way Jewish lives are lived. Informal networks and alternative initiatives, they said, are increasingly important, particularly for younger Jews.

“Real identity comes in an informal way,” said Mircea Cernov, who heads Haver, a Budapest-based NGO that teaches schoolchildren about Judaism and the Jewish people. “Real connections based on Jewish identity come outside Jewish institutions, just as real Jewish life is not according to the formalisation of Jewish organisations and institutions.”

Sociologist Andras Kovacs, who has charted the development of Jewish life in Hungary for decades and co-ordinated a survey released in 2011 on Jewish identity in five post-communist European countries, agreed.

In many places, he told JTA, “new initiatives come from civic groups, not from the established Jewish community”.

Moreover, Kovacs adds: “What people say about their identity is different from European Jewish politics and Jewish institutional politics. Regarding Jewish identity, the data show that a sense of European-ness does exist. But it is not so present in the Jewish leadership.”

That leaves Europe’s Jewish leaders - just like many in America - trying to connect their goals to the realities of the people they seek to unite. (JTA)

Black groups show their strong support for Israel

In an unprecedented show of co-operative solidarity, close on 2 000 South Africans marched to the Department of Trade and Industry in Pretoria on June 28, to protest against the decision by the Minister of the Department of Trade and Industry, Rob Davies, to relabel goods coming from Israel as coming from the “Occupied Palestinian Territories”.

BEV GOLDMAN

The idea for the march was driven by Rev Kenneth Meshoe, leader of the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), and enthusiastically supported by the leadership of the IFP, the Shembe Church, Impact for Christ Ministries and the Institute for Christian Leadership Development (ICLD), as well as by representatives of the Congolese, Zimbabwean and Nigerian communities in the country and by the SA Zionist Federation, representing the South African Jewish community.

It was an unprecedented event: a march initiated by notable members of various black communities, showing their support for and belief in Is-

rael by taking to the streets in a public display of support for Israel.

Disciplined and dedicated, the crowd marched with banners and posters, with songs and chanting, from the Art Museum in Pretoria to the offices of the DTL.

What united them, as well as their love for Israel, was their total and unquestioning rejection of the minister's proposed stance, based on a biased and prejudicial view of the Middle East conflict.

In addition, their determination not to allow Israel to be singled out for censure, was evident in that they questioned why the same steps are not taken against countries like China, which labels as its own, products from Tibet; like India, which labels as its own,

goods produced in Kashmir; and like Turkey, which labels as its own, products made in Kurdistan or Cyprus.

The march was hugely successful for a number of reasons, not least of which was the excellent public display of support for Israel from various communities, and the obvious discomfort of a number of pro-Palestinian bodies including Cosatu, which lambasted the Shembe Church and other Christian groups for their participation in the event while they simultaneously condemned the SAZF in the most distasteful and offensive manner.

The “Africans for Israel” march will long be remembered and reflected on as a measure of the growing support that Israel has in South Africa.

News in Brief

HILARY CLINTON MEETS WITH PA'S MAHMOUD ABBAS

WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has called her talks with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas productive.

Clinton, who met with Abbas last week Friday, said she hoped to build momentum for another peace push when she visited Israel in

10 days' time, the Associated Press reported.

She said the two discussed how to build on a recent letter exchange between Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Clinton said the US was committed to a two-state peace agreement. “We cannot lose

sight of the critical importance” of Israeli-Palestinian peace despite upheaval across the Arab world, she said, according to AP.

Clinton and Abbas met in Paris, where the secretary of state was attending a conference on Syria. (JTA)



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Expert on terrorism and Middle Eastern affairs. He has written numerous books on Israel and the Middle East, his latest book, *Israel: An Introduction*, presents and analyses Israel as a country today.



Roy Horovitz Actor | Director | Lecturer

He received his MA in Drama from Tel- Aviv University, acted and won numerous awards in Israeli theatre productions *My First Sony*, *The Timekeepers* and *Volunteer Man*. He won Best Director Award for the play *Pollard's Trial*. A lecturer of Play Analysis and Theatre History.

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LET WE AS A COMMUNITY SEE HOW WE CAN MAKE THINGS RIGHT

I wish to take a more centralist approach between Steve Felder and Olga Zabludoff on the matter of the Baltic regions.

I attended the same trip that Felder attended and spent short productive spells in both Riga and Vilnius. Immediately you get a sense of an interesting land with an identity crisis between being European or Russian. I think the Baltic state has inherited the scraps from both regions and is not an area that will easily attract tourism, let alone foreign investment and trade, without some powerful intervention.

The JDC as Zabludoff mentions, comes into existence in a country when there is a need. It purposefully distances itself from the limelight and politics and takes a substantive approach to getting the job done and quietly leaving. A person on this exact tour coined it perfectly when he said the JDC’s mission was to get into business in a country to get out of business.

Simply put they give communities fishing rods and not the fish and try ensure the sustainability of that community to a point whereby they can move onto their next mission. I realised days into the tour that when you get to hear about the JDC it can only mean one of two things: Either your area has a pool that can assist the JDC through money or support, or you and your community might be in dire threat.

The tour opened our eyes to the challenges faced by an emerging community who can be characterised by an hourglass, with a generation of senior citizens over the age of 70 that make up the original Litvak culture and then a waning middle age generation in the centre.

Some left the region; others changed their religion; and others were simply not interested.

The positive aspect is that there is a younger generation that has the possibility of rescuing the Litvak culture and keeping it alive for generations to come. It amazes me that we are concerned that our kids and their

kids to come, will never see a live rhinoceros. How about if we forget our cultural roots and the essence of our foundation?

Imagine we never get to hear Yiddish again or taste authentic tzimmiss?

My political experience immediately showed me that the Jewish community in the Baltics are similar to those previously disadvantaged by apartheid in the immediate post-arena of democracy in 1994. The only difference between the two regions is that in South Africa the discriminated are the majority and compensation has been more open and swift while in the Baltics the victims might not live to see their due pittance and because they are in the minority, they face the real threat of natural extinction.

No politician could be openly bold enough to support the community without affecting their chances of re-election. I think our focus should not be on how Government treats our families in Lithuania, but rather how we, as the emancipated generations in the distant South give back to our real community and heritage.

The most admired quality of the Jewish nation is our ability to look after our own when the Government cannot or will not. So, while the JDC and some brave members of the political sphere try and fight for the rights of the Litvaks and custodians of our culture, we as a nation could do our bit through time or money.

On July 17, at the Chabad of Strathavon at 18:30 come and listen to Solly Kaplinsky from the JDC, and other members that were on the inaugural mission to the Baltics, give a report-back and a way forward.

Let us not look at the ills of Government or sound the death knell of a community in a critical condition, let us rather look at what we can do to make it right and honour and respect the heritage bestowed upon us.

Darren Bergman
Raedene Estate
Johannesburg

‘NEVER GIVE UP AND ALWAYS HAVE HOPE AND COURAGE’

Six million Jews perished in the Holocaust, but Zina Silberman was one of G-d’s precious chosen ones who survived the Shoah in Antwerp, Belgium. She passed away on June 23 and the numbers of those who survived this unspeakable horror, get smaller and smaller by the years.

Her brother, Henri Rips, together with the Azrieli Foundation, published the book “Fate undecided” which records the hardship they endured during the Holocaust era and how they were hidden underground, how they were in prison and how they escaped the

Holocaust.

When Steven Spielberg organised interviews of Holocaust survivors, Zina’s message in the interview to the world, family and friends was: “Never give up and always have hope and courage.” This message should be instilled in the younger generation to learn how to get through life.

Zina’s legacy will live on forever in the hearts of her children, Sharon and Michelle.

Michelle Silberman
Johannesburg

COSATU AND IRAN SHOW LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OR EDUCATION

Cosatu’s national spokesman, Patrick Craven, reminds me of the last vestiges of Arthur Scargill’s unions in Britain who had their butts kicked by “The Iron Lady”, Maggie Thatcher.

He and his cohorts will do well to think about the bloodshed perpetrated by their “brothers and sisters” in Syria, Egypt, Iraq, and Libya, not to mention Somalia, and many other African states.

Cosatu clearly has little knowledge of Christianity, because much of what Chris-

tianity teaches is contained in the Old Testament.

Craven and Cosatu speak forcibly but unreliably, much like the Iranian leadership does about the destruction of Israel. Of course , much of what Cosatu and Iran spew out is sentient drivel which exhibits lack of knowledge or education.

Nathan Cheiman
Northcliff
Johannesburg

THE QUESTION IS: HOW TO ENSURE ISRAEL REMAINS A JEWISH STATE

I would like to comment on the article titled “Peres is cock-a-hoop about renewed peace negotiations” in the Jewish Report of June 29, relating to President Shimon Peres’ address to the Fourth Presidential Conference in Jerusalem.

In my opinion there are two key statements. Firstly: “In Judaism there is a constant debate between different ideas and approaches. And when faced with danger we are united as one.” This is in response to non-Orthodox Jews who complain there is friction between various factions of Judaism.

The other clause is: “The principle of two states for two peoples is an Israeli in-

terest. That is the way to ensure that Israel remains Jewish, democratic and attractive.”

To the best of my knowledge the words “Israel remains Jewish” implies that if the Arabs of Sumeria and Judea (West Bank) are included in Israel, then by virtue of their greater birthrate they will outnumber Jews in a few generations.

The ultra-Orthodox may match the Arabs for birthrate, but that in itself is a problem, as they don’t include technology in their education.

John Brenner
Johannesburg

LONG-LOST COUSIN TRACED THROUGH READERS OF JEWISH REPORT

Thank you so much to the Jewish Report for printing my request for information on Rosalind Fehler, on behalf of my cousin Haidene Vallance in Israel.

We heard from Rosalind and other relatives, so all is well now.

For the record

PHOTOGRAPH WAS OF JAZZ GUITARIST DJANGO REINHARDT

The image shown on page 12 in last week’s issue, in the story “Scat must nod towards its Yiddish midwife” was not of black American bassist Leroy Eliot “Slam” Stewart. It was, in fact of pioneering virtuoso Belgian jazz guitarist, Django Reinhardt (1910 - 1953). The image, courtesy of Wikipedia, shows Slam Stewart. We regret the error.

News in Briefs

IRAN’S PARLIAMENT SPEAKER LARIJANI CALLS FOR END TO WEST, ISRAEL

TEHRAN - An Iranian official has said the West and Israel should disappear.

“Today, the time has come for the disappearance of the West and the Zionist regime (Israel) - which are two dark spots in the present era - from the face of the universe,” Ali Larijani the speaker of Iran’s parliament, told a news conference in Iran last week Thursday, Iran’s Press TV reported.

“The US and the Zionist regime are the prime sources of tyranny and gloom in the current age. The Muslim world is fed up with the injustice and abuse by these governments,” he added.

TEAM APPOINTED TO WRITE NEW MILITARY DRAFT LAW IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM - Deputy Prime Minister Shaul Mofaz will be part of the three-member team to write an Israeli law on equality in military and national service.

Mofaz and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed on the team, which was announced last Sunday. The team will formulate the law on haredi Orthodox military service based on recommendations of the Plesner committee, which Netanyahu dissolved less than a week ago citing the number of members who quit. The committee issued its preliminary findings despite the dissolution.

The committee’s report calls for universal service for all Israeli citizens, including mandating the draft of haredi Orthodox men and upgrading the National Service programme for the Arab sector.

It also calls for formulating an effective enforcement system and incentives for serving. The report calls for individual financial sanctions against draft evaders, as well as sanctions against yeshivas that prevent their students from entering the draft.

Along with Mofaz, the team includes Strategic Affairs Minister Moshe Yaalon and Kadima Party lawmaker Yohanan Plesner, who headed the committee that made the recommendations.

Also last Sunday, the Likud Party unanimously ap-

EX-CHIEF RABBI OVADIA YOSEF’S CALL SPURS YESHIVAS TO NIX SUMMER BREAKS

JERUSALEM - Sephardic yeshivas in Israel reportedly have answered a call by former Chief Sephardic Rabbi Ovadia Yosef to cancel their summer breaks over a new haredi Orthodox conscription law.

Yosef said last Saturday night that Torah study and prayer should continue uninterrupted over the government’s decision to formulate a law that would draft haredi Orthodox men into the military or national service, according to reports. He said the haredi Orthodox were in a “state of emergency”.

He called on the yeshivas to cancel their three-week breaks, known as “bein hazmannin”, or between the times, which usually begin on the fast of the 9th of Av and last until the beginning of the month of Elul, in order to continue studying and

PA’S ABBAS ACCEPTS INVITATION TO VISIT TEHRAN

TEHRAN - Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is to visit Iran at the invitation of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Abbas was invited to attend the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, to be held in Tehran at the end of August. The invitation was delivered for Ahmadinejad by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian during a meeting with Abbas in Jordan, according to reports.

Abbas reportedly accepted the invitation.

Ahmadinejad reportedly also invited Egypt’s new president, Mohammed Morsi, who heads the Islamist

We are so grateful to you and your readers. Your newspaper is well read and loved. My best wishes go with you.

Roni Snitcher
Cape Town



Larjani also said the West’s interference in Syria “is merely due to Syrian resistance against the Zionist regime; the US, therefore, tries to employ such notions as reforms to harm the resistance front in this nation,” Press TV reported.

Iran’s spy chief, meanwhile, is accusing French and German intelligence services of co-operating with the CIA to kill Iranian nuclear scientists, The Associated Press reported.

Heidar Moslehi said last week Friday that intelligence services in the region had also taken part in the campaign. He did not name other countries, according to AP. (JTA)

proved the recommendations of the Plesner committee.

“Neither the army, the economy nor society can continue on the current path,” Netanyahu said last Sunday at the beginning of the regular weekly Cabinet meeting. “Therefore, I completely understand the demand of those who serve and their families.”

The prime minister said he believed that “the decisive majority of Israelis, including many in the ultra-Orthodox sector, understand that change must come.

“We are citizens of one state and we must all participate in bearing the burden of service to the state. We intend to give positive incentives to those who serve, negative incentives to those who evade and to enact genuine enforcement measures in order to ensure that a genuine change indeed takes place,” he said.

The announcement of the vote and the team came a day after some 20 000 people demonstrated in Tel Aviv calling for a universal draft, including of the haredim and Arab Israelis. Several Israeli politicians and Israeli reserve officers attended the Tel Aviv rally, which demonstrated under the slogan “One people, one draft”.

In February, the Israeli Supreme Court declared that the Tal Law, which allowed haredi Orthodox men to defer service indefinitely, to be unconstitutional, and set August 1 as the deadline for a new law to be passed. (JTA)

praying.

Last Sunday, a three-member team was appointed to write a new law following the recommendations of the Plesner committee, which include universal service for all Israeli citizens, including mandating the draft of haredi Orthodox men.

In February, the Israeli Supreme Court had declared that the Tal Law, which allowed haredi Orthodox men to defer service indefinitely, to be unconstitutional and set August 1 as the deadline for a new law to be passed.

Yosef also called on synagogues to add the Avinu Malkenu prayer twice a day. The prayer reads in part “Our father, our king, tear up the evil sentence.” (JTA)

Muslim Brotherhood, to visit Tehran for the summit. Iran will become head of the Non-Aligned Movement for the next three years during the Tehran summit.

Meanwhile, President Barack Obama has invited Morsi to visit the United States in September, an Egyptian official said last Sunday, according to reports.

“President Obama extended an invitation to President Morsi to visit the United States when he attends the UN General Assembly in September,” Egyptian aide Yasser Ali said last Sunday after Morsi met US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns in Cairo, Reuters reported. (JTA)

Arts in Brief

SUPERSTAR YAACOV SHWEKEY BACK IN SA FOR CONCERTS

Last year, international Jewish music superstar, Yaakov Shwekey took the community by storm, in a one-night-only concert organised by Sydenham Shul. Tickets were snapped up so quickly that Rabbi Yossy Goldman quickly organised a second show. Shwekey's back: on August 14 and 15 at Teatro, Montecasino, and August 16 at the CTICC, Cape Town. His second concert in SA features a 22-piece orchestra, with co-ordination and keyboard by Bryan Schimmel, and conducted by Yochi Briskman, Shwekey's New York director, and a programme which features work from Shwekey's latest album, Cry No More. Call Sydenham Shul: (011) 640-5021 or Ingrid Seeff 083-377-1111.

PIANIST ISHAY SHAER HEADLINES SEVERAL SA PERFORMANCES

This month, celebrated Israeli pianist Ishay Shaer (29) headlines several performances nationally. Debuting as a child, Shaer has won numerous international music competitions, including the Clairmont Prize and the International Beethoven Competition in Bonn.

Shaer is supported in South Africa by Tararam, the SA-Israel Cultural Foundation. His SA tour offers 19th century piano "miniatures", including Chopin's famous etudes and Beethoven's bagatelles.

Shaer performs at VRYfees, Bloemfontein today, July 13 and tomorrow, July 14: (051) 404-7907; the Helderberg Music Society, Somerset West on July 15: (021) 855-4417; The Greenside, in Johannesburg on July 18: (011) 880-5720; and Olde 'n New Recitals, Westcliff, July 21: 083-414-0041.

URBAN ARTS PLATFORM WINS THE CARING AWARD 2012

The Urban Arts Platform, founded by Leigh Nudelman, Wayne Sussman and Gina Cooperman, in 2010 has won the Caring Award 2012, from the Johannesburg Development Agency-hosted Halala Joburg Awards. Said Nudelman: "This award is motivation for us to achieve our ultimate goal: to foster and engender a thriving arts community in Johannesburg.

"In its fifth year, the Halala Joburg Awards celebrates people, projects and places striving to improve inner-city quality of life. Other prizewinners included Wayne and Renney Plit, who won the Stan Nkosi Award for Believing in Joburg." Visit urbanartsplatform.blogspot.com.

MICHAEL LEVY RECEIVES THE TOP SAMRO AWARD

Last month, Johannesburg-born Michael Levy received the Builders' award from the SA Music Rights Organisation, in celebration of its 50 years of existence and in honour of Levy's accomplishments with regard to giving a fledgling Samro relevance and life. Boasting a career of over 35 years in music copyright for serious music, Levy retired in 2008 and worked in various capacities for the SABC. As the founder of the SA Music Guild Composers Society in 1986, among his many achievements, he was named "2008 Man of the Year, South Africa" by the American Biographical Institute for his services to music.

POP Art changes theatre with its magic on stage

While a soft drink advert is being filmed outside, Orly Shapiro (26) and Hayleigh Evans (27) sit in The Chalkboard, in the Johannesburg CBD, where the words "Pizza, Craft, Beer and Bagels" describes what's on offer.

ROBYN SASSEN

Shoki Mokgapa (27), their former AFDA Film School classmate, makes it "the power of three!" they laugh: "We're like contemporary Charlie's Angels."

Last year, Shapiro, Evans and Mokgapa started POP Art (People of Performing Arts Centre), an 80-seater theatre. "Frustration got us started!" Shapiro, who moonlights as a Chai FM newsreader, explained. POP Art neighbours The Bioscope, in Main-StreetLife, an eight-storey building in Main, Maritzburg and Fox Streets, which also houses 12 Decades hotel. In the 1970s this building was a sporting warehouse.

"Now, it's an indie precinct," Shapiro adds. "We don't want it to be commercial; we're creating little brands."

"In 2009, Arts on Main launched," says Evans. "It debuted with a project featuring words printed on the urban space. The word Maboneng, meaning 'space of light' in Sotho was on the roof. And it stuck, becoming the brainchild of developer Jonathan Liebmann, the 29-year-old MD of

Actor James Cairns, a part of the improv programme. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY www.popart-centre.co.za



Propertytuity: the area launched as the Maboneng Precinct in 2010."

POP Art grew in the wake of the Actors' Centre, at Braamfontein's then Civic Theatre. "We're not funded. We're answerable to no one. Our mandate is to change theatre: our shows are an hour or less. We've abolished intervals", says Shapiro.

A case in point is Sunday Morning, a play by Nick Warren and Jenine Collocott, debuting last August. It showcases the best of a new generation of theatre-makers. It wowed the Grahamstown National Arts Festival, opens next week at Cape Town's Kalk Bay Theatre and at Sandton's Old Mu-

tual Theatre on the Square, in September.

Shapiro adds: "Plays like Woza Albert have their place; we need something new. We'll do whatever it takes." They speak of DIY too: how they've rigged lights and "eggboxed" for sound-proofing.

Claudine Ullman and Lara Lipschitz performed a double bill, last July for POP Art's debut. The space was basic; the productions' heart and skill ran circles around "basic". Evans, who lives in the vicinity, adds. "POP Art's earned a make-over. We've been gritting our teeth, saving and praying for this. Refurbished, the new space will have professional sound-proofing and a double entrance."

As well as seasons, the last week of each month POP Art hosts regular events: The last Wednesday is open stage, like open mic, but more. "It's pot luck for the audience too," grins Evans.

The last Thursday is a singer/songwriter showcase. "Magic happens on this stage," says Shapiro.

The last Friday is "Causing a Scene", a night of improvisation. "You should bring extra underwear, it's pants-wettingly funny," they warn. It includes top class performers like Toni Morkel, James Cairns and Claudine Ullman.

The last Saturday features shows by the ilk of Shirley Kirchmann, Phillipa Yaa De Villiers and Myesha Jenkins.

"We don't like 'buzz words'; if we did, 'inclusivity' would be first," says Evans. "We embrace what's there. There is no shortage of talent." www.mabonengprecinct.com



The "Charlie's Angels" of contemporary city theatre, Orly Shapiro; Shoki Mokgapa; and Hayleigh Evans. (PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED)

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Simplicity is the ultimate sophistication

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Board joins Cohesion Summit in Kliptown

Last week saw the holding of a two-day National Social Cohesion Summit in Kliptown, Johannesburg. It is indicative of how important the government considered this to be that among those participating were President Jacob Zuma and various members of his Cabinet, in addition to opposition party leaders.

The Jewish community was represented by our national director, Wendy Kahn. In the course of delivering her opening prayer message, she stressed the historic importance of Kliptown, where the famous Freedom Charter was endorsed at the Congress of the People 57 years ago.

Kliptown, she said, was “a place of hope and vision, a celebration of diversity combined with a common commitment to the ideals of freedom, justice and peace”. It was therefore a fitting venue for this modern-day gathering of South Africans of diverse backgrounds, cultures and beliefs to share their visions for a better society.

Cynics may dismiss the Summit as just another talk shop, but they are wrong. In a country so ethnically and culturally diverse as ours and that has historically been so divided, we need to continually strive to build on what unites us. Part of that process has to be creating meaningful forums in which we can talk to one another; it is above all the lack of such communication that fosters suspicion and resentment between people, and if not addressed this can easily escalate into hatred and fear.

South Africans were able to achieve the transition to nonracial democracy through



Above Board
Mary Kluk

National Chairman

honest dialogue. At a time where we are seeing a growing racial polarisation at all levels of our society, we need to find ways to reinvigorate that whole process. Much encouraging progress was made at the Social Cohesion Summit, and we are very happy that the Board was able to be a part of it.

The concept of social cohesion has obvious resonance for South African Jewry. We, too, need to continually look to foster an over-arching sense of unity that transcends our differences, be these geographical or ideological. Diversity itself need not be a source of weakness - indeed, the opposite is the case - but at the same time we must always remember to emphasise the things that unite us as a community.

One of the opportunities for Jews to come together has always been during holiday time. During the July and December holidays, Jewish communities in the traditional holiday venues, particularly in the coastal centres, have always enjoyed a welcome boost through the influx of Jewish holidaymakers from Gauteng and elsewhere.

In Durban, we are currently enjoying having all these visitors with us, particularly in the Umhlanga area.

Today, this part of Durban is developing into a vibrant centre of Jewish activity, with a growing day school, kollel, mikveh and community centre and with a new shul soon to be opened. On behalf of all of us in the host centres around the country, I wish all our visitors a safe journey home and look forward to welcoming you again in future.

A column of UJW

Power of women – 80 years on and still going strong

Many organisations in the country do good work in the community and are praised for their social responsibilities. As the national president of the Union of Jewish Women of South Africa, I would like to describe the kind of influence a small group of Jewish women have been able to exert on the development of communities in our country in the past 80 years. The way to find the truth is to hear what people are saying and the effects of their actions can then be evaluated. Well, we have been evaluated and this is what they say. At the UJW Cape Town branch's AGM 2012, the keynote speaker said we were the “Mother of Organisations”.

A letter recently published from a resident in the Port Elizabeth press, praised the small group of dedicated UJW women who reached out to a poor rural community in Jeffrey's Bay, helping with some basic necessities. This is the strength of our organisation. We are able to step in and assist in a crisis. We have just recently donated blankets and clothes to the residents of Alexandra township in northeast Johannesburg, who lost all their possessions in a fire.

Our branches in Cape Town, Durban, East London, all do similar work and through our combined efforts we reach beyond our borders in assisting the Parasitology Laboratory at the Hebrew University with their malaria research, which is having far-reaching results. We also support Operation Jonathan in Israel, which helps in the rehabilitation of wounded soldiers.

Johannesburg branch

Panic buttons have been donated to some of our Kosher Mobile Meal recipients who have no family to call on in times of crisis. Kosher Mobile Meals provides cooked meals to 165 elderly and infirm members of our community.

Three Rape Crisis Clinics in Alexandra township and three crèches are supported, and the UJW runs two daily soup kitchens. This year's new projects include a sewing and a baking school as part of a self-empowerment project for unemployed women in Alex, and an after-care centre for primary school children.

Pretoria

The Ebenezer House of Hope that caters for



Margot Segal
National President

orphaned children, are provided monthly with fruit, vegetables and mealie meal.

We support the day night care centres for the mentally and physically handicapped in Soshanguve and provide provisions to some destitute children at a public school.

Cape Town branch

Four child centres for children with disabilities are provided with equipment. Counselling sessions are held at Pollsmoor Women's Prison. Visitors from the townships and elderly guests are entertained at the Friendship Club at Stonehaven, our Cape Town branch centre, and support is given to the Kangaroo Baby Unit at Tygerberg Hospital. We also publish a St Luke Hospice Calendar.

Durban

We pack Pesach and Rosh Hashanah parcels and supply two schools with cleaning materials and a day-care centre with food parcels.

We support a crisis centre in Pinetown and a crèche with 80 orphans, and supplied a water tank as they had no running water.

Port Elizabeth

We assists an orphanage with daily requirements; assists Care Haven Psychiatric Home; distribute food to a retirement village; and subsidise the annual Chanukah service and give chocolates on Shabbat to children.

East London.

Supports the Hospice and Deaf Centre with weekly visits. We provide food for abandoned babies, abused children, and Aids orphans and support the oncology unit at the General Hospital, as well as supporting Reach For a Dream.

Oudtshoorn

We provide kosher meals for anyone visiting, who require kosher food.

This is just a small selection of projects undertaken by the volunteers of the UJW. In most provinces the UJW is available and always on hand to give assistance to the Jewish community and other organisations.

Most days are special days for the Union of Jewish Women because we don't wait to just give our 67 minutes on Mandela Day... every

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

Abilities and care of the disabled

Selwyn Segal is a happy, can-do kind of place. Each resident has a unique personality and often very specific likes and dislikes. Most have favourite activities, preferred friendships and best-loved staff members, who know just how to make them smile.

Their warmth and individuality shines through, challenges notwithstanding.

A huge variety of activities and creative pursuits is on offer and among the residents are talented artists, sports enthusiasts, gifted singers, energetic dancers and one who is passionate about recycling. Many of you will know about David, and Tammy, and Josh, and Brent...

Chev staff and management work really hard to develop and encourage these residents, providing personal recognition and lots of opportunity to enrich their lives and give them a sense of pride and accomplishment.

The culture here is one of positive encouragement - focusing strongly on what they can accomplish, rather than on what they can't.

But it would be foolish to pretend that all



Partners in Chesed
Michael Sieff
Group CEO

residents are equally well or independent. Unfortunately, more than 50 per cent require intensive care. Due to their varying levels of cognitive and physical functioning, they need assistance from staff to carry out basic activities of daily living such as bathing, toileting, dressing and eating.

Twenty-three are in wheelchairs, six are visually impaired, nine have restricted mobility or are frail, and 25 present with behavioural difficulties. In addition, our residents are ageing. Thirty-two of them are now over 60.

With round-the-clock care, our staff-to-resident ratio needs to be high, on average 1:3 during the day shift and 1:5 at night. One doesn't need to be a rocket scientist (I'm not!) to realise the cost implications.

With most of our special residents unable to pay for their care, I thank you, on their behalf, for your contributions.

May our partnership continue to thrive! Please feel free to communicate with me on feedback@thechev.org.za

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Meet the car of the future

The car of the future won't have wings, but it will have some of that James Bond appeal, as Mercedes and Ford demonstrated at the Consumer Electronic Show recently.

May I apologise in advance? Like many years in advance?

I am sorry to have to inform you that the car of the future won't have wings, and it won't be able to do your thinking for you. Well, not all of it.

But it will be voice-controlled, have high-speed wireless broadband serving an on-board WiFi hotspot, allow you to download apps, and provide in-car TV and streaming video. It may even have Back-to-the-Future-style lifting doors.

These were a few of the innovations breathlessly announced at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas earlier this year. While the Ford Focus Electric was the official car of the show, the Mercedes F125! concept car stole the show with its DeLorean-style lifting doors and James Bond appeal.



GOLDSTUCK ON GADGETS
Arthur Goldstuck

It joined the head of Mercedes-Benz Cars, Dr Dieter Zetsche, on stage for his keynote address, both to wow the audience and help him make a point.

"Here at CES in Las Vegas there are some people who view the automobile as an accessory to consumer electronics," he said. "Conversely, at the auto show in Detroit there are many people who view consumer electronics as mere trimmings for the car.

"Both views miss the point: as much as a smartphone can be far more than just a tool for commu-

nication, a smart car can be more than just a means of transportation. Precisely at the interfaces between communication and mobility, vast potential for innovation lies dormant, and we intend to tap it."

So while there are no wings, there is a technology called DICE, for Dynamic and Intuitive Control Experience.

It turns the entire windshield into a head-up display, while the dashboard becomes a display band. Both of these "interfaces" display digital information about the vehicle surroundings, points of interest, friends, pedestrians and other vehicles - pretty much what your eyes did for you before. The useful thing is that you don't have to take your eyes off the road, and can control the information provided through gestures.

And these are also social cars: not only can you get local news from social networks about your location, but you can stream music from a club that you're passing, into your car. Why? Because you can.

More usefully, says Zetsche, vehicles approaching intersections will be virtually superimposed on the windshield to help avoid danger. More commonly, network information will be used to find parking spots.

He points out that secure Internet access in the car is already offered by Mercedes-Benz today in numerous models. The multimedia system COMAND Online offers Mercedes-Benz Apps, like Google Local Search and Google Street View, as well as Facebook.

Not to be outdone, Alan Mulally, president and CEO of Ford Motor Company, was on hand to unveil the new Ford Focus Electric and the Ford Explorer Hybrid.

The Focus features similar technology to that offered by Merc, but uses different names: Ford SYNC, MyFord Touch driver connect technology, Intelligent Access with Push Button Start, and Active Park Assist.

The significance of the Ford options, however, is that the technology is not only available in premium vehicles. And that means it could find its way to a car ahead of you in the traffic in the near future. The Focus still needs a bit of connecting and plugging in of accessories to turn it into a Wi-Fi hotspot, but the technology will probably become seamless in future models.

Other automakers were not shy in showing off their cars of the future, either. Hyundai displayed in-car TV screens; Audi showed off Google Earth and Wi-Fi hotspots in several models; Chrysler unveiled Uconnect, a system that includes voice-controlled navigation and voice commands. And that is even before the array of new, hi-tech audio solutions now being built into the cars.

None of these managed to upstage Ford and Mercedes, but they all sent one clear signal: the car can no longer be separated from consumer technology.

• *Arthur Goldstuck is editor-in-chief of Gadget and heads up World Wide Worx. Follow him on Twitter on @art2gee.*

News in Brief

GERMANY AGREES TO \$300 MILLION MORE IN RESTITUTION

NEW YORK - Germany has agreed to provide restitution payments to an additional 80 000 Jews in what Claims Conference officials are describing as a historic breakthrough.

The agreement, which was reached on Monday in negotiations between German officials and Claims Conference representatives, is likely to result in additional payments of approximately \$300 million. Most of the money will go to Nazi victims in the former Soviet Union who have never before qualified for pensions or payments from German restitution money.

"This is the last group of people who have never received any compensation," Greg Schneider, the executive vice president of the Claims Conference, told JTA in a telephone interview from Washington, where the negotiations took place.

"For people who suffered during the time of the Shoah, recognition from Germany is vital. To be able to do that at this stage, 60 years after the first restitution agreement, for 80 000 people, is tremendous," he said.

"For a survivor now in their old age to finally get acknowledgment from Germany is critically important."

Most of the money will come from the Hardship Fund, which grants one-time payouts of 2 556 euro - approximately \$3 150 - to Jews who fled the Nazis as they swept eastward through Europe. Until now, those payments were not available to Jews in Ukraine, Russia and other non-European Union countries in Eastern Europe. Applications for the fund will be available starting November 1.

In many of those countries, the lump sum could amount to four years of regular pension payments, according to Schneider.

In Monday's negotiations, Germany also agreed to equalise the monthly pensions it sends to survivors around the world, correcting what until now had been a disparity that saw survivors living in Western countries receiving more than those in Eastern countries. All survivors will now receive the equivalent of approximately \$370 per month.

Germany also agreed to relax the eligibility rules for those who receive restitution payments for being forced into hiding during the Nazi era. Until now, only those who went into hiding for at least 12 months were eligible; now the eligibility threshold will be six months. (JTA)

30 MONTHS FOR DUMPING PALESTINIAN PRISONER

JERUSALEM - Two Israeli police officers convicted of leaving a Palestinian car thief to die, have been sentenced to 30 months in prison.

Assaf Yekutieli and Baruch Peretz were convicted in May by the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court of being responsible for the death of Abu Jariban when they dumped him on the side of the road two weeks after he was seriously injured in a car accident while driving a stolen vehicle. Jariban, of the Gaza Strip, was in Israel illegally when he was injured.

Jariban's condition seemingly had stabilised and he was released

from a hospital into the custody of the officers, who left him after discovering that there was no room for him at an Israel Prison Service's medical facility. He was found dead two days later; the causes were exposure and dehydration.

The court said the sentence was more severe than those given in similar cases because of the officers' appalling behaviour.

Attorneys for Yekutieli and Peretz said they would appeal the ruling. (JTA)

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Some golden rules to slow down the ageing process

A well-known reflexologist, passionate about helping his patients maintain good health and slowing down the ageing process, gave his Second Innings audience good news: It can be done – but it takes hard work and self-discipline.

LIONEL SLIER

“I have always been fascinated by the human body’s ability to heal itself,” Arthur John Rosen told the meeting. He spoke on “Ways to Slow Down the Ageing Process”

Rosen practises therapeutic reflexology, cranial sacral therapy and quantum touch healing, all of which are what is called “whole person therapies” - all non-invasive and drug free, so there are no hidden side effects.

“I am fascinated by reflexology. Then what are the causes of not being well? Maintaining good health in my patients is a life-long business and I am opposed to the injustices caused by the food and drug industries.”

Rosen said we had to focus on our health and that required some effort as there was no magic formula but there were, however, four ways to slow down ageing.

These were: a) reflexology; b) laws of nature that cannot be broken – exercise, nutrition, breathing correctly and enough sleep and rest; c) correct medication; and d) our attitude.

“Reflexology is the glue that holds the other three together. The benefits are working towards the normalisation of the functions of the body - our focus keeps us co-ordinated and the body in good shape.

“But we do have choices. For instance our breathing is absolutely important. Eighty per cent of the energy we use is from our breathing while the other 20 per cent is from our nutrition. But for many our nutrition is poor.

“We take too many antibiotics, drink too much coffee, many of us abuse alcohol. We drink too little water when we should drink six to eight glasses per day. After all, 70 per cent of our body is fluid.

“Most of us do too little exercise and the result of all this is that we started experiencing disorders, pain, obesity and diseases. Half of the people die from preventable diseases.”

Rosen enlarged on the five ways to slow down ageing: a) Reflexology. The benefits of reflexology are that it is gentle and therapeutic. It helps neck and back pain; relieves the after-effects of an operation – it’s like a motorcar service.

b) The laws of nature that cannot be broken – good nutrition means eating food that feeds our bodies and also detoxifies. Buy food that you can recognise; read what the ingredients are. About obesity, studies have shown that South Africa is the third worst in the world in terms of obesity and with associated heart problems.



Eat a healthy, balanced diet of fresh fruit and vegetables, but leave citrus alone as they create acidity.

Rosen told of the Chinese saying that breakfast is golden; lunch is silver and dinner is poison. He found it astounding that so many people miss breakfast. Then again, he suggested that we should eat five times a day: breakfast, a mid-morning snack, lunch, mid afternoon so that we are not starving at dinnertime and we should never, he emphasised, eat late at night.

“Exercise is really good for you. Find out for yourself what is good for you, even just walking around the garden. The way we walk is also very important.”

Rosen gave some tips: “You must involve the senses. Meditation and a period of silence for 10 minutes a day. Be mindful of yourself. Breathing is extremely important. We begin life with our first breath and leave it with its last.

“We can’t live without air and also deep breathing helps us to cope with panic attacks and stress. Sleep is also important and we should have seven hours every night. Food supplements are also very important.

“But there are enemies,” Rosen warned. “Smoking, pollution, radiation, chemicals in food and the way we fry food. Good foods are cabbage, spinach, broccoli, fish, nuts (almonds, Brazil, cashew) green tea, olive oil, Omega 3 and a glass of red wine. Vitamin C every night and zinc every day are excellent supplements.

“Finally, a good attitude makes your health positive; helps you to make better decisions; makes you feel happier and smile and laugh a lot.

“Remember also that no one size fits all and age is not only a number, it is also how you feel.”

JFLA can help Jews who are in a financial bind

The Jewish Free Loan Association has money available to loan to Jews who find themselves in a temporary financial bind.

In a media release the Association gave insight into the long road it had travelled since its inception in 1891.

It was born five years after the founding of the City of Johannesburg, making it the second oldest Jewish organisation in Johannesburg.

Still known as the “Gemilus Chesed” which literally translates as “an act of loving-kindness”, the Association is also known as the “Gemach” which is an acronym of Gemilus Chesed.

“An interest free loan is

a simple and basic concept. The Association was never designed to act as a charity. It was formed specifically to provide financial help to Jewry in Johannesburg who were in need of financial assistance by way of an interest free loan, bearing in mind that in those days Johannesburg was, after all a mining camp.

“We were providing loans to Jewish immigrants in need of temporary financial assistance, to enable them to find their feet in a strange new country.

“We stress: we are not a charity organisation.”

The process is absolutely confidential, which means the borrower has not asked for char-

ity, but retains his dignity, as he will be repaying the loan over, approximately three and a half years. “The only requirement is that the borrower must provide sureties, as we cannot afford to have a bad debt.”

In the early days the Association actually helped Jewish entrepreneurs, who could hardly speak English, to establish their businesses.

“Our funds have been considerably advanced by these same borrowers donating money to us many years after repaying their loans, in appreciation of the assistance originally given to them to establish their businesses.”

• Contact: 1st Floor, Beyachad, tel 087-350-3592.



Integrated schools for learners with or without autism

ABIGAIL LEICHMAN
JERUSALEM

There’s nothing else quite like Jerusalem’s Yad Hamoreh, where children with severe to moderate autism are integrated into a mainstream public school.

Visit Yad Hamoreh elementary school on a Friday morning and you’ll hear Shabbat songs, smell pizza and challah rolls baking in the oven, and see autistic children enjoying both activities with “regular” peers.

“This school has been incredible,” says Alana Goldstein, whose autistic fourth-grader recently won second place at a peer-judged “A Star is Born” talent show.

“These are low-functioning kids with behaviours that are not easy to deal with. And the regular children actually grow up with them. They learn to see the autistic children as part of their society.”

Yad Hamoreh (“Teacher’s Hand”) is a one-of-a-kind Jerusalem public elementary school. Founded in 1998, today it integrates 187 normal first-through sixth-graders with 49 severely to moderately autistic peers.

Mostly separated for academics, the kids do everything else together, from eating to swimming. Regular kids even join in therapy sessions involving games, sports, music and animal care.

Because hers is a model school with no exact counterpart anywhere, Principal Ana Goren often hosts visiting educators from

other Israeli municipalities as well as Eastern Europe, South America, China and the US.

Zvi Shamir, uncle of an autistic niece and father of three normal daughters who have all attended Yad Hamoreh, explains that the first-through-sixth-grade school was a parent-led initiative.

“It was based on a system developed by a kindergarten nearby that merged regular and autistic children,” Shamir tells Israel21c.

Judging by the enthusiasm of his second-grader, Lia, the experiment is a success. Goldstein’s son cannot verbalise quite as well, yet his mom can tell he’s happy.

The Education Ministry handles placement for the autistic children at Yad Hamoreh.

You might not think parents would want their children exposed to the sometimes scary screeching and head-banging behaviours severely autistic children may display. But Goren’s behaviour-modification approach appears to work wonders.

“Having regular children around makes the autistic children more aware,” says Goldstein. “The regular children also gain because they have so many unusual things going on here. The facilities are like what you’d expect in a private school.”

It’s not magic, stresses Su Narodowski, an educational instructor who works with special ed teachers, pupils and parents at Yad Hamoreh.

“It doesn’t work easily or without hiccups. Our teachers have to

be very flexible. The regular and special ed teachers have to think of activities that allow both populations to participate, and behind that is a belief that this is worth fighting for.”

Shamir says that his girls learned respect and tolerance not only for kids with autism, but also for people with a range of differences. The school includes religious and secular, Jewish and Arab pupils along with a multi-ethnic staff of administrators, teachers, therapists and community and National Service volunteers.

“It’s monumental that kids who leave this school have a value system, a social understanding, that is not an innate expectation,” Narodowski tells Israel21c.

“At first they may be a bit wary of this kid who’s wiggling his fingers and making weird noises. Then suddenly they realise: ‘I want to go on stage and hold his hand.’ When you grow day by day with someone for six years, you learn to see very clearly what a person is made of.”

Shamir explains that the social modelling provided at Yad Hamoreh leads to remarkable achievements for the special kids.

“When (autistic children) learn with regular children, they have to adopt the modes of behaviour of the regular society,” Shamir says. “Based upon research at the Hebrew University, we have the basis for our assumption that these children reach much, much higher levels of participation in society.” (Israel21c)



Examining poisonous honey: Miss Pepper (Alexandra Snyman); Gingerbread Man (Ziya Devar); Herr von Cuckoo (Gavin Gomes); the Old Bag (Noni Mkhonto) and Mr Salt (Sean McGrath)

Sugary reflection on what friendship is

Show: The Gingerbread Man 2, People's Theatre, Braamfontein (011) 403-1563
Until: August 5

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN
PHOTOGRAPH BY JACQUI WHITE

It's midnight (even though the clock says something different); quiet reigns, even in the audience, and the kitchen dresser appurtenances come to life, starting with the Swiss cuckoo (Gavin Gomes) in the clock, with the discovery that he has laryngitis. There follows pandemonium on this beautifully staged dresser, featuring the condiments, a biscuit, a potentially poisonous old tea bag and a mouse, in fitting celebration of this theatre's 20th birthday.

This play's in the style redolent of this theatre, involving high speed chases, songs and dances and of course the borrowing of the Village People's well known song "Celebration!" for the finale. With a generally competent grown-up cast, there are three alternative child performers as the gingerbread man: Karabo Oberem, Ziya Devar and Jo-jo Joffe. It's a role that requires not a lot of script but oodles of character and a child as cute as a biscuit. But the real star of this show is 16-year-old Alexandra Snyman who shares the role of Miss Pepper with her younger sister Isabella. It's difficult to believe that this performer is a teenager, she lends her character a sense of authority, rationality and charm that gives many a vignette

the spark of life it needs at precisely the right point. Noni Mkhonto, who we too have watched blossom in this theatre, reprises the role of the Old Bag with an appropriately tart mix of self-hatred and gentility. Hers is the message relayed with the strongest impact on the young audiences of this brightly coloured, though slightly frayed work: and it's an Aristotelean message: love yourself. Premised around a fairly sugary reflection on what friendship is, the work plays interestingly with scale and mercy; some youngsters who see this show might never want to eat food with faces again, let alone throw away broken things; it's one of the risks you must take in bringing your tots to see this play; you won't be disappointed.

Perfect record for KDL Junior under-9 netball teams

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY TAMAR GOLDIN

The KDL under-9 netball teams had a fantastic and memorable netball season. The under-9 A team started their season taking the gold medal at the Inter-Jewish Sports Festival and continued their winning streak by being undefeated in all of their 12 matches, scoring 143 goals and only conceding 10 goals the entire season. The under-9 B team proved that they were a team to be reckoned with by winning all of their eight matches, scoring 84 goals and only conceding five during the whole netball season. It's a very impressive feat for girls of such a young age and with so much talent to look forward to for the netball season next year! Thank you to all the girls for their continued dedication, teamwork and enthusiasm to netball.



The under-9 winning netball team at the Inter-Jewish Sports Festival: Jenna Allison; Amber Touyz; Hanna-Abby Sass; Tali Froelich; Liora Chertkow; Farra Rabinowitz; Maar Zehavi; and Savanna Upiter.



The under-9 A netball team at their last match: Back: Jenna Allison; Portia Mfenyana (coach); Tali Froelich; Mackenzi Marx; Portia Masimini (coach); and Hanna-Abby Sass. Front: Amber Touyz; Savanna Upiter; and Liora Chertkow.



The under-9 B netball team at their last match: Back: Portia Mfenyana (coach); Jade Copans; Dani Zalan-sky; Tali Atie; Kayla Feinberg; and Portia Masimini (coach). Front: Kelsey Bernitz; Lexi Davies; and Zisi Stein.

Herzlia Sarah Bloch tots visit Jewish Museum

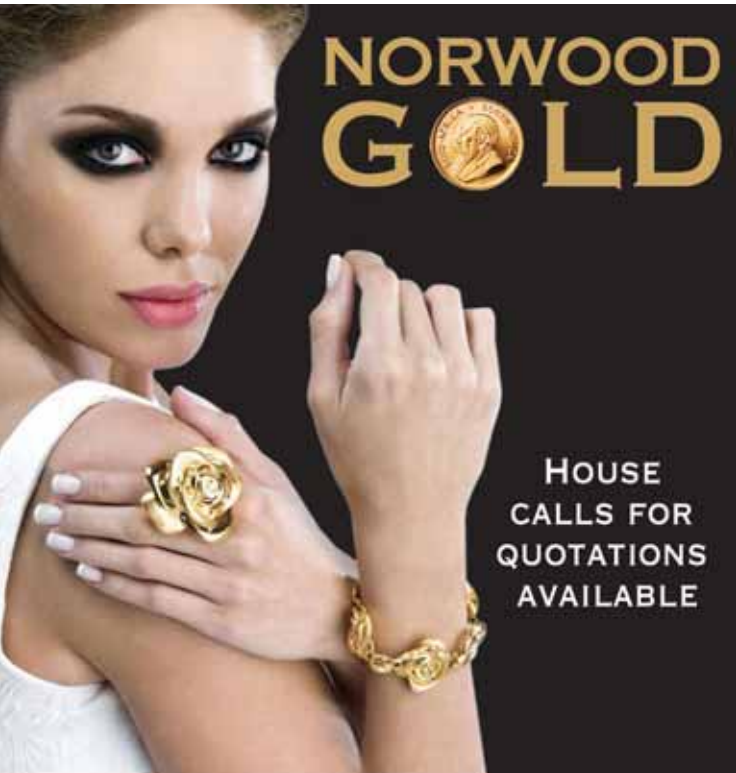


STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY TRACY KLASS

As part of their holiday programme a group of older (4 - 7 years) children from Sarah Bloch were taken to the Jewish Museum on Monday, July 2. What a wonderful experience! Karen Lazar, principal of Sarah Bloch, asked the children what a museum was, and the answer: "A museum is where they keep the dinosaurs." Well, they were almost right; it is where old things are kept. When they arrived, the excited children were seated on cushions in the first gallery where they were read a delightful story by Dorothy Kowen, who also wrote the books

"Bobbie little lies". They exchanged stories about their own bobbies and zaidas. From there they moved onto the shtetl where they sat in the "classroom" and saw for themselves life without electricity, television or running water. Aside from the children from Sarah Bloch, Good Hope Radio did a live outside broadcast to the wider Cape Town community. Nigel Pierce hosted the show and interviewed a number of celebrities including Amanda Bloch and Rabbi Asher Deren and spoke to Jane Raphaely about her new book, "Jane Raphaely Unedited". The museum provides a wonderful insight into Jewish life and

the contribution of Jews to South Africa. After experiencing shtetl life the children went through to the succah hall for a wonderful interactive show by Debbie Doo, children's entertainer. They played games, sang songs, hunted for treasure and had a great time overall. "It is very important to expose children to galleries and museums at as young an age as possible, even pre-schoolers can learn history," said Lazar. "Children need different learning experiences and we are grateful to Gavin Morris of the Jewish Museum for inviting our group and for providing this interesting and age-appropriate programme for us."



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Step aside Gutenberg, Israel’s about to revolutionise printing again

**ABIGAIL KLEIN LEICHMAN
REHOVOT**

For Benny Landa, it wasn’t enough that his Indigo digital commercial printers revolutionised the industry - making it possible to digitally print everything from photo albums to wine-bottle labels - after Indigo’s 2002 acquisition by Hewlett-Packard. An American transplant to Israel, Landa (“the Steve Jobs of the printing world”) just unveiled his latest game-changer: a trademarked Nanographic (www.landanano.com) line of sheet-fed and web presses for commercial, packaging and publishing markets.

The six printers use Israeli-developed NanoInk to print on any kind of material at high speed and low cost. “We wanted to help the planet reduce its energy use, and we spent the past 10 years working on that,” Landa told Israeli reporters during a teleconference from Drupa 2012 in Germany, in May. This is the largest printing equipment exhibition in the world.

It is a breakthrough that enables our presses to achieve amazing results.

“On the way, we found nanotechnology. It is a true breakthrough that enables our presses to achieve amazing results.”

By offering a whole new way to apply ink, Israel is now positioned to usurp Germany as the king of the multibillion-dollar digital printing industry, he added. It was in Germany that Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press around 1450.

Landa NanoInk comprises pigment particles a fraction of the size of a human hair. Powerful absorbers of light, these tiny particles deliver high-quality images that are unusually resistant to abrasion, according to Landa.

Using a water-based, energy-ef-

ficient and eco-friendly process, Nanographic machines print on any off-the-shelf material - from coated and uncoated paper to recycled cardboard; from newsprint to plastic packaging film - without pre-treatment or post-drying. They can print books, magazines, direct mail, labels, folding cartons and flexible packaging for food, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and more.

The machines have a smaller footprint than other digital presses, and can print in up to eight colours. User-friendly touch-screens indicate how much ink is left, how much time remains to the job, and many other details at a glance. A single operator can manage up to four presses at a time.

“Nanography is a truly groundbreaking development,” Landa said. “For the first time, commercial printers don’t have to choose between the versatility and short-run economics of digital printing and the low cost-per-page and high productivity of offset printing. Now they can have both.”

Landa left Drupa with three strategic partnerships in hand - with Tokyo-based Komori and with Germany-based Manroland Sheetfeed and Heidelberg. These are among the biggest manufacturers of printing presses in the world.

Landa founded Indigo in 1977 and introduced the world’s first digital colour printing press 16 years later.

This invention brought the 560-year-old printing industry into the computer age and is still going strong.

At the Drupa press conference, Landa sounded confident that Nanography will make just as big a splash. “Landa Nanographic printing presses are intended not to replace offset printing, but to complement it,” he explained.

“For the foreseeable future, offset printing will continue to be the preferred method for producing run lengths of tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands, but the market is demanding shorter and shorter run lengths - and that’s where Nanogra-

phy comes in.

He expressed great pride that it was born in Israel.

“We are a blue-and-white company,” he said of the Rehovot-based Landa Corporation, which includes Landa Digital Printing; Landa Labs for R&D; Landa Ventures for investing in promising nanotechnology advances; and Landa Fund, a philanthropy dedicated to providing higher education opportunities to underprivileged Israeli youth.

“Any investor, any company can

This invention brought the printing industry into the computer age.

build buildings, buy equipment and put people in the buildings,” he told Israel21c. “The secret to Indigo and Landa’s success is one thing absolutely unique to Israel: Israelis.”

Great inventions, he added, need more than great scientists behind them. “Our people are fantastic professionally, but anybody in the world can find PhDs. Israelis wholly buy into what they’re doing. They are totally, absolutely committed to putting the company and the country on the map.

“Nobody does this for personal career reasons. It’s in every Israeli’s blood that life has to do not just with yourself but with Zionism and a higher purpose. When they leave the army to go into business, they bring that same indefinable fervor.

“It’s the magic that made Indigo successful and it’s the magic that will make us successful. I couldn’t have done this anywhere else.”

Landa employs more than 200 people directly and also uses a lot of outside contractors.

“Israel is a digital printing powerhouse,” he said. “I feel so much pride that after 560 years, we’ll be bringing this crown from Germany to Israel in two or three years.” (Israel21c)

News in Brief

OLMERT EXONERATED ON CORRUPTION CHARGES THAT PROMPTED HIS RESIGNATION

JERUSALEM - Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has been exonerated on corruption charges which prompted his resignation from office four years ago.

The Jerusalem District Court last week Wednesday acquitted Olmert on charges of fraud, breach of trust, tax evasion and falsifying corporate records in what became known as the Talansky and Rishon Tours affairs. He was found guilty on a lesser charge of breach of trust in the Investment Centre case.

On trial for the last two years, Olmert was accused of allegedly paying for family vacations by double billing Jewish organisations through the Rishon Tours travel agency; allegedly accepting envelopes full of cash from American businessman Morris Talansky; and allegedly granting personal favours to attorney Uri Messer when he served as trade minister in the Investment Centre case. The charges were filed after he became prime minister in 2006, but covered his time as mayor of Jerusalem and later as a government minister

Olmert, who pleaded not guilty on all charges, is the first former Israeli prime minister to stand trial. He officially resigned as prime minister in September 2008 after police investigators recommended that he be indicted.

Olmert is expected to appeal the breach of trust conviction, which would carry a prison sentence and make him the first Israeli prime minister to go behind bars.

In a statement made after the executive summary of the decision was read Olmert said: “After over four years this case has finally come to its end. Four years ago, the media was riddled with reports of ‘cash envelopes’ and illicit money. Well, today the court found that there was no such thing.

“This was not corruption, there were no cash-filled envelopes, there was no bribery, there was no illicit use of funds,” he added.

Olmert thanked the court for “maintaining the dignity of the proceedings. I feel the need to quote a man I admire, former Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who once said: ‘There are judges in Jerusalem’.”

Olmert’s former bureau chief, Shula Zaken, was convicted on two counts of fraudulently obtaining benefits and fraud, and breach of trust, in the Rishon Tours case.

Political leaders and leaders in the legal sphere have called for the resignation of State Prosecutor Moshe Lador in light of the decisions, some saying he changed the course of Israel’s political history.

Olmert likely will again see the inside of a courtroom. In January, he was indicted on bribery charges in one of Israel’s largest corruption scandals. The indictment accuses Olmert of accepting hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes during the construction of the Holyland apartment project in Jerusalem when he was mayor of Jerusalem and then trade minister.

Seventeen other people were also indicted in the case, including Zaken and former Jerusalem mayor Uri Lupolianski. (JTA)

ISRAEL WILL BRING IN REMAINING ETHIOPIAN IMMIGRANTS

JERUSALEM - Israel’s government has agreed to expedite the arrival of the final Ethiopian immigrants waiting to come to Israel.

Under the plan approved last Sunday by the Cabinet, some 2 200 Falash Mura - Ethiopians whose ancestors converted from Judaism to Christianity - will be brought to Israel by March 2014.

The Ethiopians are waiting in a refugee camp in the Gondar province before coming to Israel. Some have been waiting for 10 years.

The Israeli government in October 2010 reportedly had agreed to bring in 200 Falash Mura each month for a year, and then the remaining of those eligible until the last 4 500 approved for immigration were in Israel by March 2014. But the government had cut the number it was bringing per month in recent months due to dwindling available space in absorption centres.

Under last Sunday’s decision, an absorption centre will be opened in September at Ibim, a student village in southern Israel located near Sderot, at a cost of more than \$4 million. The funding will come in part from the Jewish Agency for Israel.

“We must act to bring all of the Falash Mura to Israel and close the immigration camp in Gondar as soon as possible,” said Harel Locker, the director-general of the Prime Minister’s Office, who will monitor the arrival of the immigrants. (JTA)

HITLER COMES TO DEFENCE OF HIS JEWISH COMMANDER

BONN - Adolf Hitler ordered that the Jewish commander of his army unit during the Second World War, not be persecuted or deported, a German-Jewish publication reported.

Susanne Mauss, editor of the Jewish Voice from Germany, found an August 1940 note of the Gestapo ordering that Ernst Hess, a former judge, not be persecuted or deported following an order from the Reich Chancellery. The letter was written by Heinrich Himmler, head of the Nazis’ feared secret police.

“Hess had the luck of being personally ‘pardoned’ by the mass killer Hitler, whose officials fulfilled his order with the same efficiency they executed their master’s mass murder decisions,” Mauss wrote. “Hess’ exemption only lasted until 1942, when at the Wannsee Conference the murder of the European Jews was codified.

“Hess survived thanks to his ‘mixed marriage’ with his gentile wife. His sister was murdered by the Nazis, as were millions of others.”

Mauss interviewed Hess’ 86-year-old daughter, Ursula, who lives in Germany.

The letter was found in official archives containing files that the Gestapo kept on Jewish lawyers and judges. Mauss said its authenticity was corroborated by other documents, including one owned by Ursula Hess.

Hess had been a highly decorated soldier during the First World War, but by 1936 had lost his job as a judge and been assaulted by Nazi soldiers. In June of that year Hess wrote to Hitler and asked that he and his daughter be exempt from the anti-Jewish laws, citing that he had been brought up Protestant and served his country.

“For us, it is a kind of spiritual death to now be branded as Jews and exposed to general contempt,” he wrote.

The family moved to Italy but was forced to return in 1939. Hess later was deported to Milbertshofen, a Nazi labour camp for Jews near Munich.

In 1946, Hess became an executive with the Reichsbahn national railways. He died in Frankfurt in 1983 at the age of 93. (JTA)

Community Briefs

GROWING BEARDS FOR A VERY GOOD CAUSE

The TAC (Tobias and Cigler) Initiative, a non-profit organisation, established by Matthew Cigler and Darren Tobias last October, is a platform on which projects not limited to a specific organisation or cause, are run independently or on behalf of existing charities. They’re half-way through a nine-week “Grizzly Bear Challenge”, growing beards for a good cause: proceeds will go to the Children’s Haematology Oncology Clinics. Some of the drives they’ve participated in so far have supported Yad Aharon, Alexandra township’s Thuthuzela orphanage and Parktown’s Teddy Bear Clinic. Find them on facebook: The T.A.C Initiative, e-mail: the.tac.initiative@gmail.com or call: 083-431-2772.



Matthew Cigler (with a small beard) among staff and children at Thuthuzela Orphanage. (PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED)

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What's On

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

Today, Friday (July 13)

• UZLC hosts Helen Heldenmuth speaking on “A Little Bit of This and a Little Bit of That”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria, (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.

Sunday (July 15)

• WIZO Pretoria holds its 111th AGM. Time: 10:00. Venue: PHC Campus, 246 Schroder Street, Groenkloof. Guest speaker: Wendy Kahn. Tea and refreshments will be served Contact: Diane (012) 346-871.

• Second Innings is hosting Gerard and Bets Grobler, Gauteng representatives for the SA Association for Retired Persons (SAARP), talking on the Association. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members.

Tuesday (July 17)

• JHGC in association with The French Institute of South Africa and Liliesleaf Trust, commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Vel d’Hiv round-up of the Jews of Paris in 1942. Screening of the documentary, “La Ralfe/The Round-Up” (2010) directed by Rose Bosch. Venue, Liliesleaf Auditorium, 7 George Avenue, Rivonia. Time 18:00 for 19:00. RSVP: Thuli (011) 640-3100 or thuli@jhbholocaust.co.za. Booking essential as seating is limited. No charge for admission. Light refreshments will be served before 19:00.

• RCHCC hosts Jane Raphaely, who will talk about her memoir, “Jane Raphaely Unedited”. Autographed copies will be on sale. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time 19:30. Donation: R70 (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

Wednesday (July 18)

• UJW CT adult education division hosts Sheryl Ozinsky who will talk on “A Topic of Interest”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Friday (July 20)

• The Chevrah Kadisha is hosting “Unity Monthly Rosh Chodesh Shacharis” with singing of Hallel. Venue: Our Parents Home, in the shul, followed by hot drinks and muf-fins. Time: 18:15. Contact: R’ Shaun Wingrin for more information, on 082-449-6273.

Sunday (July 22)

• Second Innings is hosting Professor-Emerita Rosalie Finlayson on “Intercultural Understanding”. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Venue: The Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members.

• RCHCC in association with the JHGC will screen the acclaimed documentary, Shoah, by Claude Lanzman. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium, RCHCC. Time: 19:00. 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 .

Monday (July 23)

• The UJW House & Garden Circle meets today. Contact: UJW office (011) 648-1053 for details.

• Chevrah Kadisha Community Services is offering an 8-week “Divorce Support Group” for people who have been through, or are going through a divorce. It starts today. Reconnect. Rebuild. Renew. Gain support and

need to know practical and legal information. Bookings or more information, call Sheila on (011) 532-9653.

Tuesday (July 24)

• UJW’s Helen Suzman branch presents three well-known authors, Anton Harber - “Diep sloot”, Joy Davidson - “Another Mountain, Another View” and Lauren Segal - “One Law, One Nation”, for stimulating personal accounts of their backgrounds and their books. Venue: 1 Oak Street. Time 10:00. Donation: R75 (incl refreshments). Contact (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044.

Wednesday (July 25)

• RCHCC in association with the JHGC will screen the acclaimed documentary, Shoah, by Claude Lanzman. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium, RCHCC. 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 .

• UJW CT adult education division hosts Urmila Jithoo, author of an unusual cookbook, who will talk on “Serendipitous Experiences Whilst Living in New York”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance:R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

• Chevrah Kadisha Community Services is offering an 8-week “Parenting Skills Group” for parents of teenagers. Gain practical parenting skills, understand your teen’s world, learn to connect to and assist your teen on their journey into adulthood. Starts today. Bookings or more information call Lara on (011) 532-9793.

Sunday (July 29)

• RCHCC in association with the JHGC will screen the acclaimed documentary, Shoah, by Claude Lanzman. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium, RCHCC. 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 .

Tuesday (July 31)

• WIZO Women Inspired hosts Kate Emmerson talking on “Spring Clean Your Life” Time 09:30 for 10:00. Venue: Beyachad. Cost R100. Contact: Lorraine 083-268-8016, Leslie 083-456-3911, Maureen 082-445-1515 or Ilana 082-601-2519. E-mail: isarae@seeff.org

• Morris Rutstein - SAZF Hebrew Ulpan Course starts today and terminates on Tuesday, November 27. Times: Every Tuesday night from 19:00 - 21:15. Venue: Yeshiva College (in the classrooms). Registration will take place on Monday July 30, at 18:30. Secure parking. Enquiries: SAZF, tel (011) 645-2531 (office hours)

Wednesday (August 1)

• UJW CT adult education division hosts Erica Cohen will talk on a “Taste of China”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (August 2)

• 101.9 Chai FM presents stand-up comedy “Feel the Luv” on Tu B’Av. Line-up: John Vlismas; Ariel Kagan; Richelieu Beauvoir; Tats Nkonzo; and Martin Jonas, Mark Banks. Venue: Killarney Mall Cinecentre. Cost: R60 pp. Time: 19:30 for 20:00. Dress code: white, funky and fabulous. To pre-book, SMS “love” and your name to 34519, visit www.chaifm.com or call Pat on (011) 532-9300.

Jewish community support Hospice Race Day

Once again the South African Jewish community have come out in full force to pledge support for Hospice Race Day at Turffontein Racecourse, to take place on Sunday August 5.

JACK MILNER

The race day has become a popular annual event and organiser Ivan Zartz could not heap enough praise on the support of the community. “This event is getting bigger and bigger and it is thanks to the Jewish community.

“We have five major prizes that have been thrown into the raffle for next year and all of them have been donated by Jewish supporters, four of them anonymously,” said Zartz. The aim of the race day is to collect around R1 million for Hospice.

The prizes this year are truly outstanding and there will be 180 drawn at the racecourse. While some of them include meals at top restaurants or weekends away at a top hotel, the five big prizes are:

1-Five days and four nights at the Atlantis Hotel in Dubai, which takes in Dubai World Cup night, the richest racing event in the world.

2-Two tickets to next year’s Wimbledon final in London.

3-Two tickets to any Arsenal match played at the Emirates Sta-

dium.

4-Two tickets to next year’s US Open tennis tournament in New York.

5-a trip for two to Sabi Sabi’s luxury Earth Lodge.

All the prizes include two air tickets to the venue as well as hotel accommodation in London, New York and Dubai.

Anybody who witnessed last Sunday’s Wimbledon final between Roger Federer and Andy Murray would have sensed the atmosphere on Centre Court. Attending an event like that is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“I would like to make special mention of Sol Kerzer, who has supported us whole heartedly from day one,” said Zartz. “I also would like to thank the other donors who have helped us come up with such outstanding prizes.”

Tickets for the raffle go on sale from today at a cost of R550 each. People interested can contact Kaz on (011) 483-2741.

The race day takes place a week after Tisha B’Av and kosher food will be available.



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Anton Marcus brings home Jay Peg in the Dubai Duty Free on Dubai World Cup night, one of the prizes on offer at this year’s Hospice Charity Race Day at Turffontein on Sunday, August 5. (PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW WATKINS)

Israel’s IOC member slammed over ‘Munich minute’

JACK MILNER

A row has broken out in Israel over the decision by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) not to hold a minute’s silence on the 40th anniversary of the 1972 Munich Olympic massacre at this year’s London Olympics which kick off on Friday, July 27 and end on Sunday, August 12.

The problem in Israel is that their lone IOC member, Alex Gilady, supported the motion not to hold a minute’s silence for the 11 Israeli athletes killed by Palestinian terrorists at the Munich Olympics.

Sport and Culture Minister Limor Livnat said that in a private conversation Gilady had told her that the time was not yet opportune to call for a minute’s silence.

An angry Livnat said that 40 years was more than enough time, and wondered if the decision would have been different had the athletes not been Israelis or Jews.

Speaking at a reception hosted by President Shimon Peres at his official residence for Israel’s Olympic and Paralympic delegations, and attended by the families of the murdered athletes plus medallists from previous Olympics and British Ambassador Matthew Gould, Livnat noted that several countries had taken up Israel’s cause, but Gilady and the IOC refused, she said.

Gilady’s excuse had been that he didn’t want to give Israel’s enemies any opportunity to boycott the Games, the Jerusalem Post reported.

Livnat did not buy this. “Alex Gilady, you still have a chance to right a wrong,” she declared.

Earlier the Israeli Olympic and Para-

lympic teams attended the traditional memorial service at the Munich massacre memorial in Tel Aviv. Both Efraim Zinger, the secretary general and Zvi Varshaviak, chairman of the Israel Olympic Committee, noted that this was a milestone year not only because it was the 40th anniversary of the Munich massacre, but also because it was the 60th anniversary of Israel’s initial participation in the Olympics and the 20th anniversary of Israel’s first Olympic medals.

Since Barcelona they emphasised, as did Livnat, Israel has come home with at least one medal from each of the Olympic Games.

Israel’s first Olympic medal - a silver - was won by judoka Yael Arad in Barcelona in 1992 and Oren Smadja won a bronze in the men’s judo competitions a day later. In 1996, windsurfer Gal Fridman won a bronze medal in Atlanta before also taking a gold medal in Athens in 2004.

Michael Kolganov in 2000 won a bronze medal in the 1500m kayaking contest in Sydney, and judo champion Arik Ze’evi came home from Athens with a bronze medal in 2004. Windsurfer Shahar Zubari won a bronze in Beijing.

Quoting from Israeli satirist Ephraim Kishon, Livnat laughed as she repeated his contention that Israel has no desire to win the Olympics because it goes against the grain of Jewish modesty.

She urged the athletes to forget about Jewish modesty and to do their best to run faster and aim higher.

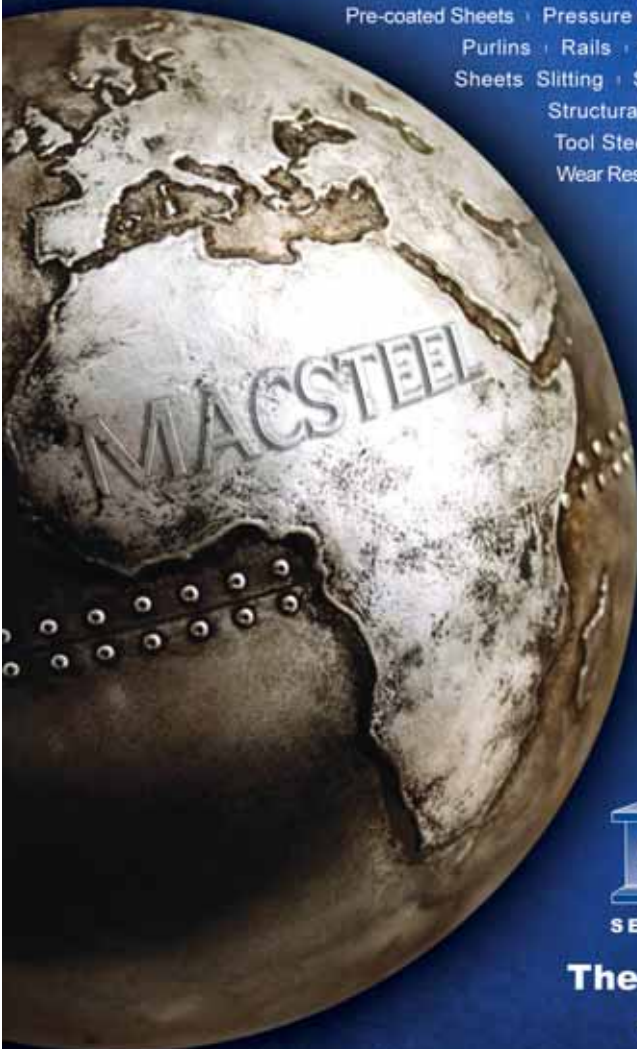
Peres, who was fairly confident that Israel would win more medals this time than in the past, also looked forward to the day when Israel would host the Olympic Games.


“You have to dream of big things and then to accomplish them,” he said.

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