

BUILDING SOUTH AFRICA

People doing remarkable things



Go-getter Reeva has always retained hatikvah

ALISON GOLDBERG
PHOTOGRAPH: ILAN OSSENDRYVER

THE IRREPRESSIBLE and affectionate Reeva Forman, MD of two companies; South Africa’s Businesswoman of the Year in 1983, director of Jewish and other organisations, is still most often synonymous with a cosmetics company in Parktown, Johannesburg.
But for those who know her better, she is rather associated with her humanitarian activism - her driving force.

After obtaining a BA (Hons) in psychology from Wits, Forman turned down a modelling career in New York - she had been a model in the seventies - and instead went to the San Francisco Success Institute to study American motivational training. On her return to South Africa, she devoted herself to empowering black entrepreneurs.
In 1980 she founded Reeva Forman Success Institute, running five-day management courses. “My aim was to motivate people irrespective of their obstacles, to achieve their goals and gain self-respect”.

With a team of skilled presenters, Forman trained thousands of people in the decade that followed. People of note attracted to the course were former Rhodesian General Peter Walls and ministers of religion from all ethnic backgrounds.
It was also in 1980 that as the first woman president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, Forman ran a “Black Executive Development” programme sponsored by (then) Barclays Bank.
In 1982 Marina Maponya was nominated Businesswoman of the Year; Forman won this award the following year. Then in 1984 both Maponya and Forman represented South Africa at the International Business Women’s Conference in Chicago.
From 1985-’87, she served on the board of the SABC.

Her cosmetics company, Reeva Forman Pty Ltd, flowed from her training company “as a way of giving people a real chance of earning extra money.

“Growing up behind a counter in my parents’ pharmacy in Doornfontein, perfume and cosmetics were easy products to sell on a direct basis. I loved working with independent businesswomen and men and saw it as another way of empowering people.

“It was also a first-hand opportunity to see blacks, whites and religious groups reaching out to one another. I had no doubt that we could become a model democracy. I was a humanitarian activist, not a political one.”

In spite of apartheid, Forman was witnessing disadvantaged people rising to great heights in the business and arts: Richard and Marina Maponya, Welcome Nsomi, Lazarus Zim, Yvonne Chaka Chaka and Hugh Masekela, among many others. It was these kinds of role models who were inspiring their people to achieve, while political justice was being fought for.

From day one of operating the cosmetics company “we had the philosophy of targeting all South Africans with specialised ranges. Today this is the norm for all leading international cosmetic houses.”

In the nineties, Forman had to overcome her own adversity: first there was a five year defamation suit against Caxton - which she eventually won - then the sale by auction of her headquarters; a severe blow to her and her cosmetics business.

It was not until 2004 that she regained her confidence, when she reclaimed ownership of 2 Sherborne Road, Parktown, which she had built in the early nineties. Today Reeva Beauty & Health is once more thriving.

In 1994 Forman was asked to help save Temple Israel Reform Congregation in Hillbrow.

Then MaAfrika Tikkun asked her to become one of its founding members and in 1996, as its first inner-city regeneration project, MaAfrika Tikkun took over the existing black crèche and expanded the shul’s services to offer sewing and literacy classes.

The congregation is now about 70 strong, holding Shabbat and chagim services. Temple Israel today stands as an outreach centre in Hillbrow, reaching out to Jews still living there and through MaAfrika Tikkun to disadvantaged people in the area.

In 1998 Forman was invited to join the SA Jewish Board of Deputies and this started Forman on a more conscious career of serving the Jewish community.

In 2002 she joined the SA Zionist Federation and so began a phase of Zionist activism that continues to this day.

Forman’s name is now inseparable from the “Israel Now Tour”, which she has organised and led since 2002. By 2008 - Israel’s 60th birthday - she had conducted 13 tours taking over 600 people to Israel.

In 2009, with echoes of bringing people together in apartheid South Africa, she “became passionate about doing the same thing across the Israeli-Palestinian divide, where I found the vast majority of people wanted to co-exist in peace. I also discovered hundreds of organisations working towards that end.”

Forman is deeply grateful to the SA Jewish community and its religious and lay leaders who encouraged and fully supported her work, both in the local community and her Zionist activities.

“I believe the most important word is hatikvah (hope). In spite of all the obstacles, goodness will prevail. That is the Jewish destiny and the greatest lesson one can impart to others. We all have adversity in our lives but we can overcome it with the abilities Hashem has given us.”



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C&P 78

First real Pesach for Afrikaans converters to Judaism

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
RITA LEWIS

THIS YEAR, a Jewish family will, for the first time, be celebrating a proper Pesach in their own home.

Some six years ago, an Afrikaans-speaking Christian family of four and their daughter-in-law, from Newcastle in KwaZulu-Natal, decided to convert to Judaism.

Such an important decision as the conversion of a family is generally made by the parents, and if others join them it is most times under some sort of duress. In this case, Sara and Avraham du Preez and both their children, Chaya and Mordechai (and his wife) all agreed that despite the fact that they were staunch Christians, to convert to Judaism was what they all wanted.

To take on the conversion process is a big decision and the learning to be acquired, and customs to take on, is harrowing. For this family, it was also the running up and down to Johannesburg to the Beth Din, to their teachers etc, that was tiring and expensive.

However, although the couple themselves could become properly Jewish by converting, the children could not convert according to due process of the halacha if their parents were Jewish but not married.

The couple, after converting, then had to go through a Jewish wedding ceremony.

This they did at Rabbi Ron Hendler’s shul in Glenhazel where they said, both the Rabbi and community “have been extremely supportive”.

Sara said she had been brought up in a Christian environment.

Eight or nine years ago the couple, who by then had two children, had become disillusioned with all the churches they had tried and found that the priests and pastors just got hostile when they questioned them regarding the reasons this or that was done, the ceremonies, practices, etc.

The couple who were both financially suc-



Sara, Avraham, Mordechai, Menucha and baby, Laima.

cessful, decided to start their own group at home in Newcastle and as they found they had an affinity to the Jewish religion, became Messianic Jews.

They said at the time they knew nothing about “proper” Judaism and therefore Avraham decided to visit Israel on a fact-finding mission.

After he returned to South Africa, they started travelling to Johannesburg to learn about Judaism from Aish HaTorah and Chabad.

“It was not an easy time as the local community in Newcastle ostracised us. Our families were against our decision,” Sara said.

She was advised to contact Rabbi Hendler to discuss the matter of a conversion but he actually “tried to dissuade us from trying to convert” (as is the general custom).

But, Rabbi Hendler could see they were not beginners in the process as they had done a lot of learning and studying of Judaism and its tenets. However, they could still not read Hebrew - a prerequisite to converting.

“So for the next 18 months we commuted to Johannesburg to attend the Hebrew ulpan and to spend Shabbat with different people to see how things were done.”

In July they decided to move to Johannesburg. “G-d was with us.” As they were loading their last boxes into the truck, “someone came past and asked if he could rent the house. We knew then that, despite so many odds and difficulties, we made the right decision.”



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Bringing ‘Lithuanian roots’ back to SA community

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY RITA LEWIS

THREE LITHUANIANS and a South African-born Israeli came to South Africa last week to address “A Taste of Limmud” and to speak to learners at King David School and Yeshiva College and tell them about present-day Jewish life in the Baltics.

The visit was to enlighten the South African community about the well-being of the Jewish community in Lithuania and

how the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) there was helping, frail and indigent Jews.

Simon Gurevicius, executive director of the Lithuanian community and South African-born Solly Kaplinski, executive director overseas joint ventures of the JDC, felt that although many South African Jews have their roots in Lithuania, few have any contact with anyone still living there.

As many South Africans seem unaware of the vibrant Jewish community in Lithuania,

especially in Vilna where most Jews live, it was decided that they together with two students, Efim Hiterrer 19 and Ina Frishman 16, should come and tell South African Jews how the community there was faring.

There are some 5 000 Jews in Lithuania today. A third are Holocaust survivors. Before the war there were 160 000 Jews in Lithuania. At that time there were 110 synagogues and 10 yeshivot in the country.

Lithuania was once known as the “Jerusalem of the North” for its importance as a centre of Jewish learning and culture. It was home to Zionist leaders, artists and intellectuals, as well as the birthplace of the Yivo Institute, the centre for the study of Eastern European Jewry and Yiddish.

However, most of that was destroyed during the Holocaust. The decades of Communist rule that followed, further repressed those who had survived the Nazis, so by the time of the Soviet Union’s collapse, Jewish communal life in Lithuania had been almost completely destroyed.

In 1991 Lithuania became the first Soviet republic to declare independence. It has been a member of Nato and the European Union since 2004. Now, back from the brink of extinction, Lithuania’s Jewish community has experienced an extraordinary recovery.

Gurevicius spoke of the recent recession which had hit much of the world, including Lithuania. He said the number of young



Executive director of the Lithuanian Jewish community, Simon Gurevicius (left) and executive director, overseas ventures, Solly Kaplinski with Efim Hiterrer 19 and Ina Frishman 16.

families in need of help from the community had increased by 42 per cent last year.

“There also remains a great need for support for more community building to ensure a permanent return to Lithuania’s proud history as a Jewish cultural hub. The task, however, is complicated by economic difficulties in the Baltic region.

JDC’s focus in the Baltics is on achieving greater self-sufficiency while encouraging the renewal of Jewish life at all levels.

Building on the “Jewish Community Centre (JCC) without walls” concept, JDC has facilitated of a vibrant Jewish life throughout the Baltic communities.

Slavery is more than just forced labour

SARA MAYER

WHEN I was in fourth grade, Wednesday was my favourite day of the week. My mother had a weekly programme on Wednesday which prevented her from being home at lunch time. This meant that at least one day a week I avoided being the only kid who took the bus home, and would instead eat lunch in the cafeteria with friends and classmates.

By the end of that same year, I came to hate Wednesday.

One particular Wednesday, at the sound of the bell, I grabbed my paper bag lunch and trudged over to the cafeteria. I began to unpack my lunch, my lank, brown hair hanging loose around my face. I pulled out my sandwich - peanut butter and jelly - and was surprised to find something else in the bag. I smiled as I pulled out a strawberry yogurt and spoon.

I opened the yogurt and began to mix the sweet fruit on the bottom into the creamy white yogurt. Once I had achieved the perfect delicious consistency, I dipped my spoon in and prepared to take the first bite. At that moment, someone slammed into my back, and my yogurt - splashed onto my shirt and my hair.

Laughter surrounded me. “Hey, that’s why her hair looks like that. She washes it with yogurt!” Crystal called out.

More laughter followed as I jumped from my seat and ran to the bathroom to clean up. Crystal had done it again, as she would continue to do for the next five or six years.

Passover is the time of Jewish redemption, when we commemorate our release from Egyptian slavery. But this is also the time to let go of the baggage tying us down from achieving our own personal exodus.

Slavery is about more than just forced labour. In today’s world we become slaves to all sorts of things. A young child is enslaved by a bully. He feels trapped by the suffering and constant mistreatment. But at some point, he will be physically released. Whether it is age, distance or other circumstances that take him out of the bullying situation, the child is experiencing his own personal exodus. However, if he holds on to the slave mentality, the master will continue to control him.

The Torah says that the going out of Egypt was a physical freedom, but psychologically the Jews still felt enslaved, emotionally attached to their Egyptian oppressors. It wasn’t until they saw with their own eyes how the Egyptians drowned in the Red Sea that the Jews felt truly liberated.

When Facebook first came on the scene, I was excited to reconnect with long-lost friends.

When I pressed the “next” button, I was rewarded with a list of “People you might know.” The very first profile picture sent shivers down my spine. Suddenly, I was 10 years old again and looking into the face of Crystal. Perhaps I didn’t want to delve too deeply into my past, after all. Or did I?

Looking back, I perceive things very differently. Crystal’s self-confidence hinged on her ability to disparage others.

The truth was I had already forgiven Crystal and her gang. What they did to me was not really about me, but about them.

And if - as the victim - I drag around the anger and resentment, who does that hurt? Only myself. The Torah teaches: “You should not hate your brother in your heart” (Leviticus 19:12).

Why not? If it’s in my heart, the other person won’t know anyway. I’m not attacking them. I’m just carrying around a grudge. So what’s the big deal? The big deal is the effect it has on me. Like an untreated wound, the grudge festers, making the entire body ill.

By letting go and forgiving them for the silly things that happened when we were 10, I allowed myself to heal. I put myself in charge of deciding who I was and who I was going to become.

Did they need to ask my forgiveness? It would be good for them to feel remorse, but that should have no bearing on my actions. If I continued to hold a grudge, Crystal would move on with her life and I would still be 10.

By shifting the focus from “Woe is me,” I was able to forgive, forget and move on.

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Bringing change to symbols on the seder plate

SUZANNE KURTZ
WASHINGTON

OF ALL the wedding presents Marilyn Fine received 36 years ago, the delicate English bone-china Passover seder plate is still her most cherished gift.

“I wish I could display it all year round,” says Fine, 59, a Jewish educator from Silver Spring, Maryland.

Laurie Blumberg-Romero of Denver shows off the silver-and-white porcelain seder plate she received for her wedding, and also sets her Passover table with another plate that is of equal value in her eyes - the one her son made in the first grade that she says “connects him to the holiday”.

“It’s always, always on the table because it’s so cute,” says Blumberg-Romero, a 38-year-old hospital administrator.

Regardless of the design or designer - renowned artist or child - one thing remains the same for each plate: a designated place-holder for each of the traditional food items necessary for telling the Passover story.

For a holiday that commands Jews to remember the ancient Israelites’ exodus from slavery to freedom, are we free to adapt these food items to tell our own stories?

A few years ago, during a visit to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, I heard of a Jewish soldier during the American Civil War who wanted to celebrate Passover but could not find suitable ingredients for making charoset. Instead of creating an edible concoction to represent the bricks made by the Israelite slaves, the soldier used an actual brick.

Despite its physical authenticity, I wondered if this resourceful symbol would have been considered kosher for Passover?

“There have always been variances in the community,” says Rabbi Joel Levenson of Congregation B’nai Jacob in Woodbridge, Connecticut. “While there are items that make it a seder plate, it’s important to ask, does this (symbol) fulfil the point?”

If the idea of pesticides on your karpas is as appealing as the Ten Plagues, Max Goldberg of the popular food blog living-

maxwell.com suggests using ingredients like grass-fed eggs and organic honey, almond butter and wine to create a seder plate devoid of chemical substances and synthetic growth hormones.

“For many (people), holidays do not mean a holiday from eating healthy food, and Passover can be a difficult time. So what do you do for them?” Goldberg asks.

After becoming a vegetarian 21 years ago, the idea of using an animal bone to represent the pascal sacrifice posed a serious problem for Heidi Krizer Daroff, a mother of two from Potomac, Maryland. She decided to use a roasted potato in lieu of the roasted shank bone.

But freedom is not just the absence of shank bones or slavery. “There is a very modern-day context to the story,” says Rabbi Levi Shemtov, head of the American Friends of Lubavitch office in Washington, DC.

He says seder participants also must remember those Jews still in bondage and unable to attend a seder. Shemtov leaves an empty seat at his packed Passover dinners as a symbol of solidarity with Israeli soldier

Gilad Shalit, who has been held captive in the Gaza Strip since June 2006.

Before Jews were permitted to leave the Soviet Union without difficulty in 1989, it became a custom to place an extra piece of matzah on the seder plate as a symbol of solidarity with refuseniks, those Soviet Jews whose applications had been refused, says Rabbi Isaac Jeret of Congregation Ner Tamid of South Bay in California.

“We tell our stories through our ritual items, and the seder plate tells our story as Jews,” Jeret says. “The point is to remind us we can be liberated. The day the seder plate becomes stagnant is the day Jews are no longer under threat; we’re not there yet.” (JTA)

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AT THE HEART OF COMMUNITY WELFARE



Grade 11 Cycalive participants Thando Sithebe (Pace Commercial Secondary School); Stanley Khanye (Moletsane High School); and Moshe Moch (Torah Academy Boys' High School), at the launch of the 2011 Nelson Mandela Day events.

With Madiba's legacy, young can change the world

SUZANNE BELLING
PHOTOGRAPH: RABBI DOVID HAZDAN

THIS YEAR'S Cycalive grade 11 learners from Torah Academy, Moletsane High School and Pace Commercial Secondary School – Moshe Moch, Stanley Khanye and Thando Sithebe – comprised a third of a panel of learners invited to give their views at the launch of the 2011 Nelson Mandela Day events linked to the internationally-recognised Nelson Mandela Day on July 18. The boys will take part in this year's Cycalive annual bicycle relay ride from Johannesburg to Durban from August 21 to 28, to inspire ubuntu, cross-cultural

exchange, raise funds for underprivileged schools and promote road safety.

Nelson Mandela Foundation spokesman, Sello Hatang, who, with Rabbi Dovid Hazdan, dean of Torah Academy, was instrumental in making Cycalive an official event on the Nelson Mandela Day calendar, told the rabbi at a launch on March 28, held at the Houghton premises of the Nelson Mandela Foundation: "We have a wonderful marriage between NMF and Cycalive."

Hatang offered to assist in involving businesses in the sponsorship of Cycalive, while Rabbi Hazdan pledged to direct 9 000 exercise books, donated by BSC/Tiger Packaging, to nine underprivileged schools chosen by the NMF.

NMF's chief executive, Achmat Dangor, said it remained the work of the Foundation to effect change within communities, empowering them to change the world around them.

Dubbed "Mandela Mondays", this day of the week had been designated for people to spend as little as five minutes doing something for the betterment of someone else's life, the community or the environment.

"Each Monday, give a small amount - that of your time, wherever you can, to spreading the message that change is in your hands," Dangor said.

Questions put to the learner panel were:

- What does Nelson Mandela represent to you?
- Why is Nelson Mandela Day important?
- What NMD activity did you undertake last year?
- What would you do to change the world?

Moshe Moch described Madiba as "an international icon for peace. He always looks forward to the future and never looks back in bitterness".

He said Mandela had a proactive approach. "We can learn from that, that we all have the power to change the world."

To him Mandela Day was a gateway which allowed people to make the transition from thought into action.

"Thought is not enough, we must actually act and Mandela Day gives us the opportunity to perform acts of goodness and kindness to improve South Africa."

Moshe said Cycalive for grade 11 learners from different cultural and religious backgrounds had undertaken a project which built bridges; formed bonds among young South Africans and their respective communities; inspired ubuntu, optimism and a commitment to a common goal for the future in this country.

Acts of goodness and kindness, with a proactive approach, were a challenge to every South African, said Moshe, issuing this challenge.

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Chag Pesach Kasher ve Sameach

AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

ISRAEL'S MILITARY ORDERING MORE IRON DOME DEFENCE SYSTEMS

JERUSALEM - Israel's military is ordering four more Iron Dome missile defence systems, which successfully deployed during recent rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip.

The Israel Defence Forces said on Monday it would order the batteries from the Israel-based Rafael Advanced Defence Systems at a cost of up to \$80 million each. The units reportedly will be delivered in a year-and-a-half and be ready for immediate use.

Funding for the new defence batteries, which intercepted all of the rockets in its coverage area in recent Gaza terrorist activity, is slated to come from an extra security aid allocation from the United States.

The military aid, \$3 billion for 2011, plus an additional \$205 million for Iron Dome, has been tied up for five months due to a budget impasse in Washington.

President Barack Obama is scheduled to sign the 2011 budget bill, which includes the aid to Israel, later this week. (JTA)

Ronald Harwood: Pianist screenplay assuages some Holocaust anxieties

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

IT WAS “particularly poignant” for Sir Ronald Harwood to be delivering the annual Rabbi Dr David Sherman Memorial Lecture, as the young rabbi had officiated at his barmitzvah 63 years ago and had had a powerful and lasting influence on him, the renowned playwright and screenwriter said at the event held at Temple Israel, Green Point, under the auspices of the Cape Town Progressive Jewish Congregation and The David and Bertha Sherman Foundation.

Sir Ronald, formerly Ronnie Horwitz, has had an illustrious career following his humble beginnings in Sea Point. Among other honours, he won an Oscar for his screenplay for *The Pianist* in 2003, and was knighted by Queen Elizabeth in 2010.

He said that “only sometimes” had he been a Jewish writer, yet his Jewish identity had been his principal driving force.

Recalling his early years, Sir Ronald said his family was at the “poorer end of the spectrum”, living in a small, rented flat in Bantry Bay, while he had attended Sea Point Boys’ High School. War had defined his childhood, the Holocaust his adolescence.

He described his writing of the screenplay for *The Pianist* at the age of 66 as “one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional life - it put to rest some of my Holocaust anxieties.”

He recalled how his father had, “without warning”, announced that the family was to join the then-fledgling Reform Shul in 1946. One of his reasons had been that “the Orthodox synagogues favoured the rich” - he had never been granted an honour in



Rebbetzen Bertha Sherman with Sir Ronald Harwood.

shul, a fact he attributed to his poverty.

Sir Ronald described the move as a major turning point for him, showing that it was possible to change that which seems unbearable with sufficient courage, determination and conviction. It did not come without personal sacrifice, though, as boys who had previously been his friends “sneered and hurled insults” at him.

He good-naturedly reminded his former Hebrew teacher, Rebbetzin Bertha Sherman, that she had described him as having been a “moderately-good” scholar.

Sir Ronald remembered how “my life was turned upside down” when he had seen Sir Lawrence Olivier’s film of *Hamlet* in 1948. “I knew the exact location of the world I wanted to be part of: London.”

He applied to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and it was then that he changed his surname to Harwood. With the financial assistance of the Cape Town community, the 17-year-old set sail on the *Edinburgh Castle* for England in 1951.

Looking back at his “long journey”, he noted that David Sherman had been “one of my first guides”.

Bringing Nazi horrors to screen

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

HOLLYWOOD “DROPPED the ball once” and now had a chance to redeem itself, Scott Feinberg said during an illustrated lecture held under the auspices of the Cape Town Holocaust Centre and the Gitlin Library.

Feinberg, a film industry analyst, has a strong track record in forecasting the Academy Awards and is a voting member of the Broadcast Film Critics Association.

Addressing the subject, “Hollywood and the Holocaust”, Feinberg noted that the American film industry had entered its golden age in the late 1930s and early ‘40s as the Holocaust was unfolding.

Hollywood was then presided over “almost exclusively” by European Jews who wanted to be known as proud Americans, “so they avoided subjects that might rock the boat”.

Showing a brief clip from the 1932 film “*Taxi*”, in which film star James Cagney speaks Yiddish, Feinberg noted that Hollywood had, at that point, not been avoiding religion or ethnicity, but this had changed after 1934. He referred to the establishment of a censorship office and a production code that had the effect of preventing films that might antagonise Germany.

When the Germans demanded that Jews working in Germany for the film studios be fired, Hollywood, with its Jewish bosses, “quietly acquiesced.”

Between 1934 and 1939, German characters disappeared from the screen and the word “Jew” was not mentioned at all, he added. By the end of the 1930s, however, it became harder to ignore the reality on the ground and Hollywood confronted the situation, “at first meekly”.

Charlie Chaplin had been the one person who stood up, Feinberg said, adding that the actor had been “very aware” of Hitler before others. “He had sympathised with Jews quite a bit and decided it was an issue worth confronting.” Chaplin financed and distributed

“*The Great Dictator*”, an obvious parody of Hitler, playing the dictator Adenoid Hinkel.

The subject became “a little less taboo”, especially after Germany and America declared war on each other.

In April, 1945, at the height of American movie-going, when 80 million people were attending every week, Eisenhower arranged that footage of the atrocities should be played for a whole week.

“*Gentleman’s Agreement*” (1947) had been one of the first films dealing with anti-Semitism. Films about the Holocaust began to “trickle” out of Hollywood, Feinberg said.

By the late ‘60s, people began to deal with the Holocaust in a different way by laughing at Hitler, which Feinberg described as “part of the cathartic process”.

Feinberg commented that the rise in the number of movies about the Holocaust since then coincided with the rise of the “Oscar campaign”, which refers to movies made with the desire to win Oscars. “The industry figured out that the Academy rewards serious matters and none is more so than the most shocking event of the 20th century.”

It had been said that the subject had been trivialised for box office attention. Others said that the subject had been exploited to attract Oscar attention, Feinberg noted.

“As the number of survivors dwindles and (that of) Holocaust deniers grows, Hollywood again has a chance” to keep the subject in the public consciousness, he said.



American Scott Feinberg with his mother, former Capetonian Pamela Kriger Feinberg.

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Adhering to adage of a healthy mind in a healthy body

A COFFEE table book with photographs of South African children from all parts of the country, has so far contributed to the provision of over R500 000 worth of sports equipment and training for children in several of South Africa's most deprived communities.

Outreach organisation MaAfrika Tikkun, said in a media release the 250-page book, "Children of Africa - South African Edition" was the brainchild of multiple award-winning photographer Luca Zordan and Alethea Gold, a renowned international children's fashion stylist.

All proceeds from the book, which was sponsored by South African businessman and philanthropist Ivor Ichikowitz through his Umoja Foundation, are being donated to MaAfrika Tikkun's sports programmes in Orange Farm, Diepsloot, Alexandra township and Hillbrow in Gauteng and Delft and Mfuleni in the Western Cape.

The funds are being used to upgrade sports facilities and pay for coaching and equipment for all sports for the children.

The book, which is still being sold in the US, UK and Australia, as well as in South Africa, features colour photographs, interviews with all the children photographed to capture their vision and views on the world, and personal inscriptions from Sir Bob Geldof and Leah Tutu, wife of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.



Alethea Gold and Ivor Ichikowitz with some of the recipients of the proceeds of "Children of Africa - South African Edition".

Zordan, referred to as the "Annie Leibovitz" of children's photography, and Gold toured the country photographing children from all walks of life... children singing and dancing; rural children, city children, children celebrating festivals, children at one with the earth, children from different races and cultural groups; and children playing sport.

Gold travelled to South Africa for the official handover of equipment purchased from the book's proceeds to children at the MaAfrika Tikkun's Ronnie & Rhona Lubner Child and Youth Development Centre in Alexandra, on April 7. This centre houses the township's largest indoor sports hall.

According to MaAfrika Tikkun CEO Marc Lubner, sport plays a key role in MaAfrika Tikkun's child and youth development programmes, which are focused on nurturing vulnerable and at-risk children and youth.

"Children of Africa" marks the second collaboration between Zordan and Gold. The first, a hugely successful "Children of China", raised funds for Aids orphans in the Henan province of China.



MaAfrika Tikkun children celebrate the equipping of their new sports hall from the proceeds of the "Children of Africa" book. (PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED)

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COOKERY

Mouth-watering recipes for Pesach

RITA LEWIS

FOOD IS an important part of Jewish life and for most, there is nothing better than a well-rounded meal.

This Pesach, we offer our readers recipes each one of which has been provided by some of our South African rebbetzens, chosen from across the spectrum of the different communities. One of the “jobs” of being a rebbetzen - especially one married to a shul rabbi - is to entertain and generally make people in the congregation feel at home within the shul environment and the personalities in it.

Much of that involves food: brochas, Friday night suppers and Shabbat lunches.

Most rebbetzens are such good cooks because most have had a lot of experience at it.

The recipes here are all Pesachdik with all items available at the main stores and kosher outlets.

Although some recipes given here will not be suitable for those keeping gebrox,(where the matza is not allowed to come into contact with any kind of liquid) none of them contain any kitnyot (lentils, peanuts etc) which are not permitted for Ashkenazi Jews but permitted for Sephardim.

Many have man-made ingredients included such as sugar, matzo meal etc which are not permitted for the Lubavitch community. Please take note.

From Yeshiva College’s Marcia Tanzer.

PESACH BISCUITS PAREV

Ingredients:
2 cups matzah meal;
2 cups matzah farfel;
1½ cups sugar;
1tsp ground cinnamon,
1 cup oil,
1 lge egg beaten lightly;
2 cups chocolate chips.

Method
Preheat oven to 180° C.
Combine all ingredients (except the chocolate chips) which should then be folded in carefully.
Dot mixture onto a greased baking tray and press flat. Bake for 20 to 30 minutes.
Makes around 25 biscuits.

From Debbie Suiza in Cape Town.
This Sephardi fish recipe will be something different on Ashkenazi tables.

‘CHILLI FISH’ - PAREV

Ingredients:
¾ cup olive oil
8- 12 portions firm fish cut into pieces
2 tbs cumin
Fresh coriander to taste
5 whole cloves garlic
1 - 2 tbs crushed chilli or 2 fresh chillies (depends on chilli strength)
Salt
3 tbs paprika

Method
Salt fish on both sides and leave for 5 minutes. Rinse under cold water.
Add oil and all ingredients except the fish to a deep frying pan and bring to the boil.

Place fish in the pan with all ingredients and add water so that it just covers the fish. Cover with a lid and bring to the boil.

Once boiling, lower heat and simmer uncovered until most of the water has boiled away and the sauce is left. Serve at room temperature.

From Debbie Suiza in Cape Town.
Another delicious Sephardi recipe -

QUAJADO DE KARNA – MEAT BAKE

Ingredients:
1 kg beef mince
4 tbs oil
7 eggs
4 sheets matzah - soaked in warm water and squeezed dry into small pieces
1½ cups of chicken stock
3 tbs parsley chopped
½ cup spring onions - finely chopped
Salt and pepper

Method
Heat oil in a pot and brown meat. Add chicken stock and cook over medium heat until liquid has almost evaporated. Allow to cool.

Separate eggs and beat whites until stiff.

In a bowl mix mince, matzah, parsley, spring onions, beaten egg yolks and seasoning. Fold in the egg whites. Pour mixture into a well-greased dish and bake at 180° C for 30 minutes until golden brown. Cut into squares.

At the Sephardi seder table this is traditionally eaten with brown hard-boiled eggs.

From Ha Maor’s Shternie Wineberg.

This ‘Tasty Chutney’ will go down well with any meat, chicken or fish dish. Parev

Ingredients:
Everything should be chopped very small
1 cup onions
1 cup each of chopped green and yellow peppers
2 sticks of celery
4 lge mangos
2 green apples
1 cup of wine,
1 cup sugar,
juice of a lemon to taste

Method
Sauté it all together.
Place in jars/plastic containers in the fridge for a few days.

Tasty eats from Sharon’s book

Our grateful thanks to Sharon Lurie, author of “Celebrating with the Kosher Butcher’s Wife” (Random House Struik, 2011) for granting us permission to use these scrumptious recipes

THAI SALMON FISHCAKES

When you’ve had your fill of gefilte fish and need a little change, try these

1 x 418 g can salmon
1 onion, peeled and finely grated
2 Tbsp chopped fresh coriander
1 tsp grated fresh ginger
Juice of 1 lime
2 eggs
¾ cup matzo meal
1 Tbsp desiccated coconut (this takes it to a whole new level)
Oil for frying

Method:
1. Combine the salmon in its liquid with the rest of the ingredients, except the oil, in a large mixing bowl.
2. Roll into balls and fry in hot oil until golden brown.

3. Serve with sweet and sour sauce (see below).

Sweet and Sour Sauce
1/3 cup lemon juice
1/3 cup golden syrup
1 Tbsp tomato sauce
1 tsp potato flour dissolved in 1 cup cold water
Salt and pepper to taste

Method:
1. Blend all the ingredients into a smooth sauce and bring to the boil over medium heat or just until it thickens.
Check for sweetness - if too sweet add a little more lemon or vice versa.
2. To make it a little fancier, add drained mandarins and crushed pineapple to the sauce.
Serve with the fishcakes.
Makes 12-15



PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL SMITH

Peter Reso

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COOKERY

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL SMITH



APPLE SORBET

2 Granny Smith apples, peeled cored and quartered
1/2 cup icing sugar
1 litre apple juice or appletiser
1 cup water

Method:
1. Boil the apples in a saucepan with the water and icing sugar. Once the apples are soft, remove the pan from the heat and blend with a hand blender or in a food processor. Add the apple juice and mix well.
2. Pour the mixture through a strainer into a rectangular container and freeze for 6 hours.
3. Remove from the freezer and rake the sorbet with a fork, mixing it up well. Alternatively, scoop it out and blend in a food processor until smooth. Raking it makes it more like a granita, whereas blending it while almost frozen, makes it more velvety and smooth. Refreeze.
4. Remove from the freezer about 10 minutes before serving to soften it a little.
Serves 12

TOP-RIB FLAPS AND ONION CONFIT

2 tsp coffee powder
1 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp crushed fresh garlic
2 Tbsp mushroom or onion soup powder
Freshly ground black pepper to taste
2 kg top-rib flaps (you may need 2 as they can be small)
Little oil to rub over meat, plus a little

extra for browning
1/3 cup oil
10 medium onions, peeled and sliced into rings (yes, 10 — it's the caramelised onions that take this dish to a new level)
2 bay leaves

Method:
1. Preheat the oven to 170°C. Mix the coffee, ginger, garlic salt, soup powder and black pepper in a small bowl.
2. Using your hands, rub the meat with a little oil and then rub in the coffee and spice mix.
3. Place a little oil in a large deep frying pan or heavy-based saucepan.
4. Brown the meat on both sides and set aside in an ovenproof roasting pan, ensuring that there is room for the 2 pieces to lie side by side and not on top of each other.
5. To the same pan in which you fried the meat, add the 1/3 cup oil and fry the onions until just soft.
6. Place the onions in the some roasting pan as the meat, lifting the meat so that half of the onions are under the meat and half on top of it.
7. Add the bay leaves, cover and place the pan in the oven for 1 1/2, hours.
8. Remove from the oven, stir the onions around and return to the oven, uncovered, for a further 30 minutes.
9. The onions should go a lovely rich, golden colour. If you find they are getting too brown, reduce the heat. If not brown enough, increase the heat a little during the last 30 minutes.
10. Serve with roast or mashed potatoes.
Serves 6-8

PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL SMITH



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Why is this holiday more stressful than all other holidays?

JAMIE GELLER
NEW YORK

I LOVE Passover, but sometimes I wish I could pass over the arduous cleaning and re-cleaning, pass over the crumbs that my kids have snuck (and stuck) between couch cushions, and clone myself for culinary purposes.

Cooking can prove cathartic when it is of the no-stress, no-mess variety, but when you're catering to aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins, cousins of cousins, in-laws and guests, varying taste buds and dietary restrictions need to be considered. You may find yourself making two types of charoset - one with chopped walnuts and one without - and using more prunes than you can stomach.

You would think that as a cook-book author I would have this all figured out, but I am still trying to get it down to a science.

This year I decided that I had to stick with my recurrent "Quick & Kosher" theme. I always make suggestions to others about keeping it simple for the greatest enjoyment as a cook or baker. This year is going to be the year, G-d willing, to really follow my own advice, chill out and still get it all done.

As I sit with cucumbers over my eyes (for just a nanosecond before my kids come trailing down the stairs and my BlackBerry starts buzzing), I'm struck with sudden inspiration: I will set my timer and make sure to keep prep and

cook time to a minimum for each dish. I will modernise some of my traditional faves and make this a fun experience with recipes that are easily replicable. I may be dreaming, but at least I'm dreaming big.

I take out a piece of paper and divide it into sections: Adults, Kids, Adults with Dietary Restrictions/Preferences, Kids with Dietary Restrictions/Preferences. It is time to hammer out a menu, but the process is going to be enjoyable, please G-d. After all, Passover is the celebration that once we were slaves and now we're free - I will not be a slave to my kitchen!

"Quick & Kosher" Passover recipe from Jamie Geller (reprinted with the permission of Joy of Kosher with Jamie Geller Magazine):

POMEGRANATE BRAISED BRISKET

Prep: 5 minutes
Cook: about 4 hours
Yield: 8 servings

Ingredients:
1 four-pound first cut beef brisket
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
4 tablespoons olive oil, divided
3 medium onions, peeled and cut into eighths
6 cloves garlic, smashed
2 cups pomegranate juice
2 cups chicken broth

3 tablespoons honey
3 bay leaves
1 small bunch fresh thyme

Preparation:
Preheat oven to 375°C. Season brisket with salt and pepper. Heat 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large roasting pan or Dutch oven over medium high heat. Sear brisket about 4 minutes per side or until browned. Remove and set aside.

Add remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil and saute onions and garlic for 5 minutes over medium low heat until softened. Return brisket to pan and add pomegranate juice, broth, honey, bay leaves, and thyme. Bring to a boil, then reduce to a simmer and cover. Transfer to preheated oven and roast for 2 hours.

Flip brisket over and continue roasting for 1 to 1 1/2 more hours or until tender. Let brisket rest for 10 minutes before thinly slicing against the grain. Strain liquid and serve on the side au jus.

This slow cooked hearty brisket makes the perfect pairing for a robust Cabernet Sauvignon.

Jamie Geller is the bestselling author of the "Quick & Kosher" cookbook series published by Feldheim Publishers. She is also a "mompreneur" and, in conjunction with the Kosher Media Network, recently launched a social network for foodies called <http://www.JoyofKosher.com> as well as the print magazine Joy of Kosher with Jamie Geller.

Enriching young lives through Township TV

DAVID SAKS

CLOSE TO the heart of popular 94.7 sports presenter Graeme Joffe, aka "Joffers my boy", is Township TV, a social upliftment project that brings big-screen educational and entertainment programmes to disadvantaged youth in townships throughout the country.

The initiative dates back to mid-2007, when Joffe was asked to assist in setting up a big screen TV in a public park in Diepsloot to show football. Joffe recognised that not just football, but a range of free entertainment and educational material could be made available in underprivileged areas.

The benefits of this, would go way beyond providing a much-needed social utility in addition to help keep kids off the street, reduce crime and create job opportunities.

Joffe successfully sold Johannesburg City Parks on the idea, and in due course the Diepsloot big screen TV was in operation. Next, thanks to the generous support of MTN and in partnership with various municipalities, he set about extending the concept to other parts of the country.

Township TV today has 20 permanent big screens in public venues countrywide, not just in and around Johannesburg, but as far afield as Uitenhage (Eastern Cape), Richards Bay and KwaMashu (KZN), George (South-western Cape) and Mid-delburg and Nelspruit

(Mpumalanga). Last year, over 640 000 people watched the World Cup in Township TV parks.

After matriculating at Highlands North (where he was head boy) and studying journalism at Rhodes University, Joffe spent seven years as a World Sport presenter with CNN International in Atlanta and thereafter worked for a time as a freelance journalist in Australia.

While he enjoyed the experience, the call of Africa prevailed; he returned to his home country at the beginning of the last decade. Since then, Township TV has become a vehicle through which he is able to make a meaningful difference in improving the daily life of his fellow South Africans.

"When I'm having a bad day, I just need to go to one of the parks and see the smiles on the kids' faces watching cartoons," Joffe says, "It makes one feel very good to know you're making a difference in people's lives."

Unfortunately, Township TV faces an uncertain future after MTN was forced, due to budget cuts, to withdraw their sponsorship for 2011. Other sponsorship is now being sought to ensure the survival of the initiative.

• Those interested in learning more about the Township TV project can contact Graeme Joffe at graeme@butterbean.co.za or visit www.townshiptv.co.za.



Graeme Joffe. (PHOTO SUPPLIED)



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AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS IN BRIEF

US JEWISH LEADERS SPLIT ALONG POLITICS ON IMPACT OF EGYPT CHANGES

SAN FRANCISCO - American Jewish leaders are divided along political lines on recent changes in Egypt, according to a new survey shows.

Most Jewish leaders looked favourably upon what they see as a growing interest in democracy and human rights in the new Egypt, but they were split on what that means for Israel, according to the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner survey.

The split coincides with the respondents' political leanings, with liberals hopeful that the changes in Egypt will lead to positive long-term results vis-à-vis Israel and conservatives fearing the opposite. A large number of respondents remained in the middle, unsure and ambivalent.

More respondents believed the developments in Egypt would be good for relations with the United States rather than bad, at 26 per cent to 18 per cent, but the majority, 57 per cent, did not voice an opinion either way.

Respondents were less hopeful as a group about Egypt's future relationship with Israel, with 32 per cent believing the changes in Egypt are good for Israel, 20 per

cent believing they are bad, and nearly half, or 48 per cent, not sure or undecided.

Overall, 67 per cent said they were either "happy" or "very happy" with the changes in Egypt. At the same time, 80 per cent of the respondents identified as Democrats with 14 per cent describing themselves as Republicans; just 6 per cent said they were politically "conservative" or "very conservative".

"The feelings we charted vary remarkably by political inclination," said Professor Samuel Abrams, assistant professor of politics at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York.

"The politically conservative, Republicans and the Orthodox feel very uneasy about these developments. In contrast, the leaders who identify as politically liberal, Democrats and Reform, tend to welcome the developments with greater enthusiasm and fewer concerns."

The findings emerge from 1 898 respondents to an online, opt-in survey of Jewish leaders conducted in March by Professors Steven M Cohen of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive@ NYU Wagner and Abrams. (JTA)

PRODDED BY DANON, US LAWYERS SET TO SUE GOLDSTONE

JERUSALEM - A group of American Jewish lawyers is set to file a civil lawsuit against Mr Justice Richard Goldstone initiated by Israeli lawmaker Danny Danon.

The class action suit against the author of the Goldstone Report, a United Nations document about Israel's conduct during the month-long Gaza war in the winter of 2008-'09, is set to be filed next week in US District Court for the Southern District of New York in Manhattan by attorney Steve Goldberg, according to a statement issued on April 6 from Danon's office.

Danon met with the attorneys during a recent visit to the United States, the statement said. It gave no further information on Goldberg or the other attorneys involved in the suit.

The lawsuit will demand that Goldstone publicly apologise to the State of Israel and pay a symbolic amount of damages for the accusations he made in the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict report.

"The Goldstone Report is nothing less than a modern version of the infamous blood libels against the Jewish people," said Danon. "The distorted image that Justice Goldstone spread about Israel and the Israel Defence Forces has caused immeasurable damage to our citizens, and it will continue to do so for many years to come.

"I call on Goldstone to publicly apologise for his erroneous report with the hope that perhaps this will begin to repair some of the

immense damage that has been inflicted on the international standing of the State of Israel."

The Jerusalem Post reported that Danon said he planned to file a similar lawsuit in Israel that would go into effect if Goldstone visited the Jewish state. Goldstone said he would visit Israel in July after being invited by Israeli Interior Minister Eli Yishai.

Goldstone, a former South African judge, wrote in an op-ed in The Washington Post that Israel did not intentionally target civilians as a policy during the Gaza War, withdrawing a critical allegation in the Goldstone Report.

"We know a lot more today about what happened in the Gaza war of 2008-'09 than we did when I chaired the fact-finding mission appointed by the UN Human Rights Council that produced what has come to be known as the Goldstone Report," Goldstone wrote.

"If I had known then what I know now, the Goldstone Report would have been a different document."

In the wake of the Post Op-Ed, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and a host of Israeli officials and organisations have called on the United Nations to cancel the Goldstone Report, which accused Israel of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity.

Goldstone told The Associated Press last week Wednesday that he would not seek to quash the report, which was presented to the Human Rights Council in September 2009. (JTA)

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A few new Passover haggadot and a facelift for an old favourite

SUE FISHKOFF
SAN FRANCISCO

NEARING ITS 80th birthday, perhaps it was time the most printed Passover Haggadah in history had a major facelift.

The Maxwell House Passover Haggadah, which has had more than 50 million copies published, hits the shelves - and supermarkets - this April featuring its first new English translation since 1934, the year it was originally printed.

Banished are the awkward “thee” and “thou”, replaced by the more conversational “you”. The Eternal One no longer “deliver-ith” but “delivers”, and seder participants are not invited to “eat thereof” but simply to eat.

While American Jews of the early 20th century might have accepted the original, archaic language, “it makes the haggadah more clumsy for contemporary readers”, said Elie Rosenfeld, CEO of Joseph Jacobs Advertising. The firm has represented Maxwell House from the beginning and spearheaded the new translation, which took nearly a year to complete.

“We wanted to make sure everyone who uses it feels comfortable with it,” Rosenfeld said.

That meant political as well as linguistic changes. The Higher Power in this haggadah isn’t a He, Lord or King, but is referred to by the gender-neutral monikers G-d,

the Eternal and Monarch of the Universe.

The impetus for the new translation was not to address gender issues, but to retell the old tale in contemporary language. Still, using gender-neutral language for G-d is indicated by modern theological understanding, Rosenfeld says.

“The fact of the matter is, G-d doesn’t have a gender,” he said.

The original Maxwell House Haggadah was created as a marketing tool to promote the company’s coffee, which was certified kosher in 1923. There had been controversy for years over whether coffee beans were legumes, and thus forbidden for Passover according to Ashkenazic norms, or whether they were in fact a berry - a fruit - and therefore permitted.

Marketing whiz Joseph Jacobs, founder of the ad agency, got Orthodox Rabbi Hersch Kohn to certify the coffee kosher for Passover. The publication 11 years later of the eponymous haggadah, still distributed free in supermarkets with the purchase of the coffee, cemented the dominance of Maxwell House and its haggadah at American seder tables ever since.

Over the years, the cover design has changed, from the original bronze through various blue-and-white versions to this newest iteration, which features a Yemenite-style silver kiddush cup.

The inside illustrations are more subtly rendered than in previous versions but have not changed significantly, with one exception: Instead of a young boy, a little girl is pictured asking the Four Questions. And not just any little girl: It’s Rosenfeld’s youngest daughter, six-year-old Abigail.

The text is bigger to make it easier to read, and the layout is easier to navigate. But the story stays the same.

“The Jews don’t end up in Boca; they still get to the Promised Land,” Rosenfeld says.

Another old-new Passover haggadah out this year is a new edition of the famous Szyk Haggadah featuring the magnificent illustrations of Polish-Jewish artist Arthur Szyk. Set for April publication, it has a newly commissioned English text written by Rabbi Byron Sherwin with Irvin Ungar.

A refugee from Nazi Europe, Szyk embedded Eastern European Chasidic imagery in his intricate and highly emotional rendition of the Exodus narrative, creating the original version of his hagaddah in the mid-1930s.

Jewish survival, which Szyk viewed as the pressing need of his age, also is the theme of his haggadah: The illustration on page 26, for example, depicts empires that have tried to conquer the Jews, from the Assyrians to the Inquisition to Nazi Germany, with the two tablets of the Law astride

them all, signifying the perseverance, and ultimate triumph, of the Jewish people.

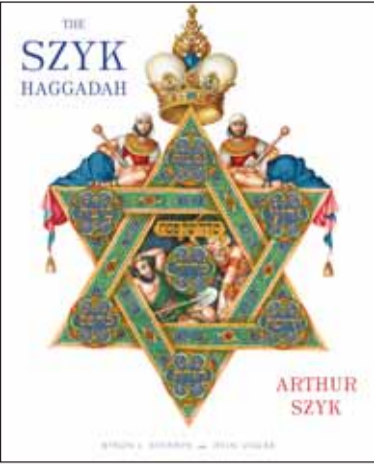
“Szyk was an activist artist,” said Ungar, a former pulpit rabbi and San Francisco Bay Area resident who is curator of the Arthur Szyk Society. “He believed the Jews of Europe needed to be rescued immediately, and he was going to do whatever he could to motivate the world community to take action.”

“A Passover Haggadah: Go Forth and Learn”, by Rabbi David Silber with Rachel Furst, is being put out by the Jewish Publication Society.

If the Szyk Haggadah is gorgeous, this new work by Silber and Furst is thought-provoking, delivering new insights into the seder themes as well as first-rate commentaries on the liturgy.

Silber is an Orthodox Torah scholar and educator of wide renown, the founder and dean of the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education on Manhattan’s Upper West Side. He has been teaching these lessons for years, and here he puts them down on the page in a manner at once scholarly and accessible.

Furst teaches at Matan, a women’s institute for Torah studies in Israel, and is pursuing a doctorate in mediaeval Jewish history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This is a seder to study and discuss, but also to use - with the right crowd.



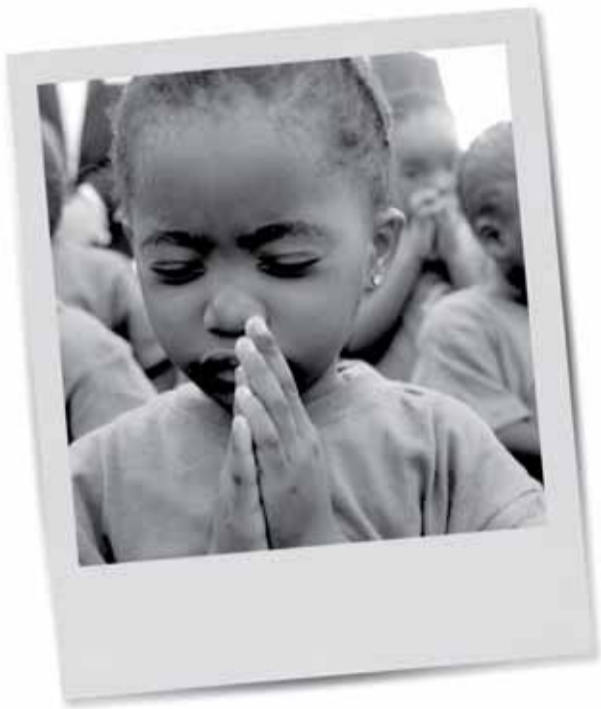
Arthur Szyk’s magnificently illustrated haggadah is being released this April in its first widely available format since 1940. (COURTESY ABRAMS)

Speaking of the right crowd, kids are the target audience for “Passover Haggadah in Another Dimension” by Michael Medina, with artwork (sculptures and paintings) by Emi Sfard and photograph by Eli Neeman.

Published by Kippod3D, this haggadah boasts 3-D illustrations and comes with a pair of 3-D glasses that make the characters seemingly leap from the pages. Whoa, are those soldiers really drowning in the Red Sea?!

There’s an English text, some Hebrew and transliterations of the main attractions - the plagues, the blessings, the favourite songs. But this is really all about the images, which might make some adults too queasy to tackle the gefilte fish. It’s a gimmick, but a fun one.

Proceeds will be donated to the children of Hayim Association, which raises money for paediatric cancer research in Israel. (JTA)



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The children of Afrika Tikkun thank you for your continued support and wish you a meaningful and happy Pesach.

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Chag Sameach!

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UJW’s Keshar group hands classroom to Elundini Educare

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

CHILDREN AT the Elundini Educare for the Disabled at the Du Noon informal settlement now have a long-awaited ablution facility, thanks to the fundraising and planning efforts of the Union of Jewish Women’s Keshar group. The facility provides spacious, wheelchair-friendly access to three toilets, each with its own wash-basin. The third, in addition, contains a bath.

The two-year project represents a substantial upgrade from the Porta-Loo that has been in use at the centre for the past four years.

The structure was built by Redz Construction, whose staff donated their time and expertise.

Keshar makes a point of adopting projects to benefit the previously disadvantaged. “As we are all mothers, the well-being of chil-

dren and their education is close to our hearts,” explained former co-chairman, Toby Shenker of the group’s focus.

“When we first visited the centre, their conditions were appalling. We decided to embrace their needs and assist on many levels.

“Witnessing all the changes we’ve implemented has proven most rewarding,” she added. The group previously presented Elundini with a R70 000 14-seater bus to transport the children to and from school.

Last year, Cape Town’s executive mayor, Dan Plato, described another of Keshar’s projects, the opening of a new classroom at the Masikhululeke Educare Centre at Joe Slovo Park, Milnerton, as “a dream coming true”.

This was the culmination of three years of effort by the group, who, in addition to raising R210 000 to build the classroom, negotiated with the city council over lease renewals and plans and bargained with builders and



Silvana Silverman, former co-chairman of the UJW Keshar branch; Daphne Miller, chairman UJW Cape Town; and Dan Plato, executive mayor of Cape Town, at the opening of a classroom sponsored by the Keshar group at the Masikhululeke Educare Centre.

suppliers to reduce prices or donate building supplies in kind for the ambitious project.

Keshar has been assisting the Centre for over 10 years. Falling under the auspices of social services group Ikamva Labantu, principal Nokozulo Dlabantu has supervised the learning of three groups of children aged between two and six years in the one-roomed centre.

She has finally realised her dream of having a separate classroom for the grade Rs, which will enable her to provide age-appropriate education for the children. The new classroom is able to house 30 grade Rs.

Chairman of the Cape Town UJW Daphne

Miller, thanked the Keshar group for its “dedicated efforts”. “The upgrading of the school was an example of what could be achieved when civil society and local government joined forces,” she said.

The Keshar group’s Ilana Shone spearheaded the Masikhululeke project and was assisted by Jann Saven and Adele Klitzner.

Other stakeholders included the Lions Club of nearby Table View who erected a vibracrete wall around the property and, together with the Centre’s children, painted bright murals on it. Green Pop, a greening organisation, planted 17 trees on the property that will provide much-needed shade.



Singing Hatikvah together.

KDLP and Har Tuv in Israel, combine in Partnership 2000

YONIT WEIL
PHOTOGRAPH: LANE WALDORF

KING DAVID Linksfield Primary is privileged to take part in the Jewish Agency’s Partnership 2000 programme.

The programme has become the paradigm for successfully partnering global Jewish communities directly with Israeli communities.

As part of this project, King David Linksfield Primary and sister school Har Tuv in Beit

Shemesh, participated in a video conference at Beyachad in Johannesburg, on Monday morning.

Each school sang Pesach songs, read parts of the Haggadah and competed in a general knowledge quiz on the Haggadah.

The morning ended with a le chaim and both classes sang Hatikvah accompanied by Howie Gordon on his guitar, all the way across the seas in Beit Shemesh.

This was truly a phenomenal experience for everyone involved.



Chag Sameach

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Library prefects ensure that YC library runs smoothly

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

THE YESHIVA College Primary School media centre-library has become a vibrant environment, which is well-organised and run efficiently, due to a group of grade 6s - the “library prefects” for 2011.

These children first volunteered to work in the media centre for a month during their breaks, to try out for the job of library prefect. They would help the librarian to run the computerised library system and learn the ropes.

After being selected as library prefects by Principal Joseph Beer and Karen Mervis, the primary school media facilitator, an assembly was held to announce who they were and to present them with their badges.

The principal explained to the learners and teachers what the library prefects’ duties are and their function in the media centre.

The library prefects have been working in the media centre on a regular basis and have shown dedication and commitment to their job.



Back: Joseph Beer (principal); Daniella Jaffe; Megan Terespolsky; Michaela Tobias; Talia Bregman; Carmella Illos; Rebecca Barnes; Tal Sauer; and Karen Mervis (media facilitator). Middle: Joshua Bloom; Ariel Aronowitz; Saul Marks; Adam Moritz; and Adam Lazer. Front: Aaron Shrock; Doron Mindel; Tamir Bender; Gilad Urdang; and Yonatan Perez.

Plenty of KDVPP Easter eggs for charity

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
STACY FLEISHMAN

KING DAVID Victory Park Primary School’s Mini Councillors held their annual Easter Egg Collection. These eggs have been given to 97 charities.

Proudly showing off the eggs are Liora Katzew and Matthew Sive.



Karate gold for young Doron Joffe

OWN CORRESPONDENT
PHOTOGRAPH: SUZANNE BELLING

DORON JOFFE (13), a grade 7 learner at Torah Academy Boys’ High School, won a gold medal in the Central Gauteng Karate Championships.

Doron, who celebrated his barmitzvah recently, said it was the best present he could have received.

He trains with karate legend Shane Dorfman.



“When you teach your child,
you teach your child's child”

– Talmud

Our Jewish ancestors made education a *mitzvah* and established a compulsory system of schooling. They understood that Jewish education is the cornerstone of a Jewish community.

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Our recently launched *Dor le Dor* – Generation to Generation Campaign aims to build an Endowment Fund that will sustain the future of the King David Schools.

Pesach is the ideal time in our cultural tradition to educate our children about our collective heritage. Your donation to the *Dor le Dor* Campaign during this special *Chag* will ensure that future generations of Jews will have the inner confidence that only an education firmly based in our rich tradition and values can ensure.

To make a donation to the *Dor le Dor* Campaign, please visit www.kdsf.org or make a direct deposit into:

King David Schools' Foundation
Standard Bank Ellis Park
Acc no: 002101076
Branch code: 004605

South African Board of Jewish Education

Member of the Independent Schools Association of Southern Africa

*Special thanks to King David Linksfield Primary parents David and Jodi Bloch, who are pictured here with their parents and children at the KDLP Grade 5 seder.

King David Schools @KD Schools

WHAT’S ON

Barry Bilewitz barry@sajewishreport.co.za

ORGANISATIONS, VENUES, CONTACT DETAILS, COST	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Beit Emanuel Progressive Synagogue, 38 Oxford Road, Parktown.JJRC - Johannesburg Jewish Resource Centre (Formerly Beyachad Resource Centre/Library), 2 Elray St, Raedene. Norma Shulman, (011) 645-2567, e-mail: library@beyachad.co.zaBikkur Cholim - Jewish Society for Visiting the Sick, 7A Chester Road, Greenside East, Jhb. Joy Gafin (011) 447-6689.CAJE - College of Adult Jewish Education, Sydenham Highlands North Shul, (011) 640-5021.CARE (Chabad Addiction Rehabilitation Centre) Cell: 079-882-6776.Fax: 086 551 4485, e-mail: justine@chabad.org.za, hotline: 0861 111 770.CSO - Emergency phone number 086 18 000 18.ELBM - Emunah Ladies Beit Midrash, 60 Mejon St Glenhazel, (011) 887-2910. “Lessons of our Lives” course on Wednesdays at 10:00. R350 for the course or R50 per shiur.FFHS - Friendship Forum for Holocaust Survivors, Second Generation and Members of the Community Affected by the Holocaust. Presentations held at the Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres, 85 George Ave, Sandringham.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">HOD - Hebrew Order of David International, HOD Centre Oaklands Road, Orchards. Office, (011) 640 3017 or info@hodavid.orgJAFFA - Jewish Accommodation for Fellow Aged, tel (012) 346-2007/8, 42 Mackie St, Bailey's Muckleneuck.Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre (JHGC), tel (011) 640-3100, e-mail: info@jhbholocaust.co.zaKDSF - King David Schools’ Foundation. King David Alumni info@kdsf.org, (011) 480-4723.Nechama Bereavement Counselling Centre - Room A304, 3rd Floor, Hospital Wing, Sandringham Gardens, 85 George Ave, Sandringham. Contact (011) 640-1322.New Friendship Ladies’ Group - a group for single women. Contact Lucille (011) 791-5226 or 082-927-5786.ORT and ORT JET South Africa - 44 Central Street, Cnr 10th Ave, Houghton, contact (011) 728-7154.Preview Theatre - 9 Valerie Crescent, Bagleyston, (011) 640-1061.Rabbi Cyril Harris Community Centre (RCHCC) and Great Park Shul, Oaklands, Jhb. Contact Hazel, (011) 728-8088 or Rene Sidley (011) 728-8378. Cost usually R50, including refreshments.SAIJE - Sandton Adult Institute of Jewish Education, Sandton Shul, e-mail: saije@sandtonshul.co.za, tel (011) 883-4210.Second Innings, Jhb - Jewish Community Services - Donald Gordon Centre, 85 George Ave Sandringham. At the Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres, every Sunday morning for tea at 10:00, followed by the meeting at 10:30. Contact Grecia Gabriel (011) 532-9718. Cost: R20 members, R40 non-members.SA Friends of Beit Halochem: Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact Leanne (011) 645 2553, e-mail: beithalochem@beyachad.co.zaSouth African Jewish Board of Deputies (Johannesburg) - Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact (011) 645-2500 or (011) 645-2523.SA Zionist Federation (SAZF), Johannesburg - Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact Froma, (011) 645-2505.Israel Centre. Contact Debbie (011) 645-2560.Jewish National Fund (JNF), Beyachad, 2 Elray St, Raedene. Contact Crystal Kaplan, 083-376-5999.Jewish Outlook. Contact Ryan Cane, e-mail info@jewishoutlook.org.za. Support line: 27 76 215 8600, website www.jewishoutlook.org.za.Jewish Women's Benevolent Society (JWBS) - Sandringham Gardens, 85 George Ave Sandringham. Contact Carolyn Sabbagh, (011) 485-5232.Simcha Friendship and Cultural Circle (SFCC), Johannesburg - Sandton Shul. Contact Sylvia Shull, (011) 783-5600. Meetings on the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Wednesday each month at Sandton Shul at 10:00 unless stated otherwise.United Sisterhood, 38 Oxford Rd Parktown. Contact Marian (011) 646-2409. Website: www.unitedsisterhood.co.za.Tiyulim (Jewish Outdoor Club). Contact Martin 082-965-7419 or Greg 082-959-9026.Union of Jewish Women (UJW), Jhb, 1 Oak Street Houghton. Contact (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Cost R15 for the Friendship Luncheon Club and a R20 donation for lectures unless otherwise stated.Union of Jewish Women (UJW), CT, e-mail info@ujwcape.co.za or (021) 434-9555.UJW CT AED Programme at Stonehaven, Albany Road, Sea Point, 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments).United Zionist Luncheon Club (UZLC), Jhb - Our Parents Home. Contact Gloria, (011) 485-4851 or 072-127-9421.UOS - Union of Orthodox Synagogues, (011) 485-4865, e-mail: info@uos.co.za, fax 086-610-3442.WIZO Jhb - Beyachad, 2 Elray St Raedene, Contact Joyce Chodos (011) 645-2548 or Sandy Kramer (011) 645-2515 or e-mail: wizopublicrelations@beyachad.co.za.

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

Today Friday (April 15)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">RCHCC is hosting the “Memories of Muizenberg” exhibition until April 27. Viewing times: Monday to Thursday 09:00 - 16:00, Friday 09:00 - 12:00. Closed Saturdays and Jewish holidays. Open on evening events 18:30 - 21:30.UZLC presents Digby Ricci, on “Some Current Films”.
Sunday (April 17)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Second Innings presents Joyce Levin on “A Family Trip to Lithuania”.Second Innings Outing - “A Perfect Wedding” at Montecasino Theatre. Time: 13:00 for the bus, 14:30 at the theatre. Where: Oxford Shul for the bus; Montecasino Theatre for the show. Cost: R100 per ticket for good seats; R50 for the bus.
Monday (April 18)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">JAFFA - first night seder R130. R60 for children under 12.
Tuesday (April 19)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">JAFFA - second night seder R130. R60 for children

under 12.
Thursday (April 28)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">SAJBD (Cape Council) is hosting Ben Helfgott at Albow Centre, Cape Town at 20:00. Call Debbie Katzeff on (021) 464-6700.
Sunday (May 1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">SAJBD is hosting the annual Yom Hashoah ceremony at West Park Cemetery at 11:30. Keynote speaker is Ben Helfgott. Call Shirley on (011) 645-2583.
Wednesday (May 4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">SFCC presents Clem Sunter on “The Latest Possibilities for the Global Economy and South Africa”.UJW Cape Town Presents Dr Maurice Kibel on “A Celebration of Failure”.
Sunday (May 8)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Second Innings presents Monica Wolfson on “A Magical Journey”.
Wednesday (May 11)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">UJW Cape Town presents Nikki Wohlman on “Simcha: a Collage and History”.

Sunday (May 15)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Second Innings presents Digby Ricci on “Leni Riefenstahl and the Nazi Cinema”.
Tuesday (May 17)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">RCHCC presents Arthur Goldstuck on “Urban Legends, Panic and You” at 19:30. (Rescheduled from April 6).
Wednesday (May 18)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">SFCC presents Nadine Lemmer on ”Whats And Hows of Arthritis”.
Wednesday (May 25)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Second Innings Outing - A Guided Tour of the Walter Sisulu National Botanical Gardens. Meet the bus at 09:00 at Oxford Shul parking. Cost: R130 per person, includes bus, entry fee to the park, the guided tour, lunch and a drink.
Sunday (May 29)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Second Innings presents Dr Wendy Friedlander on “Cultural Aspects of Psychiatry in South Africa”.
Sunday (June 5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Second Innings presents the Klass Act Ensemble.

R20 for Second Innings members, R40 for non-members.
Sunday (June 12)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fordburg/Mayfair reunion at Chabad Savoy at 14:30. Cost R25 including refreshments. Contact Joe Yudelowitz 082-818-4333 or Herby Lang 072-193-9556.
Sunday (June 19)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Second Innings presents Victor Gordon on “Tchaikowsky's Women”.
Wednesday (June 22)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Second Innings presents David Bullard on “A Guide to Survival in South Africa”.Second Innings Outing - A Guided Tour of Gecko World of Gemstones. Meet the bus at 09:00 at Oxford Shul parking. Cost: R120, includes the bus, tour and lunch.
Sunday (June 26)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Second Innings presents Karl Jensen on “A Flying Safari in a 70-Year-Old Dakota”.

Sudoku Puzzle 30
(Easy, difficulty rating 0.40)

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

* Answer to follow with next puzzle

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

Note to readers: Our bridge column and our Sudoku puzzle alternate week by week.

CROSSWORD NO 206

BY LEAH SIMON

ACROSS:

- 1. Pooh! Return to round stave (4)
- 3. Wild infant for the nagapie (4, 4)
- 8. Encounter flesh, we hear (4)
- 9. Somehow seeing CA in executive bodies (8)
- 11. Depressed African-American shows signs of a beating (5, 3, 4)
- 13. Fed up with the finale, but will protect it against attack (6)
- 14. Unhappy and led around to horserider’s seat (6)
- 17. Country’s dishonesty still reveals the features of the place (3, 2, 3, 4)
- 20. A chilling mouthful! (3, 5)
- 21. Being archaic, you hide in both outhouses (4)
- 22. Guiding the cattle? (8)
- 23. No Russian, please! (4)

DOWN:

- 1. In the flesh, doesn’t enjoy going out much (4, 4)
- 2. No, Alf – he is confused by 50% (3, 4)
- 4. Bonjour, gentlemen – you’re hiding something pressing (6)
- 5. Do they help us come to a stop, in digital terms? (4, 6)
- 6. Farewell to the French (5)
- 7. — Gvul, 1982 movement of Israeli soldiers opposing the Lebanon War (4)
- 10. Is it just a pigment of one’s imagination? (4, 6)
- 12. Recruit top-calibre staff from guillotine operator? (4, 4)
- 15. The lady confused, being moribund (7)
- 16. Nails surround trade leader and former Soviet leader (6)

- 18. Girl’s hiding in fire nearby (5)
- 19. Fail to hit a single woman (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 205

ACROSS: So-so; 3. Hear hear; 8. Awry; 9. Singular; 11. Devil’s Island; 13. Selebi; 14. Strait; 17. House warming; 20. Instills; 21. Rose; 22. Nonsense; 23. Pets. **DOWN:** 1. Slapdash; 2. Shrivel; 4. Elicit; 5. Regulatory; 6. Ellen; 7. Rory; 10. Plebiscite; 12. Staggers; 15. Adipose; 16. Swells; 18. Orson; 19. Kiln.

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



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New joining of forces to enhance teaching of Hebrew

JERUSALEM - WebYeshiva.org (www.webyeshiva.org), the first fully-interactive online Jewish studies programme, has entered into a new partnership with Ulpan-Or (www.ulpanor.com), an innovative centre for Hebrew learning, based in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, to bring a unique method of Hebrew-language instruction to the United States, the UK and South Africa.

WebYeshiva.org said in a media release it used the latest video-conferencing technology to offer real-time, interactive

Torah classes.

“Our technology allows students around the world to study Torah and now Hebrew language anytime, anywhere,” said Rabbi Yedidya Rausman, founding director of WebYeshiva.org. “Our goal is to make learning more accessible to the Jewish community around the world.”

Ulpan-Or is dedicated to teaching Hebrew through complete immersion in the language. At its campuses in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the language school conducts lessons on a one-on-one basis,

and in small groups, providing students with opportunities to listen to popular Israeli music, watch current Israeli TV shows, read the news and experience Hebrew in all forms of the language.

Through WebYeshiva.org’s web-conferencing platform, Ulpan-Or will now be able to reach audiences outside of Israel with its new online course. The basic course lasts a month and consists of two weekly sessions, totalling eight online lessons.

“My teacher was excellent, helpful and

very approachable,” said Aaron Hass an alumnus of Ulpan-Or. “He truly helped me improve my Hebrew and motivated me to progress with the course. Learning with Ulpan-Or was an enjoyable experience.”

The online course will take the form of a virtual classroom in which the teacher and small groups of students will be able to see and interact with each other in real time, ask and answer questions and have a full classroom experience.

Different online tools such as audio and video media and Ulpan-Or’s interactive online newspaper - E-Tone®, will all be utilised as part of the “immersion” teaching method Ulpan-Or employs to achieve speedy results for its students.

• For more information, visit website www.WebYeshiva.org

AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

BLACK STUDENT GROUP SLAMS 'APARTHEID' ABUSE

NEW YORK - An African-American student group took out ads in college newspapers, blasting Israel Apartheid Week organisers for abusing the term.

In a full page ad titled "Words matter" and appearing in newspapers on April 7, the Vanguard Leadership Group accused Students for Justice in Palestine of a "false and deeply offensive" characterisation of Israel.

"SJP has chosen to manipulate rather than inform with this illegitimate analogy," Vanguard says in the ad, which is signed by members who attend several historically black colleges.

"We request that you immediately stop referring to Israel as an apartheid society and to acknowledge that the Arab minority in Israel enjoys full citizenship with voting rights and representation in the government."

The ad appeared in newspapers on campuses that saw Israel Apartheid Week activity in February, including Brown University, UCLA, Columbia University and the University of Maryland.

Vanguard, a leadership development group for students from historically black universities, in recent years has forged ties with the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, and its members have visited Israel. (JTA)

ANDREA OF ANDREA’S ATTIC



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REMEMBER: WE BUY FOR CASH

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HOUSEHOLD & OFFICE GOODS: Fridges, TVs, etc

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Chag Kasher V'Sameach

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KRUGER PARK LODGE (9 hole golf course)**

**Drakensberg:
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De Villiers praying for inspiration in the Holy Land?

TEL AVIV - Israeli rugby is beginning to rise in international stature, and last week Springbok coach Peter de Villiers and SA Rugby Union President Oregan Hoskins, arrived in the country for a week-long visit.

The visiting officials from SARU ran a training session for Israel's rugby team at Kibbutz Yizreel and pledged support for the fledgling sport in Israel.

Hoskins spoke of his wish to fulfil a dream expressed by Israeli supporters of the sport that rugby becomes a bridge between Israelis and Palestinians.

De Villiers gave the Israeli players several hours of unique tips on how to improve their game, with special focus on both technique and motivational talks.

Under the auspices of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies and Chairman Zev Krengel and the Israeli-South Africa Forum under Wayne Sussman, the two SA rugby officials were brought to Israel to visit the country, its holy sites and also to engage with the local rugby players and officials.

Hoskins also pledged support for a rugby academy in Israel and said he was not only visiting Israel on behalf of SARU, but also with the official blessing of the World Rugby Union of which is an executive member.

Milton Kaplan from Kibbutz Yizreel who organised the afternoon and evening event at the kibbutz, described the visit as one of the most significant in Israeli rugby history which included attendance of Israeli Olympic Committee members and players from around the country.

Kaplan said the Olympic Committee was impressed with the facilities at the kibbutz, which has one of only two full-sized rugby pitches in the country.

Under pouring rain and unusually cold weather, the Israeli under-18s were given a session by De Villiers and he also gave a sep-

arate coaching session to the Israeli team, at the Wingate Sports Training Centre near Netanya.

Afterwards the guests and all the players were treated to a traditional South African braai at the kibbutz clubhouse and exchanged gifts. Israeli team captain Nimrod Kaplan, received a Springbok rugby jersey from Hoskins, signed by the current Springbok team.

Telfed was represented at the event by Chairman Maish Isaacson, Deputy Chairman Dave Bloom and executive member, Barry Kornel.

In a match against Austria last Saturday, two tries by grinding forward play - one of them a pushover after several minutes of laying siege to the Austrian line - ensured Israel's under-18s a 20-11 win - their 13th in a row.

Archie Henderson, the astute sports editor of the Sunday Times, had a few choice remarks for De Villiers and his trip to Israel.

Apart from honing his biblical analogies for the coming season, writes Henderson, it was not clear what the Springbok coach was doing in the Holy Land watching a team ranked 71st in the world beat one that is in 82nd place. Hoping for miracles?

"Judging by the weekend's Super 15 matches - and those of the recent past to which there was only passing attention during the Cricket World Cup - it is going to be a year of sackcloth and ashes.

"The Stormers were exposed as one-dimensional. As Craig Ray points out here, Ewen McKenzie, that wily old Aussie coach, plotted their downfall long before he even touched down in Cape Town with the Reds.

"The Bulls were even worse, being taken to the cleaners in Timaru in New Zealand by the Crusaders.



Springbok coach Peter de Villiers, talks to the Israeli rugby team at a Kibbutz Yizreel training session. (PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED)

"The Sharks looked good, but only because they were playing against the Lions. Granted, the Sharks were sharper than a week earlier when they lost to the Stormers, a defeat which their apologists blamed on travel weariness.

"So, let's hope Peter Div has found some inspiration in the Holy Land which he can pass on to his players when he gets them ready for the Tri-Nations and World Cup later this year. But the portents are not good.

"His observations about player fatigue last week were not exactly encouraging. De

Villiers was quoted as saying 'some people rest because they are tired and other people rest because they don't like to move. Most of our players are resting in the games already.'

"If that last remark had to do with hands off, roll away and the general confusion at the breakdown, he will be in good company. There are still too many interpretations of that part of rugby to instil great confidence in our referees.

"Neither do De Villiers' early season openers instil any either."

Jewish Liffchak an English rugby Test hopeful

JACK MILNER

THE NEED for a Jewish player in the English rugby team has never had the same mythological mystery about it as it has for the Springboks. I have not been able to find any Jew who has played for England (remembering of course, that Ben Cohen is not Jewish).

But that could all change if things go well for prop Aaron Liffchak. The 25-year-old, who captained the English team at the 2009 Maccabiah, has already represented England Students and played for England at under-18 and under-16 levels.

Just last month Liffchak told The Post he was grateful he had been given a second opportunity to represent his country as he prepares for England Counties duty.

The prop was called up to face Ireland last season, but due to his work commitments as a PE teacher at Trinity School in Croydon, he had to miss out.

But he now has the school's blessing and the former Saracens front-row man is eagerly anticipating the trip.

"It's a massive compliment to be picked up," he said. "I had the opportunity to play last year and unfortunately I had work commitments. But Trinity School has been fantastic and being the director



Jewish prop Aaron Liffchak, will be looking for a future in the England rugby squad.

of rugby at the school, it's a massive thing for them as well."

The Goresbrook outfit originally had five players in the squad making the trip to Ireland to face the Ulster Bank Club International team, but now it is six.

Liffchak feels that having so many of his teammates around, will be a major boost when they get down to action.

"Having five others will help absolutely, we are all such a tight-knit group and we have all known each other for some time now," said the former London Welsh player.

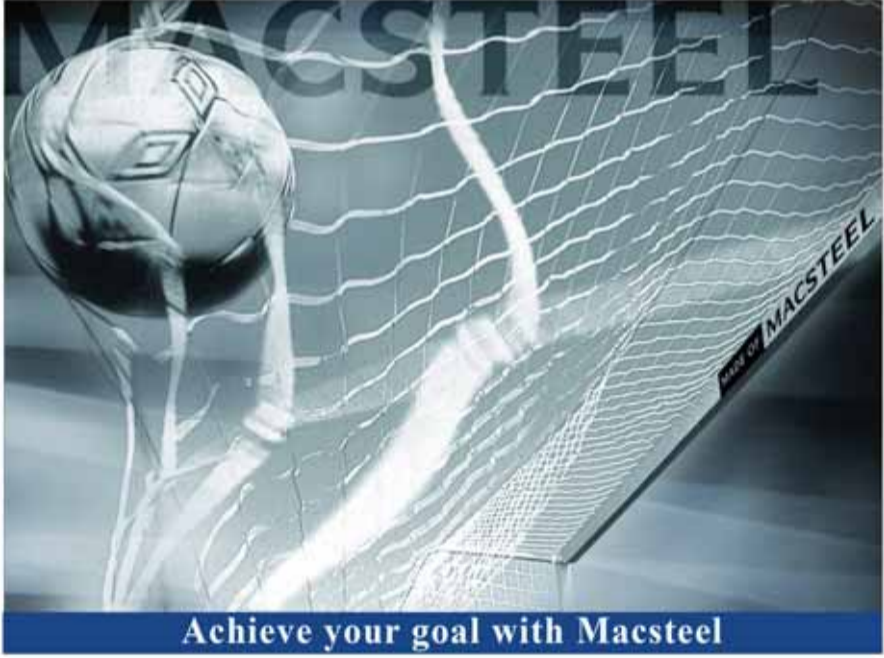
"We're not saying we are not going to be speaking to anyone else, but it's

a nice feeling knowing you are going to have a group of boys there and hopefully that'll help in the team as well.

"I can't wait; it is such a fantastic thing for the club as well to have so many in the squad, and it's a testament to the coaching staff, the support staff and all the rest of the people at the Barking Club," he said.

Joining Vincent and Liffchak in the squad is skipper James Kellard, James Ngan, Daniel Lloyd-Jones and Alex MacKenzie.

The latter, a fellow prop alongside Liffchak, is also delighted to be around so many familiar faces and hopes the experience will be a fruitful one.



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