



GOOD READS
*Steven Boykey
Sidley, Stephen
Pile, Stewart
Ronen and
Hirsh Goodman
latest offerings*

south african jewish report

www.sajewishreport.co.za



2 000 revellers for a cause

Headlined by popular singer Danny K, this year's Can Can Carnival last Sunday, masterminded by Yad Aharon, was a roaring success, attended by some 2 000 people, according to fundraising PRs, Lauren Shalpid and Sonia Margolias. The annual carnival, the second of its kind, is designed to raise awareness and directly assist indigent community members. Each attendee at the carnival, hosted for the first time at the Norwood Mall in Johannesburg, needed to bring two non-perishable food items, like rice, cereals, sugar, tea, coffee, oil or canned foods, to gain access to the kaleidoscope of fun-filled carnival activities. The idea of the carnival evolved out of the encouraged month-long participation of Jewish nursery schools in the Greater Johannesburg area. But it's not only about the carnival. The collecting of non-perishable foods for the hundreds of families in the province unable to afford them, is an initiative practised all year round. Its next highlight will be Shavuot, when bikkurim items will fill Yad Aharon's coffers, after the chag. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDRYVER)

Baal Shem Tov fight continues

The fight for the closure of the Baal Shem Tov Shul in Orange Grove, continues. While the Townships Board granted the shul permission to continue operating, two objectors, Marian Laserson of Orange Grove Residents' Association and shul neighbour Christine Walters, are to appeal against the decision.

03

After Bibi's US visit: What's Israel's next step on Iran?

Analysts say Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came away from his meeting with Pres Barack Obama last week feeling he had a strategic partner in seeking to keep Iran from becoming nuclear.

08

Adrian Gore: The Jewish Report Interview

"I don't believe in wallowing in mistakes or being self-congratulatory about past successes. Both approaches can lead to complacency, which ultimately is the enemy of "great"."

06

Well-loved entertainer Lisa Melman passes away



12

Arthur Goldstuck on gadgets:



The new iPad: not designed to elicit gasps of awe. It's heavier and thicker than its predecessor, even if only by a fraction of a millimetre and a few grams. Within that reversal of the size trend lurks the real leap ahead for the iPad.

10

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March 17/ 23 Adar

Parshat Vayakhel-Pekudei

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18:10	19:34	Cape Town
17:54	18:42	Durban
18:13	19:01	Bloemfontein
18:00	19:06	Port Elizabeth
18:07	18:56	East London

The Parsha in 180 words

TWEETING THE PARSHAH: VAYAKHEL-PEKUDEI

Day after original Yom Kippur and being forgiven for sin of Golden Calf, by Divine command Moshe asks Israel for donations of precious metals, fabrics, leathers, wood, oil, spices and precious stones to construct the Mishkan. Craftsmen appointed, overseen by Betzalel and Oholiab.

Donations of material, offers to assist over-subscribed. Princes of 12 tribes donate precious stones, oil, spices. A detailed account of gold, silver and copper is recorded.

Work began on the wooden beams and layers of fabric and leather coverings for the Mishkan, Ark of the Covenant, the table for showbread, the menorah, the incense altar, bronze altar. Copper wash basin was made from the mirrors women donated.

Finally, pillars, curtains for the perimeter of the Mishkan’s courtyard made. Eight garments for the Kohain Gadol, four garments for all other Kohanim made.

Two and a half months after being commanded, Bnei Israel complete the Mishkan on 25 Kislev (date of Chanukah) but it is only permanently set up on Rosh Chodesh Nisan after a seven day inaugural ceremony. Shechina descends and dwells in Mishkan.

Parsha of the week

A permeating holiness

Until every part was in place, no part had the status of Mishkan (Tabernacle). What lesson does that teach you?

Over A span of five Torah portions, we become involved in the mission of building a sanctuary. As with all things in Torah, we do not simply observe, we participate. Their mission remains ours.

The directive began with the calling to “make for Me a sanctuary so that I may dwell in them”. The commentators famously point out that the goal was not simply to create a space in which Hashem’s presence could intensely and intimately manifest, but that this would facilitate Him dwelling within each and every Jew. And so it does not say “...so that I may dwell in it”, but “in them” - in each and every one of us.

Using a modern analogy, the Mishkan would act as a router, with every Jewish heart and soul connecting to that source in some way, ultimately projecting its own impressions of G-dliness.

The final verses in this week’s portion, in fact the final few in the Book of Shemot, are some of my favourites. Mission accomplished! The Mishkan is erected, and the success of the mission affirmed.

“The cloud entered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Hashem filled the Mishkan.” But the mission went beyond that - it was about that glory filling the hearts, minds and souls, and even the bod-



Parshat Vayakhel-Pekudei
Rabbi Dani Brett, Ohr Somayach, Cape Town

ies of every Jew at the time. It was about a holiness permeating their entire beings and lives.

It’s even more than that, though. Mission accomplished, but not mission over. In a sense, the building of the Mishkan has gone on relentlessly in all times and all places. True, only the Mishkan, and the Temples are the ultimate irreplaceable routers, and we dream tirelessly of the third and final such manifestation. However, the ability to create Mishkan-like access points remains available - and required - in all time.

The shuls, the learning centres - schools, Batei Midrash, and so on, the Jewish home, each of these can in some way be a reflection of the Mishkan. And in doing so, they direct holy energies into all of the spaces that the life of a Jew fills.

And so, when we read these last lines of the book of Shemot, we are being chal-

lenged to assess the effectiveness of our mini-sanctuaries in routing this holiness down from Above, and into the world beyond. Our shuls, our schools, our Batei Midrash, our homes. Can the same be said of them: “The cloud covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of Hashem filled the Mishkan”?

But it’s important to recognise that until every part of the Mishkan was in place, no part carried the ultimate holiness. Each depended on all the others. And if another part was missing, there was something missing in each other part too. That lesson, too, is part of our mission.

Yes, every mitzvah counts, and every effort is valuable. But there are certain key elements required, or one ultimately seriously jeopardises the wholly-integrated creation of a holy space. While we always encourage celebration of each independent element, we also need to recognise how important completeness is as well.

And so, let us consider what key elements we have wholesale neglected in our homes, shuls and learning centres, making it highly questionable to what extent we may welcome into them the glory of Hashem. And let’s fix those parts, and in doing so, add immeasurable value to every other part too.

Talking numbers

Last year was the Jewish Report’s barmitzvah year. This column, Talking Numbers, will celebrate our 13 years by looking at the significance of numbers 1 to 13 from a Torah perspective.

Gematriya, assigning each Hebrew letter a numerical value, is a branch of Torah that assigns meaning to numbers and uses these meanings to reach a deeper understanding of a concept, or to link seemingly unrelated concept.

Numbers have personalities, and just like people

can encompass a number of seemingly incompatible characteristics which upon deeper investigation are reconciled, so too with numbers.

A sequence of numbers reveals patterns and relationships between numbers, for example odd numbers form a group; evens another; 3, 5 and 7 form a very important sequence.

We will start by looking at the relationship between one and thirteen. The Hebrew for one is echad, made from 3 letters: aleph with a numerical value of 1, chet

8 and daled 4. The gematriya of echad is actually 13 (1 + 8 +4).

For this reason, Hashem, who is the embodiment of oneness, has 13 attributes of mercy. Israel, a nation of oneness had 13 tribes: Levi represented by the Aleph, was separated to serve as Levi’im and Kohanim; 8 tribes born to Rachel and Leah (Joseph is split into Ephraim and Menashe); 4 tribes born to Bilhah and Zilpah. Next week: Who knows 1?



Community Briefs

STORY OF PURIM IN PRESENT SA TIMES

Northcliff Shul celebrated Purim with much laughter accompanying its Purim play entitled North Side Story. The play, which was written and directed by Sharon Gomer, depicted what the story of Purim would look like if it had occurred in South Africa in 2012.

In addition to the play, the audience also enjoyed a Megillah reading by Rabbi Pesach Fishman and a Purim feast professionally catered by the shul’s talented Ladies’ Guild.

The shul is now taking bookings for its lavish annual Pesach seder on Saturday evening, April 7. It’s a family-like seder, where everyone has an opportunity to participate in the reading, explaining and singing (if they wish to do so) and it features a five-course meal of all the traditional Pesach seder food.

Book and pay by Monday, March 19 for the discounted rate of R180 for adults and R90 for children (the same as last year).

Bookings from Tuesday, March 20 to Monday, March 26 are R190 for adults and R95 for children under 12. Please contact Sharon on (011) 678-3015 or sharon@northcliffshul.co.za for more details or to book. - *OWN CORRESPONDENT | PHOTOGRAPH: MARK BADLER*

south african

jewish report

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Community Briefs

CHEVRAH COMMEMORATES YAHRTZEIT OF MOSHE RABBEINU

Some 120 guests - made up of cemetery staff, volunteer Tahara workers, Chevrah Kadisha management and board members - attended the Zayin Adar dinner hosted by the Chevrah on March 1.

On the 7th of Adar 2488, Moshe Rabbeinu passed away. Chevrah Kadishas around the world continue to observe his yahrtzeit. On this day the men and women involved in the mitzvah of burial, are inspired to accord the highest levels of honour to the deceased. - CELESTE EVERITT, CHEVRAH KADISHA

'CARBON FOOTPRINT' PAINTS A GLOOMY PICTURE

Rabbi Evan Kagan, a Deloitte's consultant, who joined the ORT JET Business Mentorship Programme, recently initiated a new "Mentor Enrichment" project.

Lee Swan, Deloitte's sustainability and climate change manager, said: "Global warming is underestimated in the SA economy. We see this with the introduction of carbon taxing which will have a huge economic impact on all businesses."

PURIM SENIORS PARTY A BIG HIT

Purim bears witness to several hundred of Johannesburg's young at heart at Chabad House for a day of mitzvah merriment, spearheaded by Rabbi Ari Kievman.

This year, guests were treated to a Purim lunch and a multimedia Megilla presentation which played alongside Rabbi Raitport's recitation of the Megillah.

"The crowd then participated in Purim Jewpardy and 'Who wants to be a mitzvainaire' games repertoire." - SHIRA DRUION

JOYOUS MISHNA TORAH EVENT

Chabad recently celebrated the culmination of the Rambam's yearly schedule of Sefer Hamitzvot. The Lubavitcher Rebbe initiated an innovation to encourage men, women and children to learn the Rambam's compendium of Jewish law - The Mishna Torah.

He encouraged participants to learn at least a chapter a day, ensuring that every three years the book would be completed.

The event was held at Sandton Shul and was attended by a diverse group of Johannesburg Jewry. - SHIRA DRUION



Theo Rutstein, ORT JET mentor, with ORT SA fundraising manager, Nicci Raz and Dina Cramer, ORT JET's mentorship manager.

PURIM UNDER THE SEA IN PRETORIA

Pretorians celebrated Purim this past week with the community coming out in force. The majority of adults and children dressed according to the theme, "Purim Under the Sea" with many variations.

A meal of sushi, and fish was served with all children receiving a prize and entertained with a "Finding Nemo" fishing game for additional prizes.

Great fun was had by all, thanks to the efforts of Rabbi Levi Medalie, Pretoria's youth and assistant rabbi. - STORY DIANE WOLFSON PRETORIA



Gideon Valkin and King David Victory Park schoolmates Ryan Eisenhammer and Brett Pollack.

It's a never-ending debate: to stay or to go

A highly contentious debate in the Jewish community remains: "To stay or not to stay". This is a question generating an increasing amount of tension for many South Africans who fear a precarious status quo.

SHIRA DRUION PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

The question has become a concern for Saffas of various age groups, many of whom are talented and highly-skilled people who are willing to trade life with "The biltong boys and Sunday braais" for grey skies, or the turbo pace of Israeli life.

Durban-born and bred hedge fund manager Damon Hoff, moved with his wife and daughters three years ago to set up the UK branch of Capricorn Capital, with offices in central London.

"London is certainly a very alluring city, which exudes a captivating energy and vibe. The biggest pro to London life is that you are forced to compete in a very big pond, and if you are able to succeed, you are really at the top of your game.

"However, the converse of this is that you enter the job market with no network, and no 'school buddies' to help you fast track the system. Therefore, guys who would under normal circumstances make it very quickly in South Africa, often experience a much bigger challenge here."

Emigrants worldwide admit that lifelong friendships are most difficult to replace. Former Victory Park head boy, Gideon Valkin left South Africa at age 18 to study for a degree in social studies at Harvard. He graduated, worked in New York for a year and has been in London ever since, working in financial markets at Credit Suisse.

Nearly a decade later, he says: "Life in the US and the UK has exposed me to a kaleidoscope of cultures and it is in this melting pot that I have been able to create friendships with a very diverse group of people. But what I have come to realise is that despite the many new relationships formed, one never loses the strong bonds created during the King David years.

"I will always consider myself South African; I miss going to shul with my dad on Friday night and Yomtovs spent around my parents' table, but I have managed to recreate that sense of community."

The emigration factors that one should consider, differ vastly from country to country and Israel comes with an entirely different set of pros and cons to the UK.

In recent months, the Zionist dream has ensured that many Saffas have made the big move. Devorah and Ian Kur admit: "Israel was our only choice. We were not looking to emigrate; we love South Africa; we loved our life there.

"The people are wonderful and the community is so supportive. We didn't run away from South Africa, we left to start a new life and to fulfil our dream of living in Eretz



Ian and Devorah Kur and their daughters in their new home.

Yisrael. Life in Ra'anana is beautiful and I feel so connected to being Jewish."

These sentiments are echoed by former Davidian Sara Friedman, who now calls Tel Aviv home and expresses delight at being able to live in a city that pulsates with such a tangible heartbeat.

"My dream to make aliyah came with the ultimate bonus of a dream husband, and it has been very rewarding to have had the opportunity to successfully build a life in a new country.

"The pros of living life on Rechov Hayarkon range from the never sleeping city to the beaches in summer and the close proximity to Europe for quick getaways.

"Undoubtedly, the biggest challenge is being away from family and close friends and not being able to have the luxury of domestic help, but for now... it's everything."

There are many positive outcomes to living among the international community, but "the grass is not always greener on the other side", says successful businessman and philanthropist, Anthony Moshal who says that the decision to leave South Africa should not be taken lightly.

"My wife and I decided to immigrate to London five years ago. However, when asked to advise other South Africans about making the move, I do so with caution. South Africa is a beautiful country and affords thousands of Jews a lifestyle that cannot be matched in other countries around the world.

"The people radiate signature warmth and the community is famous for its chesed, world over. Each person has to weigh up his situation, but I think SA is a fantastic country with an innumerable set of benefits that should not be underestimated. "

It seems that "The boerewors boys" who have made the move, are making tracks worldwide... But as Hoff admits: "It's not without many a moment spent reminiscing back to Sunday drives through Jacaranda Joburg and the smell of sweltering African summers. They stay with me always!"

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Board member Bertie Lubner, editor Geoff Sifrin, board chairman Howard Feldman and board vice-chairman, Issie Kirsh.



All systems go to relaunch a revamped Jewish Report

The SA Jewish Report was integral and vital to the community, Howard Feldman, chairman of the board of the newspaper, told a gathering of board members, staff and stringers at a reception at his Glenhazel home last Sunday, to celebrate the relaunch of a revamped SAJR this week.

SUZANNE BELLING

The purpose of the reception was for the three groups to get to know one each other in a social milieu.

Feldman quoted Henry Ford: “Coming together is the beginning; staying together is progress and working together is success.

He reported on the “fantastic response” to the readers’ survey.

“The most overwhelming thing that came across was the fact that people love, need and rely on this paper. This is the communication that people rely on - for understanding global Jewry, what is happening in Jewish communities, our insights and our writers’ insights into Israel, the arts and book reviews. There are so many valued areas of the paper that it is fantastic to see.”

Regarding the challenges faced by the Jewish Report of late (“we have

had a fair amount of strange and strained publicity”), Feldman emphasised that there should not be focus on negatives.

“We need to appreciate what we are doing on a weekly basis - getting out a paper of good standard to everybody, communicating vital information and building on that.”

The relaunch of the new-look newspaper would be more dynamic and have a “with it” focus.

He paid tribute to editor Geoff Sifrin and Frankie Matthysen (design and layout) for their work and efforts in preparing for the relaunch.

“We are looking at how to present the religious content in a better way,” Feldman said, adding that this would not be the only aspect of the SAJR.

“It is going to be revived and revitalised to offer our community what it is looking for and what it is demanding.”

He thanked the board of directors for driving the initiative - not only for the survival of the newspaper, but also for ensuring its success.

Paying tribute to the staff for the challenges they were dealing with, he said: “You are in the trenches, the guys at the coalface and you are appreciated and valued.”

He predicted that, within six months to a year, the Jewish Report would run more smoothly and would grow to great heights.

Board member Bertie Lubner thanked Feldman and his wife Heidi for their hospitality and for Feldman’s leadership in rebuilding the newspaper.

Commercial Manager Sue Morris welcomed the reception as an opportunity for the non-executive directors, the freelancers and the staff to meet as teammates. “They are the three diverse groups instrumental in the paper’s turnaround.”

THE JEWISH WORLD

in seven seconds

The New York Jewish Week:
www.thejewishweek.com

“BROOKLYN DA TO PROBE DEATH TIED TO BRIS”

Controversial practice of “metzizah b’peh” again coming under increased scrutiny after infant’s death; mayor weighs in.

The Jewish Chronicle, London:
www.thejc.com

“ARREST ON FLIGHT FROM LAS VEGAS TO LONDON”

Two men, believed to be Israelis, who were arrested on a BA flight to Heathrow on Monday, have been released without charge. The men were said to have made threatening remarks about the plane’s destination and acted “disruptively” during a flight from Las Vegas.

Jewish Journal, Los Angeles:
www.jewishjournal.com

“INTERNATIONAL AGUNAH DAY CONFERENCE DRAWS LOCALS TO SUPPORT ‘CHAINED’ WOMEN”

Esther Macner, a former prosecutor and

Yedioth Aharonoth Tel Aviv:
www.ynetnews.com

“ISRAEL TESTED GAZA TERROR GROUPS”

Nasrallah, Hamas operatives meet in Lebanon, claim Israel instigated latest round of violence in south to gauge Palestinians’ readiness to take part in regional war.

The Canadian Jewish News:
www.cjews.com

“ST DENIS MERCHANTS HURT BY ANTI-ISRAEL PICKETING”

After almost 18 months of regular anti-Israeli demonstrations on their block, some shopkeepers on Montreal’s St Denis Street say their business is suffering and they are weary, even unnerved, by a situation that has no end in sight.

trial attorney from New York, has spent years advocating on behalf of agunot - women whose husbands have failed to give them a get, a Jewish divorced document. Now she’s on fire about getting the West Coast Jewish community to address the problem of get-refusal.

Jerusalem Post:
www.jpost.com


“DEATH OF PALESTINIAN BOY RAISES GAZA DEATH TOLL”

7-year-old succumbs to wounds after IAF strike on east Gaza City; Netivot municipal head: Only half of students show up for class despite ceasefire and no rocket attacks.

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


“SETTING A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR’S POETRY TO SONG”

Composer Judy Campbell first met award-winning author and Holocaust survivor Jacob Rosenberg more than a decade ago when a mutual friend introduced the pair during a book launch at the Sydney Jewish Museum.





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LOCH FYNE



Discovery's Gore upbeat about SA and role of Jewish community

----- Pen sketch on Discovery's Adrian Gore -----



Adrian Gore (48) is a leading South African businessman. In 1992, he founded Discovery Health, South Africa's largest private healthcare funder, which pioneered rewards-based healthcare with its Vitality programme. Discovery Health Medical Scheme provides healthcare for more than 218 000 companies and 2,6 million people.

Born in Johannesburg and a graduate of King David School and Wits University, Gore is CEO of the Discovery Group, which generates total income flows in excess of R50bn across South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States and China. The group covers approximately 5,5 million unique customers globally. He has been recognised as “South Africa’s Leading Entrepreneur” by Ernst & Young (1998), was nominated as “South Africa’s Leading CEO” by a peer group of South African CEOs in the annual MoneyWeb CEOs “CEO of the Year Awards” (2004, finalist 2006), as well as winning the “South African Leading Managers Award”, an initiative of the Corporate Research Foundation and Business Report (2006). He also won the “Investec Award for Considerable Contribution in a Career/Profession” (2008). In November 2010 he was chosen as the “Sunday Times Business Leader of the Year”. Gore was a recipient of the Investec Jewish Business Achiever Award in 2000. The Jewish Achiever Awards are hosted annually by the SA Jewish Report. He is active in the South African Jewish community, and is a former chairman of the South African Board of Jewish Education.

Gore told GEOFF SIFRIN about his business philosophy, views on South Africa and other issues.

To what do you attribute the astounding growth of Discovery to the biggest medical scheme in the country?

Discovery Health’s success can be attributed to its challenging of the industry paradigm of “paying for sickness”. Its vision from the start of the business was to make people healthier, and to develop a sophisticated institutional capability in what was a cottage industry at the time.

Core to this vision was creating insurance products that customers want to buy, rather than those that have to be sold. From the outset, the breakthrough was the Medical Savings Account, which put consumers at the centre of the decision regarding their consumption and financing of care. This not only empowered members within the healthcare system, but made transparent the costs of care, and thus brought stability to the system by serving as a mitigant to healthcare cost inflation.

The second breakthrough was through Vitality, and incentivising members to make better decisions around their health and wellness, the result of which was improved actuarial dynamics within the medical scheme.

The cycle has been virtuous in that the above focus enabled the Discovery Health Medical Scheme to achieve scale, and as a result of this scale, we are now able to offer richer benefits to members at the most competitive premiums; offer members complete financial stability and peace of mind that their claims will be paid; and leverage our scale to invest significantly in technology and services that other medical schemes are not able to provide.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, putting scale and sophistication aside, Discovery’s value of providing excellent service to each and every member and stakeholder is never taken for granted, as is the need for intellectual leadership around healthcare financing, the need out of which the business was born.

For these reasons, Discovery Health is of equivalent size as its next 10 competitors combined and continues to grow in excess of six per cent per annum, despite its already large size.

The launching of the National Health Insurance in 2014, which will make health insurance compulsory for all: Could it be the death-knell of private medical schemes? How will it affect Discovery? Will you join it or meet it head on?

Discovery Health strongly supports the rollout of an NHI system, as we believe that South Africa needs healthcare reform to ensure a comprehensive healthcare system for all South Africans. We are currently exploring strategies to see how best to support the Government in realising this goal.

In terms of the role of private medical schemes in this emerging environment, we are confident that there is a role to play. The reality is that implementing a national health insurance system is significantly costly: If South Africa were to pay per capita what the UK spends on its national health service, implementing the NHI would consume half of our GDP.

Even in advanced economies with very sophisticated national health systems, such as the UK or Australia, a large proportion of the population continues to pur-

chase private health insurance. In addition, our private healthcare system, while having room for further improvement, is excellent, sustainable and an important national asset in this regard, contrary to the common views of waste and inevitable decline.

In terms of the NHI and its impact on our business, we see our role as a collaborator with Government.

While in time the NHI will provide people with greater choice and flexibility of healthcare cover options, we believe that our business will continue to grow and succeed for as long as we provide relevant and valuable products to our clients. If, at some point in the future, the NHI provides a very competitive alternative, we believe that will be a good thing for our country, and we would welcome that.

The Minister of Health has been scathing about the high cost of private medical schemes. What is your view on this?

We are desperately aware that people battle to meet their health insurance commitments, and that our role is to make private health insurance more affordable. Having said this, there is no doubt that healthcare is expensive. This is a global phenomenon, and is driven by, for example, increasing rates of chronic disease and the emergence of many profound, but costly, new drugs and technologies.

Healthcare inflation has, however, been lower than other inflationary pressures such as education and petrol over the last 10 years.

The belief of unjustified cost is perpetuated by the probabilistic nature of the private health insurance product, with 80 per cent of people claiming less than they pay. While these individuals expect to have access to world-class healthcare when their health is compromised, the benefits of what they pay for each month are not visible to them on a day-to-day basis.

We believe that the South African private healthcare system, while having room for improvement, is excellent. Consumers have access to some of the best healthcare in the world, at prices that are comparable, or lower, than the costs in most other countries. And consumers do see value for money - last year 98 per cent of Discovery Health Medical Scheme members stayed on their current plan or bought up to higher benefit options.

In the light of your own experiences, is South Africa still a land of opportunity? If you were to give advice to a young entrepreneur today, what is your secret of success? And is South Africa still a good base from which to become a world player?

The potential of this country cannot be emphasised enough; it’s our attitude towards our country that inhibits or liberates this opportunity. Look at the difficult times we’ve come through and what we’ve achieved. Look at the other Bric [Brazil, Russia, India and China] countries: they have massive problems, yet they believe the future is theirs.

In fact, Discovery is an example of the

inherent opportunity in South Africa even at seemingly difficult times. Discovery was launched in 1992, an incredibly volatile point in South Africa’s sociopolitical history.

If I were to give advice to aspiring entrepreneurs I would say: Make sure you have a profound vision that adds value to society, and be driven and optimistic as you work to achieve it.

I would also emphasise the opportunity South Africa presents to entrepreneurs to develop the country, given the inherent skills shortage, unique demographic and wealth factors, and the need to stimulate job creation.

As an extremely active member of the SA Jewish community, how do you balance this with the high demands of your business commitments?

I am very proud of my Jewish roots, and a great believer in valuing your heritage. I thoroughly enjoy being part of our community and helping to build it. It’s a natural priority for me so I haven’t found it difficult to balance with my other commitments.

What is your view on the emigration to so-called “greener pastures” of young South Africans, including many Jews, an increasing number of whom are coming back?

While the Jewish community in South Africa is a thriving community, it faces challenges to its sustainability: It is estimated that over the period 2002 to 2010, around two per cent of the community was lost each year due to emigration (net).

I fully respect the wishes of those who choose to make alternative futures overseas, and think that as a community we need to recognise this individual freedom. In terms of Jews returning to South Africa, I think this is positive for South Africa and positive for the community.

In terms of the former, Jews have a record of being significant contributors to economic development, and the more progress stimulated for the country the better; it is critical that our community continues to support the development of this country from both a patriotic, nation-building perspective as South Africans; and as Jews - given the enormous freedom our country affords us in the expression and practice of our faith. From a community perspective, the more returning Jews, the greater the sustainability of our community.

How would you define your leadership style in Discovery?

Values are central to Discovery, and a large part of my role is to ensure these values are lived on a daily basis by all our employees. We hire great people. My role is to create an environment that liberates them. If you speak to my executive team - a group of extraordinarily talented and energetic people - they will probably say that I’m incredibly driven and always think we can do better.

I don’t believe in wallowing in mistakes or being self-congratulatory about past successes. Both approaches can lead to complacency, which ultimately is the enemy of “great”.



Journey from the Cape Flats to Orthodox Judaism

The audience at a gathering of the Union of Jewish Women’s adult education division recently, was spellbound as they listened to Ilana Skolnik relating her journey from Kensington on the Cape Flats to embracing Orthodox Judaism.

**STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY
MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN**

In 1973, Skolnik was, as Ellen Peters, Miss Africa South, the non-white version of Miss South Africa.

Of the Miss World competition held at the Royal Albert Hall in London, she remembers she “clicked with Miss Israel”, promising to come and visit her one day. Little did the then-17-year-old know the part Israel was to play in her future.

On her return to SA, she realised “apartheid and I had no future” and found herself working with tourists in Athens, where she met her Israeli husband-to-be. “He took me to meet his parents (in Israel),” she recalled, joking of his mother: “I don’t know if she was more upset that I was a ‘shikse’ or a ‘shwartzte’!”

Although he had not asked her to convert to Judaism, Skolnik says she began to realise that this was the path she wanted to follow.

The date for her conversion arrived (“the yahrzeit of the third Lubavitcher Rebbe’s wife”), the pair then married traditionally and came to this country. “Because I was ‘Coloured’, our marriage was not



Dr Hannah Reeve Sanders, co-chairman of the UJW adult education division; Ilana Skolnik (formerly Ellen Peters, Miss Africa South); and Sara Pascall, co-chairman.

recognised in South Africa and we weren’t allowed to stay together.

“But my parents always instilled in us not to hate, rather to strive for better.” They then returned to Israel.

She recalls meeting the Lubavitcher Rebbe on a later visit to Crown Heights. “I was so, so shocked when I saw the bright, bright light around him. For the first time in my life, I’ve seen a man who walks with G-d,” she remembers thinking.

Skolnik set about committing herself fully to Orthodoxy, drawing her husband - a founding father of the Jewish state who had fought in the underground alongside Menachem Begin - on the journey with her. “I reconnected him to his roots, I taught him Judaism,” she says.

Following her husband Na’aman’s death after 27 years of marriage, she decided to return to South Africa to her family. “Hashem had connected my soul to my body.

“Hashem had a mission for me. He took me away, connected me to my ‘bashert’ and brought me back.



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The Jewish Digital Archive Project (JDAP) at UCT's Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, is looking for a part-time media manager who is interested in Jewish family stories and how they are captured in various forms of media.

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Jewish Report Editorial

Newspapers riding curve of Internet age

As any veteran newspaperman whose nostrils are familiar with the intoxicating smell of printer’s ink will tell you, newspapers are living, breathing organisms, constantly changing: no issue the same as the previous one.

The craft of newspaper-making is addictive. People do it for the passion much more than the salary. It’s a process - any given newspaper is a snapshot of a moment in time, the best its staff and contributors can produce with the information and resources they have at their disposal that instant. And then on to the next one... Newspapers have been described as the “first draft of history”.

The South African Jewish Report is now approaching its 14th birthday after our establishment in May 1998, with the brief to be a quality paper serving all of South African Jewry, in a country going through massive change, four years after its first democratic elections. The message former President Nelson Mandela sent us through a man he referred to as “my rabbi” when he toured Jerusalem with him in 1999 - the late former Chief Rabbi Cyril Harris - congratulated us on being another important piece in the mosaic of South African media, reflecting the society’s diversity.

Since then, the Internet has caused massive changes in the media. It was still in its childhood in 1998, compared with where it is now. Technology changes so fast these days that presumably in another decade, today’s “sophistication” will in retrospect seem simplistic.

Papers change in character and style in response to the events, ideas and fashions of the times. Today, physical newspapers face the challenge of integrating with the Internet while upholding principles of good journalism like accuracy, balance and fairness, in that medium which - unlike physical papers - provides editors with almost unlimited space to carry as much material as they wish, from as many sources as they choose.

Deadlines - the age-old bane of journalists in the print media who know that if they are late with their stories, the paper will go to print without them - are infinitely more flexible in the electronic media: content can be changed at the flick of a few buttons by an editor sitting almost anywhere in the world, based on updates from reporters also located almost anywhere.

And with the latest news being instantly available on the net - and many of our readers getting it from there - weekly papers like ours must adapt and provide more features and comment to add to it.

This first year after our barmitzvah is a good time to freshen up the look and feel, as well as the content, of the Jewish Report - part of the longer-term process to integrate the physical paper with our website, which we’ll make more interactive and dynamic.

Ultimately, we intend being at the front of the curve of media technology, with our own apps so that readers can enjoy our paper on smartphones, tablets and whatever other devices might develop in the future. We are delighted to incorporate some initial changes in this week’s issue. It is part of the process; we will fine-tune it and add more as time goes by.

We hope you, our readers, enjoy it. In these fluid and often tough times, we will continue maintaining the standard of the Jewish Report as a credible, quality paper celebrating and reflecting – as Madiba urged us – the diversity of this great country and its vibrant Jewish community.



Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak visits the Iron Dome anti-rocket defence system in southern Israel, on March 10. (ISRAELI MINISTRY OF DEFENSE / FLASH 90 / JTA)

After Bibi’s US visit: What’s Israel’s next step on Iran?

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is waiting and watching when it comes to Iran - although for how long, no one knows.

RON KAMPEAS
WASHINGTON

Analysts and Jewish organisational officials who speak with Israeli and US government, say Netanyahu came away from his meeting last week with President Barack Obama feeling that he had a strategic partner in seeking to keep Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

But, they say, he has yet to decide whether Obama’s tactics will do the job or if Israel must strike.

David Makovsky, senior analyst at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, outlined a number of theories that have cropped up in the wake of the meeting: That Netanyahu will wait until after European oil sanctions kick in this summer to decide on a course of action, or that he would launch a strike before the American elections in order not to be locked in by the powers of a newly elected president to set an international agenda. Or that he would not act at all.

“There were a lot of convergences between the president and the prime minister, but timing wasn’t one of them,” Makovsky said. “Obama said we have plenty of time in his speech” to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, “and that is not the Israeli perception”.

It was hard to pin down how much time Israel believes it has, in part because its calculations are based on Western intelligence, which may not be entirely reliable. A key factor, Makovsky said, was when and whether Iran developed the capability to enrich uranium to weapons grade levels, 93 per cent.

“Israel has two questions: Will conversion to highly enriched uranium be detected in real time, and will the United States be able to act in real time,” he said.

A consensus is that the main takeaway of the meeting last week between the two leaders is that they had moved toward one another: Obama in making explicit the possibility of a US military strike on Iran, in underscoring Israel’s sovereign right to defend itself, and in rejecting a strategy of containing Iran; and Netanyahu in ratcheting down threats of military action.

“For now the chances of an Israeli attack against Iran have receded,” said Alireza Nader, an expert on Iran-Israel relations at the Rand Corp, an independent think tank that often consults with the US government.

“I wouldn’t say the military option is off the table. We’ll have to see what Netanyahu says in the next few days or weeks.”

What precisely is the time frame for a make-or-break decision by Netanyahu on whether to strike is a matter of conjecture.

Some suggest that Netanyahu cannot act before the consequences are clear of tough oil sanctions that the European Union is set to impose on Iran, if only because Netanyahu has pressed so hard for the sanctions.

The sanctions are set to kick in on June 1 and it will take weeks to see if they have had an effect on Iran’s considerations of whether to advance its suspected nuclear programme.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said it was his impression that Netanyahu would not decide to act at least until the

American elections in November.

The backlash of a strike before then would not serve Israel well, he said, noting the uncertainty it would inject into the American political sphere and economy, particularly regarding oil prices.

“Israel will not act for the time being, from my perspective, until the elections because of the unforeseen consequences, the impact on the economy,” he said.

Meir Javedanfar, an Iranian-born Israeli analyst, says the chances of a unilateral Israeli attack against American wishes are “tiny”.

“If Americans are dragged into war and oil shoots up, it would damage our position,” he said. “Our relationship with the US is a very valuable strategic asset.”

In the immediate wake of the meetings, news reports surfaced that Israel had asked the Obama administration for weaponry that would help in a strike against Iran. The White House denied a report in the Israeli daily Maariv that Obama had promised bunker-buster bombs and other equipment that could help Israel to hit Iran on condition that it not attack this year.

One prominent critic of the notion that Israel could successfully attack Iran’s nuclear facilities is former Mossad chief Meir Dagan. Appearing on the CBS news programme “60 Minutes” that was broadcast last Sunday night, Dagan warned that an Israeli strike on Iran could result in a war that had “devastating impact on our ability to continue with our daily life”.

Dagan, who has clashed with Netanyahu and Defence Minister Ehud Barak over the issue, said if there was a strike, he would “always prefer that Americans will do it”.

However, it is not clear whether Israeli leaders are content to rely on the US to do what they feel is necessary if push comes to shove.

Makovsky outlined three areas of tension between the Israeli and American approaches: What would constitute the trigger, an Iranian capability to make a weapon, which is Israel’s red line, or Iran’s decision to weaponise, the US red line; the utility of diplomacy; and Israel’s sense of urgency regarding when Iran’s nuclear programme becomes impenetrable - what Barak calls a “zone of immunity”.

“The Israeli fear is that Iran will try to drive a wedge between the US and Israel, and offer the US enough to stay at the table and not strike,” Makovsky said. (JTA)

Community Voices

Can Israel live with a nuclear Iran?



“An Israeli attack on Iran’s nuclear facilities may succeed in fleetingly halting Iran’s quest for a nuclear weapon. Unless regime change occurs from within, and Iran’s own security dilemmas are palliated, a nuclear Iran will become a reality Israel may have to live with.” - Larry Benjamin.



“Can one live with a known murderous psychopath? For a short time perhaps. Iran killed over a million Muslim brothers (Iran-Iraq war) without remorse. Nuclear Iran is a deadly threat to Israel.” - Naomi Dinur



“With a decision like this, only the Israeli public and the elected government of Israel can truly decide the impact of a nuclear Iran in its region.” Zev Krengel

A blind eye to human rights atrocities in Congo

At last week Monday's talk at the University of Johannesburg, on "Middle East politics vs African Genocide: Do we as South Africans Care about Our Continent?" Benjamin Pogrund, Jean Pierre (a Congolese human rights activist) and Bassem Eid (a Palestinian rights activist) spoke.

Eid, a Palestinian, courageously and publicly speaks against his own Palestinian leaders for their corruption and for sidelining the true needs of the Palestinian people.

What struck me about the strong Congolese element of the talk was twofold: Firstly, these people are in a lot of pain. Millions of Congolese people have been murdered in recent years and many women are being raped daily.

Despite these atrocities, the world turns a blind eye to Congo. No-one has highlighted their plight on the world stage and they are desperate. Instead, the limelight is continuously on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which is nowhere near as dismal as the Congolese suffering en masse.

These Congolese want to know where the world is while they are being murdered. More poignantly: Where is South Africa? Why does South Africa seem to be more interested in the far-off Middle East than it is in what's happening up the road in Congo?

The second thing that struck me is that they have fallen into the age-old anti-Semitic trap laid for centuries by ignorant or hateful people. They believe that the Jews run the world; that Jews and Israel control the media and the money.

I sat there astounded. One would think that a persecuted people would recognise another persecuted people or be more tolerant, but apparently, this does not follow.

Pogrund quickly pointed out to them that if they continue to cast blame, then they will never solve their problems. They must act for themselves first and then try gain support from others.

Jean Pierre advised that the Congolese people should learn from the Jewish people in the way that we have united and worked to support our brethren wherever they may be in the world.

Michele Engelberg, Johannesburg

Yellow is the best background colour

I am an avid reader of your paper and I devour it with great enthusiasm regularly. However, it is of great concern to me that the colours of the pages that the articles are printed on are, from a medical, educational and physiological point of view, far from ideal.

If the anatomical structure of the human retina is reviewed, it has been proven that the ideal colour for the paper is a pale yellow and black print. Most newspapers are black print on white paper which is rejected by the human retina of the eye.

Hellen Urlin, an American remedial teacher stumbled on this phenomena about 20 years ago and since then slowly but surely the truth has emerged: The colours at the top and bottom of the colour spectrum (rainbow), are the worst background and yellow in the middle of the spectrum the best background for reading.

In some of the articles, the background is blue, one of the worst colours. The human brain can obviously stress and strain to read a blue article, but it would be so much easier if the background was yellow.

This scenario is made even worse for the many elderly readers with fading eyesight.

There are so many exacting examples of the proof that yellow is best.

Dr Billy Levin, Pretoria

Jewish newspaper, or newspaper for Jews

Responses to what readers expect from the SAJR (letters in the March 9 issue) have been interesting.

Perhaps a more important starting point would be for Jewish Report to decide what role it wants to play in the community.

It has already identified its target market - the South African Jewish community. Now it needs to decide whether it wants to be a Jewish newspaper or a newspaper for Jews.

It can fulfil the former role without alienating those readers who feel that there is already too much religious content. Simply give articles more of a Jewish flavour.

Take the story about the Jewel City Shul, for example (Mach 9). Substitute a few words and one could have been reading about a new church; a story which lent itself to a Yiddishe ta'am had no Jewish flavour at all.

I made the same point in the online survey.

Good luck with your relaunch, and may the newspaper go from strength to strength.

Leslie Harris, Johannesburg

Why are these boys without the necessary kippot?

With reference to the "SAJR - Junior" section of the Jewish Report of February 10: thank you for the inspiring articles regarding King David Victory Park High School's involvement and commitment to Judaism and Israel.

However, I refer to the photographs published illustrating the article "Beit Midrash programme proves to be a resounding success" and wonder how the school allows boys into the Beit Hamidrash to study Torah or other Holy books without kippot?

Surely wearing a kippah when entering a shul or a place of Torah study is a fundamental requirement in respecting the Jewish religion?

Kerry Shaw, Sandton

A gate 'leading to the courtyard of G-d'

David Saks ponders why so many eloquent defenders of Israel are secular "cultural" Jews rather than religiously observant.

But they do love the Jewish people, and according to the Baal Shem Tov "Love of Israel is the first gate leading to the courtyards of G-d". There is even religious commentary that loving Jews is of a higher order than a love for G-d, because one loves what G-d Himself loves.

And this ultimately will aid the longed-for redemption.

Jack Bloom, Cyrildene, Johannesburg

'Malema Award' gets the blood pressure sky high

I refer to the article "Malema's resilience rewarded" (Jewish Report, March 2).

I am disgusted at the "award" that a "leading" Jewish organisation "Love me Tender" has made to that vile troublemaker! Wait till he starts with the Jews! There were plenty like him in Germany in Hitler's days. I am also amazed and very disappointed that a fine publication such as yours, dignifies this rubbish, by publishing this article.

Ralph Rechtman, Groenkloof, Pretoria

Let's give our letter writer two clues to calm him down. Firstly, we have just celebrated Purim. Secondly, has he tried to obtain "further information" (given at the end of the article) from www.purimshpiel? - Editor

Looking for info on M Bash

Dave Lichtenstein of Sydney in Australia is enquiring about the whereabouts of, or information on the SA Jewish Times correspondent of the late 1940s, M Bash. He is specifically referring to an article written by Bash, "The Progress of Kenya Jewry" which appeared in the SA Jewish Times on December 23, 1949. Lichtenstein wonders whether Bash is still alive and whether he would have kept any notes pertaining to the article, including reference sources.

He adds: "I am particularly interested in any further reference to my late grandfather, Friedrich Lichtenstein, conducting the first Jewish service in Berlin after its liberation by the Russians."

His e-mail address is: Lichtend@ozemail.com.au

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What's in a number?

The announcement of the new iPad last week was the most anticipated gadget event of the year, and will probably be overshadowed only by the new iPhone when it is announced later this year.



Curiously, for a device and announcement that attracted such a frenzy of hype, the new iPad is not designed to elicit gasps of awe. Even the name is a muted echo of the previous versions: “The new iPad”. Doesn’t quite have the ring of the expected “iPad HD” or “iPad 3”, does it?

The naming - or lack thereof - makes sense, though.

When the successor to the iPhone 4 was announced late last year, the market was expecting an iPhone 5, with whiz-bang new features and nothing less than a halo to reveal the last will and testament of Steve Jobs. Instead, Apple announced the 4S, with only incremental improvements. The collective groan of disappointment was heard across the globe.

Apple isn’t going to fall for that one again. Expect the next iPhone to be, simply, the new iPhone.

With this week’s unveiling, a far more startling feature than the name, was its size - startling, at least, for those expecting continual evolution and revolution. The new iPad is heavier and thicker than its predecessor, even if only by a fraction of a millimetre and a few grams.

Within that reversal of the size trend, however, lurks the real leap ahead for the iPad: the greater bulk accommodates a Retina Display. That refers to a screen containing the theoretical maximum amount of detail the human retina can perceive.

In practice, it means the same sharp and dazzling display as that of the iPhone 4 and 4S, which are marketed as having Retina Display screens.

Along with the screen comes high-definition video capabilities that turn the iPad into one of the most advanced video and imaging devices in the world, outside of cameras themselves.

Of course, the converted will once again be lining up round the block at every Apple store in the 10 countries where the new iPad will be released today, March 16. That is always bad news for the competition, which has never been able to generate an equiva-



Goldstuck on Gadgets
Arthur Goldstuck

lent frenzy around rival tablets.

But there is good news for these rivals, as well as for consumers around the world: Apple did not raise the bar too high. Bear in mind that Apple doesn’t manufacture its own screens - the iPhone screens were made by LG, a rival smartphone manufacturer.

The processor powering the iPad is made by Samsung, its most bitter rival in the tablet market. It’s “only” in the overall design and integration of parts that Apple has been so far ahead of its rivals.

But the new iPad reveals that Apple is no longer as unreachably far ahead as it was with the launch of the first iPad in 2010. Indeed, when the next generation of tablets from the likes of Samsung, Asus, Motorola and Lenovo are announced, they may well be better than the iPad at many of its core functions.

The proviso for their success is that the devices are priced at the same level as iPads, or lower. With the release of the new iPad, the price of the iPad 2 - a superb tablet in its own right - is being cut by \$100 with immediate effect. There can be few gadgets that offer better value for money.

Equally important is the fact that, by the end of the year, a wide range of high-quality tablets will be available at reasonable prices. The new version of the Android operating system, 4.0 or Ice Cream Sandwich, will begin appearing on tablets, along with the first tablets running on the Windows 8 operating system designed specifically for these devices.

That all adds up to true choice, and we can expect market share to start spreading out across the rival makers by the end of the year. For now, though, the iPad is still the first stop for the tablet shopper.

• Follow Arthur Goldstuck on twitter on @art2gee, or at www.gadget.co.za



Producer Ronnie Apteker on the set of *Material*, with star Riaad Moosa as Cassim Kaif.

‘Material’ a pleasant SA surprise packet

ROBYN SASSEN
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

“For 18 years, I’ve done the same thing: creating stuff and selling it,” film producer Ronnie Apteker (44), headlined for his collaborative role in the movie, “Material”, told Jewish Report.

“I don’t know what the word ‘producer’ means. In *Material* everything just came together. It was nothing short of miraculous.

“I’m the leader of the team,” originator of Internet Solutions, the first internet service provider in South Africa continues. “I am not one to take individual credit for the film. We worked with the absolute cream of the film industry.”

“I started off adult life trading in the flea-market. I wrote columns and then software.” Still head of Internet Solutions, Apteker concedes: “Material’s relationship with IS is infrastructural.”

Involved in making 11 films so far, Apteker acknowledges how “massively stressful” it is. “When your product is weak, people don’t want your evangelising. I’ve learnt you’ve got to touch people’s hearts

before you can think of touching their pockets.

“This is the hardest, most unforgiving work I have ever done. And the journey starts now that the film is out, in working to get it the international kudos it warrants.

He’s particular on explaining key flaws in the South Africa’s commercial film industry: “We don’t understand the distinction between art films and commercial films. The bulk of films that come out of this country fail because they are art films trying to make it commercially. Or because they are weak.”

Conceived in 2004, “Material” went into rehearsal in 2006. It opened nationally last month. Apteker is adamant it’s the script that makes it, the second since Jamie Uys’ “The Gods Must Be Crazy” (1980), fit to enter the international commercial arena.

He explains the complexity of launching internationally. “Ratings are set by local popularity. It has to be in the top 10 or it is nowhere at all.

“In affluent spaces, it’s booming. Less so elsewhere. Lower class

black audiences and trendy Afrikaners are not flocking to see it.”

Like low budget movies Billy Elliot (2000) or Cinema Paradiso (1988), the film is visually beautiful and filled with character and texture. It’s like a paean to the suburb of Fordsburg.

Moosa who plays Cassim Kaif, the main character, “is a magical guy with humility. He’s a doctor, a son, a stand- up comic; he’s there to tell a universal story.

“It’s about a boy who wants to do something in the world that contradicts his roots.. It’s about a Muslim comedian at the tip of Africa. It’s a Jazz Singer with comedy. It’s a movie that makes you feel good and makes you cry.

“Minorities love it: Jews, Greeks, Portuguese. Every one of them has the same nonsense in their families. The same levels of stubbornness.

“We were asked by the bureau head of Al Jazeera Africa, how a bunch of Jews - Ivan Epstein and Steven Cohen partnered me in this film too - got involved in a project of this nature,” he grins lopsidedly “It’s not been by design.”

News in brief

MIGRON RESIDENTS AGREE TO RELOCATION

JERUSALEM - Residents of Migron have signed an agreement with the Israeli government on relocating the illegal West Bank outpost.

The agreement signed last Sunday will allow the outpost’s 50 families to move to a nearby hill over the next three years, meaning that they will not be evicted as ordered by Israel’s Supreme Court. The current site will be turned over to the Civil Administration, which has agreed to consider public uses.

Migron, approximately 22 km north of Jerusalem, had been slated under an Israeli Supreme Court order in 2011 to be razed by the end of this month. The state will ask the court to cancel its order.

Minister Benny Begin brokered the negotiations between the government and residents. (JTA)

UNIV OF CALIFORNIA PRESIDENT DEFENDS FARRAKHAN APPEARANCE ON CAMPUS

BERKELEY - University of California President Mark Yudof has defended Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan’s right to speak at the university’s Berkeley campus.

Farrakhan’s speech last Saturday was billed as being about black empowerment, but was also peppered with anti-Semitic and hate speech, students told The Daily Californian student newspaper.

A petition circulated after the speech by Jewish student leaders, which opposed Farrakhan’s speech and character, but not the Black Student Union’s right to bring him to campus, garnered more than 350 signatures, the student newspaper reported.

“I condemn the actions of those who would disrupt this event. Attempting to shout down speakers is not protected speech,” Yudof wrote in an open letter. (JTA)

BILL BANNING APPLICATION OF RELIGIOUS LAW DIES IN FLORIDA SENATE

TAMPA - Legislation that would ban the application of religious or foreign law in marriage, divorce or custody cases, has stalled in Florida’s state Senate.

The Senate failed to bring the measure to a vote by March 9, the end of the current legislative session. It could be brought up in future sessions.

Jewish and Muslim groups opposed the bill, which had passed the Florida House of Representatives on March 1 by a vote of 92-24. Representative Elaine Schwartz, one of two Jewish Democratic lawmakers in the House who opposed the bill, expressed concern that the law also could negate divorces that were arbitrated by a Jewish beit din, or rabbinical court, the Tampa Bay Times reported.

Several states have sought to limit the influence of Sharia, or Islamic, law. The Florida bill did not specifically mention Sharia law. (JTA)

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Apartheid Week: SAUJS gives as good as it gets

Israel's enemies around the world - those not opposed to any particular policy of the Israeli government but to Israel's very existence - have for a long time now been seeking to foist the "apartheid" label on the Jewish State.

Through this, they wish to delegitimise Israel in the eyes of the international community, thereby paving the way towards its eventual demise as a sovereign nation state. Was this, after all, what ultimately brought down the apartheid regime in this country?

Central to this campaign, now an international one, is "Israel Apartheid Week", which has just concluded in South Africa.

This year's campaign was the most ambitious yet in this country, with events being staged in 13 separate centres. Particular emphasis was put on those held on the various university campuses.

It says a great deal about the morality



Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

and real motivations of those who organised the campaign that one of the prime "witnesses" they brought out was a recognised terrorist, Abdul Aziz Umar, one of those responsible for the 2003 Cafe Hillel bombing, in which seven Israeli civilians were killed.

Released last year under the prisoner swap deal, he remains an unrepentant advocate of violence against Israel.

The Board also brought out people from Israel to be here during "Israel Apartheid Week". They were Benjamin Pogrund and Bassem Eid, respectively an Israeli and a Palestinian whose lives are dedicated towards striving for peace and understanding between the two peoples.

The contrast between them and Umar is so striking as to be impossible to miss by any neutral observer. Both are prepared to be sharply critical of their own leadership where necessary.

However, they provide a grassroots, first-

hand and above all balanced perspective about what is happening, unlike the deliberately slanted, exaggerated and frequently downright false depiction that the Israel Apartheid lobby are doing.

Pogrund is renowned as having been one of the bravest, most resourceful and effective journalists to have confronted and exposed the apartheid regime. For many years, at great personal risk, he reported on every aspect of that iniquitous system.

Thus, when he unequivocally states that whatever may be wrong with Israeli policy, it cannot be likened to apartheid, it carries true weight that cannot be simply dismissed.

In the frontlines of the struggle to counter all the anti-Israel vitriol, were our Jewish students. Here, full kudos are due to SAUJS Chairman Daniel Katzew and his team.

Under the most difficult circumstances, in which they faced constant abuse and intimidation, they stood their ground and confronted head on the false, emotive sloganising of the other side. They did so with dignity, courage and commitment, and we as a community can be justifiably proud of them.

Community Briefs

KDL PURIM PLAY A TRIBUTE TO GARY BLOCK

For well over 20 years, King David Linksfield High has produced a Purim Play to entertain hundreds of Johannesburg Jews who flock to watch the showcase of outstanding KDL talent. The play allows over 200 learners to participate in the many diverse facets of the production, which range from drama and dance performance to props, sound and lighting and stage management.

For over 16 years, the late Gary Block, deputy headmaster at the school who passed away two weeks ago, was responsible for this rewarding task and this year's Purim Play pays tribute to the indelible mark he has left on the KDL stage...

"The Infamous Purim" was the theme of this year's play, inspired by the smash hit Broadway musical "Fame".

Sarah Sutherland, the recently appointed drama teacher, admits that "picking up the pieces after the tragic loss of Mr Block has been a challenging task, to say the least, but the learners have displayed a noble resilience and should be congratulated for being able to create the kind of production of which he would have been so proud... It is the ultimate tribute to the beautiful legacy he left behind..." - SHIRA DRUION

A column of WIZO South Africa

A sad farewell to Michal Modai

Dear Chaverot,

It is said that you are remembered by the things you have done for others and the difference you have made in their lives.

And so we will remember Michal Modai, esteemed past president of World WIZO, who passed away in Israel last week.

Michal, a seventh generation "sabara", was born in Jerusalem to one of Israel's oldest families, the Solomon family. She was voted Miss Israel in 1951 and was married to the late Yitzhak Modai, a former minister of finance.

Michal was determined to reduce the social gap in Israeli society, especially where women and children were concerned. Under her leadership WIZO organised interaction with day-care centres and youth clubs in underprivileged areas as well as initiating the first WIZO shelter for battered women.

Michal visited South Africa during her presidency to address audiences on the topics that were her passion - the upliftment of women and children in Israeli society. She was loved and admired by all who came to know her.

As women, we celebrated Purim and rejoiced in the role that Esther played in thwarting Haman's diabolical plan and saving our people. By coincidence, Thursday (March 8) was not only Purim, but also the International Women's Day, a global day celebrating the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future.

Am Israel has many women in its history that are a source of pride and testament to the central role of women in our religion, tradition and ancient Jewish society. Hopefully, among our younger generation are the future women leaders of Am Israel.



WIZO South Africa
Yvonne Jawitz

This is why we stand together with women everywhere who abhor calls in sections of Israeli society for women to sit in the back of the bus and who want to forbid women singing in army concerts.

These women, forbidden to sing to mixed audiences, may very well be the six women who recently graduated as pilots in the IDF. How ironic that they may fly but may not sing.

WIZO aligns itself with women's issues, whenever they need support ranging from abuse and breast cancer to human trafficking and honour killings.

All these issues feature in its WIZO awareness calendar. The empowerment of women in Israel is very much a part of WIZO's "raison d'être". Counselling women to have a better self image, supporting women in abusive situations, teaching simple parenting and life skills all have far-reaching effects in society, in the most positive ways.

Queen Esther was a true example of women's courage and strength. We are able to look back throughout Jewish history at the marvels women are capable of.

Michal Modai encouraged women to be their best and made sure they had the tools with which to do so. May Michal (of blessed memory) rest in peace and may the torch she carried be passed on to WIZO women throughout the world.

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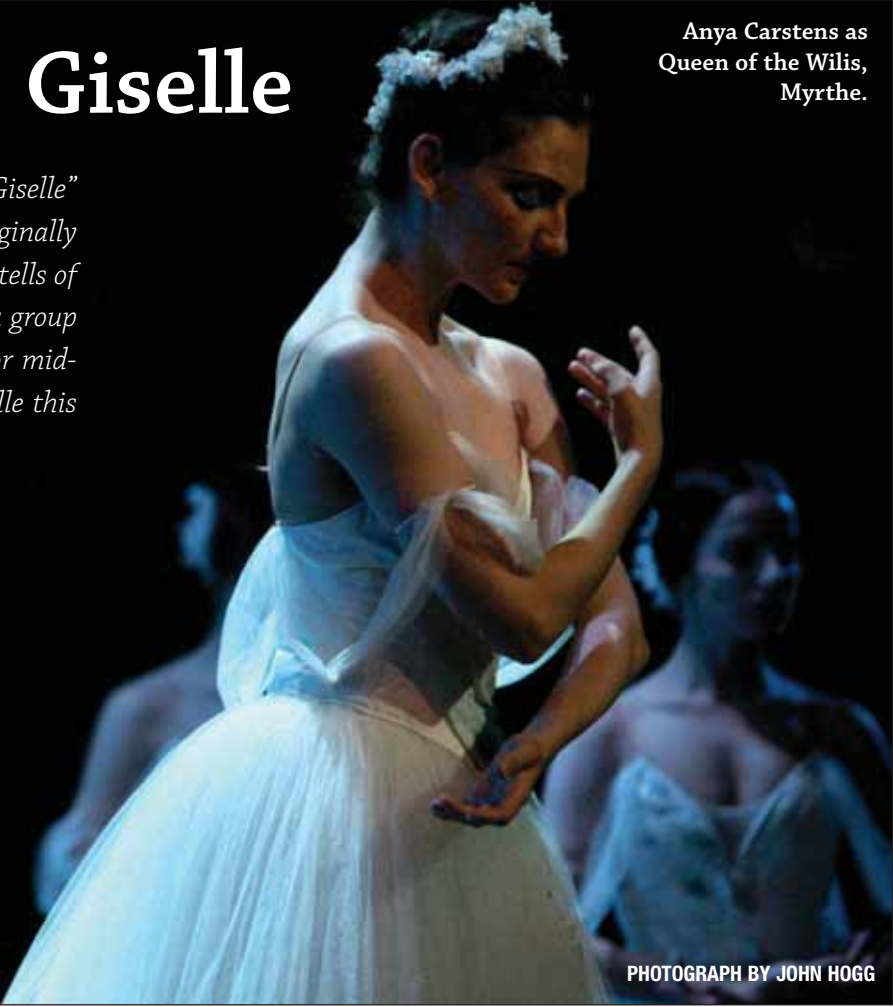
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It is situated at No 1 Long Avenue,
Glenhazel Centre, upstairs from
KosherWorld. Tel: (011) 440-4933/6330

SA Ballet performs Adam’s Giselle

Anya Carstens as Queen of the Wilis, Myrthe.

Accompanied by the Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, SA Ballet Theatre performs “Giselle” from April 12. This Rhineland-based ballet in two acts to music by Adolphe Adam was originally choreographed by Jean Coralli and Jules Perrot, inspired by a poem by Heinrich Heine. It tells of a peasant girl who dies prematurely. Her ghost protects her lover from the vengeance of a group of evil female spirits called Wilis. The SABT’s 20 planned performances are scheduled for mid-morning, afternoon and evening sessions. Cape Town City Ballet will also perform Giselle this season, April 13-22 at Artscape Opera House.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN HOGG

Good reads

Reviewed by Gwen Podbrey

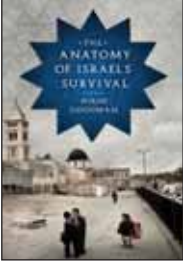
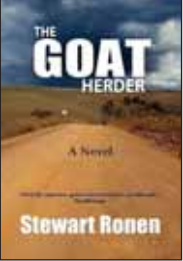
ENTANGLEMENT BY STEVEN BOYKEY SIDLEY (PICADOR AFRICA, R200)

Physicist Jared Borowitz is in a crisis. Disgusted by the ignorance and sentimentality of the world, dismayed by his wife’s abandonment of him for a lesbian lifestyle and perturbed by his discovery that he enjoys physical violence, he is falling apart. However, during a weekend in the country, Borowitz finds himself at the centre of a chain of events which strip him and those around him of all pretences, forcing him to reconsider many of his assumptions about science, art, relationships, sex and destiny. A novel which admirably balances philosophical and metaphysical enquiry with satire and contemporary moral issues. Highly recommended.

- Sidley talks on Entanglement at RCHCC, Oaklands, on March 22 at 19:30. Call (011) 782-8088.

THE ULTIMATE BOOK OF HEROIC FAILURES BY STEPHEN PILE (FABER AND FABER, R200)

Success is all very well - but it is not nearly as entertaining (or instructive) as failure. In this hilarious compilation of some of the world’s most spectacular blunders, Pile offers gems, such as the radio commercial of the Royal Canadian Legion (an organisation for ex-servicemen from the Second



World War) for its 2005 lottery. The commercial was proudly played for the first time - but hastily pulled off the air when the radio station realised that its background music was the Horst Wessel Lied, the anthem of the Nazi Party. The piece had been unwittingly selected from a tape of random, untitled marches by the Legion’s 20-something media director, who - unaware of its history - thought it was “stirring”. SABC, rest easy: not even you have yet stumbled so badly.

THE GOAT HERDER BY STEWART RONEN (LULU ENTERPRISES, R243)

When Nati, a young Zulu boy, unearths an old photograph of a young white couple holding a baby, he is mesmerised by the woman’s looks and keeps the picture, certain it will play a role in his destiny. He later discovers that it was his elder brother - a convicted thief and rapist - who buried the photograph. After Nati leaves his village for Johannesburg, he finds a job as a gardener for a wealthy Jewish family,

whose daughter looks uncannily like the woman in the picture. Thus begins an intense relationship, complicated by racial tensions, prejudices, unresolved family issues and - above all - culpability resulting from the actions of others. A deftly woven tale which explores the flashpoints just below the surface of SA.

THE ANATOMY OF ISRAEL’S SURVIVAL BY HIRSH GOODMAN (PUBLIC AFFAIRS, R307)

A refreshingly lucid analysis of Israel’s current predicament, as global and internal pressures force its leadership to commit to a model of accommodation with its enemies. Goodman points out that with over 100 countries demanding that a Palestinian state be established within the 1967 borders, socio-political upheaval in Egypt and Syria, continual insurrection from the country’s ultra-Orthodox sector and an uncertain - often illegible - relationship with the US, Israel is at a more perilous crossroads than it has ever faced before. An incisive and invaluable resource.

Lisa Melman: We’re all the poorer for her passing

ROBYN SASSEN



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY ARTSLINK.CO.ZA

Well known and beloved entertainer, Lisa Melman (pictured), considered one of South Africa’s foremost performers, succumbed to cancer on Tuesday. She was 45. Having performed every nun in the musical Nunsense, and starred in everything from Grease to Fame, Melman also did industry and cruise entertainment. She directed and produced a musical celebrating Marilyn Monroe in 2000 in collaboration with David Fleminger. Melman, who friends remember sitting around Habonim campfires with her guitar, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004, while on the Fame cast. It made her look at life anew. It didn’t stop her from performing and was a catalyst to her experiencing as much of life as possible. Born on June 11, 1966, Lisa attended King David Victory Park and Wits University. When she was in grade 11, she lost her mother. Her father died in 2000. Supported by a network of her siblings, cousins and friends, Lisa was relentless in making the most of her life. Described as “one funny gal” and “stubborn, brilliant, talented and brave”, by many, she “hated the thought of being an object of pity. She only ever wanted to surround herself with positive energy; she had no regrets about the decisions she took in her life. She was grateful for the experience which encouraged her to learn so much about herself,” according to Fleminger. In December 2009, a benefit concert was held, organised by Richard Loring and Malcolm Terrey, to help her raise funds for alternative cancer treatments in Germany. At this show, her interpretation of This is My Life, the song made famous by Shirley Bassey, accompanied by Bryan Schimmel on piano, is a powerful testament not only to Melman’s talent, but her courage. Melman leaves her brother Mark and sister Joanne.

Arts in brief

‘REFUSE THE HOUR’ DEBUTS INTERNATIONALLY

From June, “Refuse the Hour” William Kentridge’s collaboration with dancer Dada Masilo (pictured), composer Philip Miller and film editor Catherine Meyburgh, which floored local critics last September, debuts internationally. Recipient of Tel Aviv University’s 2012 Dan David prize for culture, Kentridge collaborated with Harvard history of physics Prof Peter Galison in “The Refusal of Time” an installation about time from which “Refuse the Hour” grew. The former is at Documenta in Kassel, in June. The latter performs in Amsterdam during June before travelling to Avignon in July and Rome and Athens in November.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN HODGKISS.

ORLIN’S ‘DADDY’ RETURNS TO MARKET THEATRE

The hit of this year’s Dance Umbrella that has travelled internationally continuously since its Johannesburg debut in 1998, Robyn Orlin’s “Daddy I’ve Seen This Piece Six Times and I Still Don’t Understand Why They Are Hurting Each Other” by popular demand returns to Johannesburg’s Market Theatre for four weeks from April 11. Performed by Gerard Bester, Nelisiwe Xaba, Dudu Yende, Toni Morkel and others, the work deconstructs the earnestness of contemporary dance. Orlin is currently choreographing a new work on dancers associated with Moving Into Dance Mophatong, that will debut in Europe; it performs Johannesburg this November.

COHEN DEBUTS AT FESTIVAL D’AVIGNON

Recognised as the pioneer of performance art in South Africa, contemporary dancer-artist-choreographer Steven Cohen debuts at the Festival d’Avignon this July in a new work premised on an unpublished Holocaust diary he found in a Parisian bric-a-brac shop. Entitled “Title Withheld (for legal and ethical reasons)”, the work’s duration is variable. Like Cohen’s previous work, this piece promises to surprise and outrage. This festival, France’s oldest, established in 1947, also features Cohen’s “Cradle of Humankind” which debuted at the Centre Pompidou last year and contemplates Cohen’s African roots, with the collaboration of his former nanny, Nomsa Dhlamini.

TANGO SHOW ON AT OLD MUTUAL THEATRE ON THE SQUARE

Cherry-picked from last year’s Witness Hilton Arts Festival in KwaZulu-Natal, is “From South to South”, an acclaimed tango show at the Old Mutual Theatre on the Square in Sandton, from May 7, for two weeks. Featuring Argentina’s leading tango duo, Ariel Roldan (who also directs) and Cynthia Palacios, accompanied by Nadia Iankova-Loureiro on piano, the show is something of an educational foray into the kaleidoscope of the style, history, costume and sensuality that is tango, and takes the audience from old folk traditions to contemporary tango, with the Argentina guitar, Argentine camera music and costumes stemming from tango’s traditional roots.

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

Today Friday (March 16)
• *UZLC* hosts Cyril Wides who will speak on “A 1960s Immorality Act Court Case With a Jewish Twist”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (March 18)
• *RCHCC* shows the highly acclaimed documentary, “Herb & Dorothy. You don’t Have to Be a Rockefeller to Collect Art”. Time: 19:30. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378. E-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za

Monday (March 19)
• *UJW* hosts Hedy Davis, historian and chief editor of “Memories of Muizenberg” on “Muizenberg - The Story of a Shtetl at The Tip of The African Continent”. Time: 09:30. Donation: R25. Venue: 1 Oak Street Houghton. Contact (011) 648-1053, fax 086-273-3044

Tuesday (March 20)
• *WIZO Cyrildene branch* book sale at Benmore Shopping Centre at 09:30.

Thursday (March 22)
• *RCHCC* hosts Steven Boykey Sidley on his acclaimed debut novel “Entanglement”. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time 19:30. Donation: R70 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René on (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours: (011) 728-8378. E-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za or www.greatpark.co.za

Friday (March 23)
• *UZLC* hosts columnist David Bullard on “18 Years On - Do We Really Live In a Non-Racial South Africa?” Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 – 14:00. Contact Gloria: 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Saturday evening (March 24)
• *Pine Street Shul* has its Pre-Pesach Concert at the shul in Orchards: Time: 20:00 for 20:20. Entrance: R100. Featuring Ezra Sher, Tzvi Gudelsky, Ari Kievman and others. Music: Evelyn Green and Ray Perkel. Beneficiaries: Chabad Seniors Programme and Lubavitch Yeshiva Pretoria. Tickets: Lilly (011) 485-2645 or Ashley (011) 728-6366.

Sunday (March 25)
• *KDSF* is hosting a performance of the hit Broadway musical “The Last Five Years”, starring ex-Davidian Talia Kodesh with Niall Griffin and directed by ex-Davidian Gina Shmukler. Venue: Montecasino Studio Theatre. Time: 18:00. A light supper will be served before the show. Tickets: R250. To book: Carly Mervis at mervisc@sabje.co.za or (011) 480-4710.
• *Second Innings* hosts The Russel Singers (Choir) in “Across the Footlights”. Venue: Gerald Horwitz Lounge, Golden Acres. Time: 10:00 for 10:30.

Monday (March 26)
• Metzuyan Quiz Night at *Metzuyan* in Rosebank. The quiz, with quizmaster Kevin Bonner, covers a range of topics from history to science and nature, movies, sport, music, current events etc. Teams of 4-8. Time: 19:30. Cost: R35pp. Prizes to be won. Early booking is essential. Call or SMS Larry on 082-888-5355”.

Tuesday (March 27)
• *WIZO Forum* hosts Dr Jonathan Broomberg, CEO of Discovery Health, who will speak on “Health Issues in 2012”. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 09:30. Enquiries: Gertie (011) 646-1478.

Wednesday (March 28)
• *Balfour Park Parkinson’s Disease Support Group* meeting in the boardroom of Randjes Estate, Highlands North. Time: 10:00. Jane Khedeyer, Sandton Support Group leader of the Depression and Anxiety Society, will speak on depression, which is a common problem in Parkinson’s Disease. Information:

Rosemary Burke (011) 640-391.
• *WIZO Meir Szold* screening of the film “The Black Book”. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Cost: R40. Information: Sandy (011) 645-2515.
• *RCHCC* is hosting best-selling author and speaker Chris van Wyk on his books “Shirley Goodness and Mercy” and “Eggs to Lay, Chickens to Hatch”, introduced by Prof David Medalie. Time: 19:30. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378. E-mail: hazelc@greatpark.co.za or renes@greatpark.co.za
• *UJW CT adult education division* hosts author Mike Nicol, on “Nelson Mandela and the Three Warders”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Thursday (March 29)
• Fundraiser quiz for *SAUJS* at Colony Arms. The quiz covers a range of topics from history to science and nature, movies, sport, music, current events etc. Teams of 4-8. Time: 19:30. Cost R35pp. Prizes to be won. Early booking is essential. To book call or SMS Larry on 082-888-5355.
• *UJW CT’s Constantia Group* is having “Breakfast Under the Trees” with Jonathan Nkala and Faith in Love. Cost: R120. Enquiries: J Poswell: 083-446-2535.

Monday (April 2)
• *Bnoth Zion WIZO* hosts leading Israeli businesswoman and talk-show host Galia Albin, who will launch the 2012-2013 Women’s Biennial Zionist Campaign. Her mission is to influence and empower women throughout the world and to strengthen the Jewish-Zionist identity. Time: 19:45. Venue: Sephardi Shul Hall, Sea Point. Cost: R40.

CROSSWORD NO 5

By Leah Simon

ACROSS

- 1. Western snake can sting badly (4)
- 3. Civic head hurries – and punishes (8)
- 8. Trade leader in French street? That’s accurate! (4)
- 9. Gave a short account of damaged seeds – and got in (8)
- 11. Scraping the bottom of the barrel to stand in for actors! (12)
- 13. Take right turn to run naked (6)
- 14. Arranges letters for the charms (6)
- 17. Come to an end for the artist (4, 2, 1, 5)
- 20. Curb lice somehow – and get container that withstands high temperatures (8)
- 21. When in Rome, let it be done! (4)
- 22. Mere deed redone and saved (8)
- 23. Silver for editor is old (4)

- spinning wheel! (7)
- 16. Short military man tells fib for dog (6)
- 18. Hide French one in stick that’s circular (5)
- 19. Southern vehicle marks old wound (4)

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD NO 4

ACROSS

- 1. Sock; 3. Dressage; 8. Alto; 9. Assuring; 11. Death warrant; 13. Upsets; 14. Plaice; 17. Beauty queens; 20. Eventual; 21. Halo; 22. Interest; 23. Odes.

DOWN

- 1. Stands up; 2. Cutlass; 4. Rascal; 5. Scurrilous; 6. Alien; 7. Edge; 10. Shot putter; 12. Pensions; 15. Iceland; 16. Bylaws; 18. Event; 19. Yeti.

DOWN

- 1. Nanny’s a bit of a sucker – or a drip, at any rate! (3, 5)
- 2. Penny rushed around – makes one tremble in horror (7)
- 4. Gauche cat easily hides witch (6)
- 5. Yet escaped, somehow, at a consistent speed (6, 4)
- 6. Result from a measure for Susan (5)
- 7. Maquis de ———, French torturer (4)
- 10. I threw gate around for shark (5, 5)
- 12. Agreed – like it was delivered to newspaper head (8)
- 15. Appearing on horizon of

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
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COMMUNITY RABBI

The Camps Bay Hebrew Congregation in Camps Bay, Cape Town, seeks a new dynamic rabbinical couple to lead the congregation.

An attractive market-related remuneration package commensurate with the role, is being offered.

THE ROLE

- Facilitate the growth and spiritual advancement of the congregation through your inspiring leadership, uplifting teaching and dynamic personality.
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- Ensure a broad range and high standard of youth and children’s services, adults and seniors activities, active engagements with our female members, interesting learning programmes and regular calendar events.
 - Keep our community updated on current political and religious affairs in Israel.
- Play a meaningful role in the growth and upliftment of the broader Cape Town Jewish community and represent Camps Bay in Cape Town and South African Jewish matters.

PERSONALITY CHARACTERISTICS

- You are a dynamic and inspirational speaker, a learned teacher and an empathetic counsellor.
- Personal warmth, strong interpersonal skills and an ability to develop rapport across all age groups and genders.
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 - High energy and outcome-focused; you are committed and deliver.
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All applications will be replied to and will be treated with the strictest of confidence.

YC celebrates Purim with fancy dress and flair

OWN CORRESPONDENT PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

The day started with the children from playschool to matric arriving in fancy dress in celebration of Purim.

The costumes were outstanding and lots of fun and effort were put into many of them.

After a meaningful davening, the primary school learners joined the high school learners for an

inspirational Megillah reading by Rabbi Zev Weinberg.

Prior to the Megillah reading, Rabbi “Batman” Laurence Perez addressed the schools. He explained the idea of dressing up like heroes to relate to the heroes of the Megillah, Mordechai and Esther. He called on everyone present to find the hero within themselves and to create everyday miracles. Each school then went on to do their own Purim activities.



Rabbi “Batman” Laurence Perez addresses all the learners in shul at Yeshiva College’s Purim celebrations.



The grade R girls at King David Sandton Primary School. Back: Tracey Behrmann; Kiara Chananie; Danielle Hirson; Sophia Rovetti; Demi Treger; Jolie Kotzin; and Ruth Wittels. Front: Zara Abramsohn; Shira Ephron; Amber Galaun; Allegra Berman; Kayla Symanowitz; Yael Jean; and Rachel Smith

Carnival Purim atmosphere at KDS Primary School

GILLIAN HORWITZ, PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPH: ARNALDO MANDEL

The mitzvah of Purim was

fulfilled by Rabbi Ze’ev Kraines reading the Megillah which put everybody into a celebratory mood to enjoy the carnival held on King David

Primary School, Sandton’s campus. All the teachers and learners dressed up to keep in the spirit of Purim.

All dressed up for Purim

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY YAEL RABIN

Children at Chabad Fourways Jewish Montessori Pre-School, are seen enjoying being dressed up for Purim.

Pictured are James Levine; Jordyn Carreira; Mendel Rabin; and Yoni Schewitz.



Michael Levenstein; Ryan Kramer; Jenna Hertz; Hanna Ben-Moshe; and Kyle Kretzmer.

HANNA BEN-MOSHE PHOTOGRAPH: YAEL GORDON

King David High School Victory Park celebrated Purim as ‘The Best Fun Day of The Year’. The reading of

the Megillah in the morning was followed by a fancy dress parade, for which the learners dressed up with creativity and originality.

There were three excellent Purim plays, presented by the grade

9s (all in Hebrew), the matrics and the teachers. The enthusiasm and involvement of learners of all grades, and the staff, contributed to the magical vibe and spirit of the day.

Purim at KDHSVP - ‘best fun day of the year’

Purim fun at Pine Street Playschool

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY HAILEY FOX

Gabriella Seymour and Chase Goodman get into the Purim spirit by dressing-up, singing songs and baking Hamantashen at school.

They ended off their day by giving mishloach manot to their friends and charity to the less fortunate.



A Wild West Purim party at KDPSVP

SAMANTHA MAKIN PHOTOGRAPH: JANNIE LE ROUX

Purim was celebrated on Thursday March 8 at King David Victory

Park Primary School, with the theme, “The Wild Wild West”. The day was celebrated with Megillah reading, barn dancing, crafts and hamantashen baking. Great fun was had by all on the day.



Jessica MacGregor, Sihle Ngumbela and Denica Stolz.

TA tots get into Purim spirit

OWN CORRESPONDENT PHOTOGRAPH: SUZANNE BELLING

An exciting Purim programme was held at the Torah Academy Nursery School when children and their teachers dressed up for a costume parade; there was the swapping of shalach manos; music; candy floss and a mock Megillah.

Pictured are two “Queen Esthers”: Avigayil Waks and Tehilla Bacher.



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With gratitude to Hashem, Mark and Lauri announce the arrival of a precious boy on March 5 in Toronto, grandchild to Solly and Bernice Wainberg, Roy and Les Cohen.

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swainberg@rogers.com

WAINER DENNIS

Beloved, cherished and adored father, grandfather and great-grandfather to Olivia. Dad, you were a man of integrity, courage and fortitude. You were so highly respected and honoured in the whole of the Jewish community to which you devoted so much time and effort. Rest peacefully. Your children Merle, Les, Elana, Jody, David and Tali (Sydney Australia) and Greg, Jann and Olivia Barron (Jhb).

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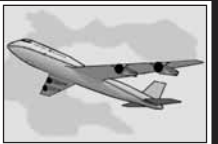
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News in brief

REPORT: EGYPT HAS BROKERED ISRAEL-HAMAS
CEASEFIRE

CAIRO - Egyptian officials told Reuters late on Monday they had brokered a truce between Israel and Hamas to end four days of cross-border fire between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

The Reuters report quoted unnamed Egyptian officials. Neither Hamas nor Israel would confirm the report, and the terms of the truce were unclear.

Militant groups in Gaza launched a barrage of rockets at Israel last week Friday after Israel assassinated Zuhair Qaisi, leader of the Popular Resistance Committees in Gaza, which the Israel Defence Forces believed was planning a terrorist strike in Israel.

More than 150 rockets were launched, injuring eight civilians in Israel, including one who was severely wounded.

Israeli authorities said the Iron Dome anti-missile system intercepted 90 per cent of the missiles, including 28 out of 31 long-range Grad rockets targeting major Israeli cities such as Beersheba, Ashdod and Ashkelon.

At least 25 Palestinians, including a 14-year-old, were killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza.

The IDF Home Front Command ordered schools closed again on Monday in cities and towns located up to 40 kilometres from the Gaza border, affecting about 200 000 children, after being closed last Sunday.

Classes at colleges and universities in the area also were closed. (JTA)

EX-MOSSAD HEAD DAGAN: ISRAEL SHOULD WAIT ON
IRAN ATTACK

JERUSALEM - Former Mossad chief Meir Dagan says Israel should hold off on attacking Iran and that he would "prefer" that the United States execute any attack.

Dagan also said in an interview aired last Sunday on the CBS news programme "60 Minutes" that he feared an Israeli strike on Iran would lead to a regional war that would see at least 50 000 missiles fired on Israel from Hezbollah in the north and Hamas in the south.

"It will be a devastating impact on our ability to continue with our daily life. I think that Israel will be in a very serious situation for quite a time," Dagan told Lesley Stahl. "And wars, you know how they start. You never know how you are ending it."

Dagan began the interview by saying: "An attack on Iran before you are exploring all other approaches is not the right way how to do it."

He added: "No doubt that the Iranian regime is maybe not exactly rational based on what I call Western thinking, but no doubt they are considering all the implications of their actions. They will have to pay dearly and all the consequences for it."

One sign of the Iranians' forward thinking, Dagan said, was how they stalled through diplomacy.

Dagan pointed out that a nuclear Iran was an international problem, not solely an Israeli one. Thus he believes that the United States could be the ones to attack Iran's nuclear programme.

"If I prefer that somebody will do it, I always prefer that Americans will do it," he said.

Dagan added that an attack would not halt Iran's nuclear programme, only delay it, and asserted that there were dozens of sites throughout the country, not the four that were spoken about publicly. (JTA)

TWEETED PHOTOS CLAIMING CURRENT GAZA VIO-
LENCE ARE REFUTED

JERUSALEM - Two photos tweeted as being the result of Israeli airstrikes in Gaza in the recent round of violence, have been proven false.

One photo, showing a dead Palestinian girl covered in blood in the arms of her father, was tweeted by Khulood Badawi, who was identified by Honest Reporting as the information and media co-ordinator for the United Nations Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs. It also was tweeted by Diana Alzeer.

"Palestine is bleeding... another father killed by #Israel... another father carrying his child to a grave in #Gaza," Badawi's tweet posted on March 10 reads. It has been retweeted at least 300 times.

The picture was refuted by tweeter Avi Mayer, who identified it as a 2006 Reuters photo, and that the girl had died in an accident, according to Honest Reporting. Alzeer later tweeted an apology.

Another photo uploaded to Facebook by Maissam Nablussi on March 11 and later tweeted by Gaza Youth Break Out, showing an explosion in Gaza, was identified as "Gaza Under Attack Today". In reality the photo was taken by Reuters in 2009 during Operation Cast Lead. (JTA)

CONSIDER NAVAL BLOCKADE OF IRAN, SENATE
LEADER LEVIN SAYS

WASHINGTON - An international naval blockade of Iranian oil exports should be considered as an option to stop Iran's nuclear programme, US Sen Carl Levin has said.

Levin (Democrat Michigan), chairman of the US Senate Armed Services Committee, said in an interview last Saturday with C-SPAN that the blockade should be considered before utilising airstrikes. He said the blockade would put additional pressure on Iran to stop its suspected nuclear weapons programme.

He also said that imposing a no-fly zone over Iran could prove to be "very effective" and "I think (these are) options that whoever is willing to participate should explore, including Israel and including the United States."

Israel has threatened to launch a military strike on Iran's nuclear sites in a matter of weeks or months, according to reports. (JTA)

Israel’s Nakash could be ‘Last Man Standing’

When it comes to boxing innovations, nobody in South Africa does it better than Rodney Berman. Starting on June 16 his company, Golden Gloves, will be holding the first round of the Super 8 “Last Man Standing” competition.

JACK MILNER

It is a tournament restricted to cruiser-weights and they will fight against one another until there is literally, just one man left standing.

The final round will be staged in November and the winner will walk away with R200 000 and the runner-up with R120 000.

The question is: Who will be the last man standing out of Zack Mwekassa, Daniel Allotey, Johnny Muller, Danie Venter, Flo Simba, Daniel Bruwer, Thabiso Mchunu, Tshephang Mohale, Ruben Groenewald and Ran Nakash?

While the majority of the fighters are South African, Nakash is Israeli and could very well be the No 1 seed for the event.

As pointed out by Corey Erdman of Ring TV Radio, Nakash isn’t afraid to go to war in order to get another shot at a cruiserweight title. In fact, he’s quite the authority on the subject.

The 33-year-old former title challenger also happens to be the chief commander and head instructor of the Israeli Defence Forces’ Krav Maga instructional division.

When he’s not preparing for a bout, Nakash is teaching soldiers in Israel how to be deadly street fighters.

“Krav Maga is a system of self-defence. And I use the word system and not martial art, because there is no ‘art’ to Krav Maga. There is one goal, namely to stay alive, that’s it,” explains Nakash.

“Muay Thai, karate... it’s (all) good. But if you want the system to fight outside in the street, it’s Krav Maga. You become a fighting machine.”

Nakash (25-1, 18 knockouts) heads up his division with the IDF twice a week at home in Israel, during time not spent training in his new fighting discipline of boxing, which he took up five years ago.

Due to his late start in the sport, he’s never been the most refined of pugilists. Seldom will he take a backward step, as it’s not in his nature to shy away from danger.

He describes brawling on the inside as “his game”, but he cannot use the form that he’s a worldwide authority on during a boxing match, as low-blows, elbows to the back of the head and eye-gouging would result in point deductions, or disqualification.



Israeli boxer Ran Nakash (centre) could be in action at Rodney Berman’s Super 8 that kicks off in June this year.

“Only mentally,” says Nakash of the one element of Krav Maga he can put to use while boxing. “Go all the way.”

After 25 wins, Nakash stepped up in class and went all the way to the final bell with WBO titleholder Marco Huck last April. The challenger gave Huck more turbulence than he has been used to during his title reign - perhaps enough to warrant better scores than the lopsided results two judges turned in (scores of 116-112 and 118-110 twice).

“They didn’t give me any rounds. If you saw the fight, I won the first five (rounds). Even the guys that worked at the fight for EuroSport - I’d never met them - but even they said after the fight that it was crazy,” claims Nakash. “But listen, this is Germany. I

know the game. This is Germany, and if you don’t win with a KO, you lose.”

Even if he hadn’t turned in an impressive effort, he can be forgiven, as he took the bout on short notice. Since then, he’s taken a more measured approach for his next bout, moving his training camp to Canada, where he visits a new gym every day in southern Ontario to get varied sparring.

Before he embarks on his sparring tour, though, he wakes up at his base in Toronto, puts in the requisite roadwork, and chops wood in the snowy forest.

“It’s horrible,” joked Nakash. “I’m from Tel Aviv. Tel Aviv is a desert. The worst winter day, you can go T-shirt and a jacket, that’s it. Here, the day before it was minus 15.”



Cricket great Graeme Pollock will be the guest speaker at Maccabi Stag in Johannesburg on March 29.

Pollock to speak at Maccabi Stag

There have been many superb left-handed batsmen in cricket over the years, but there are few who could match the majestic talent of Graeme Pollock. As an 18-year-old he was setting the cricketing world alight which was quite an achievement in the 1960s.

JACK MILNER

Donald Bradman was one of the people who rated him the finest left-hand batsman the game has ever produced, who rated only Garry Sobers as his equal among those he saw play. Deprived of greater exposure by South Africa’s isolation during his playing time, Pollock showed in his 23 Tests what an awesome talent he possessed; his highest score of 274 for many years was the South African Test record.

Pollock scored his maiden first-class cen-

tury when he was just 16 and then posted his first Test hundred at age 19 in Australia.

There has been a lot of turmoil in South African cricket of late and Pollock will help shed some light on what is happening in the boardroom and the changeroom, when he speaks at Maccabi Stag on Thursday, March 29.

The talk will take place at Beyachad in Raedene at 17:30. The cost is R100 and includes a finger supper. For catering purposes, please confirm your attendance. Contact: tel: (011) 645-2557; fax: (011) 458-1011; e-mail: maccabisa@beyachad.co.za

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