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(page 12)

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Labelling: SAJBD makes its final submission

DAVID SAKS

In the latest development regarding the Department of Trade and Industry's controversial move to relabel Israeli products emanating from Jewish enclaves in the West Bank, the SAJBD has made another formal submission detailing its objections to the measure.

This follows Minister of Trade and Industry Rob Davies' issuing of a Final Notice a month ago, in which the public was invited to submit their comments within a prescribed 30-day period.

In making the submission, the Board clearly specified that its comments specifically did not address the technical irregularities in the notice, but this was not to be interpreted as an abandonment of its right to do so at later stage, should the notice find its way into law.

The latest version of the notice uses the term "Israeli Occupied Territory" when describing the relevant products, whereas the original version has it as "Occupied Palestinian Territories".

It significantly extends the scope of the original legislation to include not only complete products originating in the West Bank, but even in cases where the raw

material used to produce the goods originated there.

It lists Gaza along with the West Bank and East Jerusalem as being "Israeli Occupied Territory", even though seven years have now passed since Israel withdrew in toto both its military forces and Jewish residents from Gaza.

The SAJBD's submission lists two essential requirements for the proposed measures to be regarded as acceptable. It accepted that it was technically incorrect to label products emanating from the West Bank as being products of Israel and consequently did not object to their being relabelled so as to more accurately denote their place of origin.

However, such labelling should be "politically neutral, technical and descriptive". The term "Made in Israeli Occupied Territory" had the effect of politicising what was "supposedly a technical, trade issue relating to consumer protection".

Describing even the West Bank in such terms, moreover, was historically and legally questionable, but in the case of Gaza it was entirely incorrect. As currently worded, moreover, the notice contravened the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Rules of Origin, which specifically required that

rules of origin be "prepared and applied in an impartial, transparent, predictable, consistent and neutral manner".

It also would fall foul of the requirement that rules of origin should be so applied as not to create unnecessary obstacles to trade.

The second main requirement in the Board's submission was that labelling legislation should not discriminate but should apply consistently to all of South Africa's trading partners.

In its current form, the notice was discriminatory, and was inconsistent both with South African trade policy and WTO regulations.

It was therefore suggested the new policy should apply uniformly and consistently to all disputed territories, not singling out Israel or another country for differential, unfavourable treatment.

In concluding, the Board recorded its "disappointment" that this Final Notice was issued without waiting for relevant stakeholders to submit their "minimum requirements", as agreed at the recent Parliamentary Portfolio Committee hearings. Had these submissions been taken into account beforehand, the objections it had to the Notice might have been addressed.



IDF ex-Chief of Staff on trial in Turkish court

A Turkish court has begun a trial of four high-ranking Israeli officers in absentia for their involvement in the 2010 Gaza Flotilla incident.

The trial, which commenced on November 6, is likely to further strain relations between the former regional allies. Israel has rebuffed Turkish demands for an apology over the May 2010 incident in which Israeli commandoes killed nine activists – including eight Turks and one Turkish – American, who violently attacked the commandoes as they bordered the ship, Mavi Marmara, headed for Gaza.

Pictured is former IDF Chief of Staff Gabi Ashkenazi visiting the Communications & Computers Branch School. Photo: IDF.(JNS.org)

Jewish community benefits from Patrice Motsepe's generosity

"From the Jewish community's point of view," said Rabbi Warren Goldstein, "it is about the fact that we are recognised by broader society in this way."

2

GOLDSTUCK: Online video: the experience is here

"Two worlds are coming together," says consulting systems engineer Bilal Sherrief, "A world of content and a world of visual communications." The revolution, it seems, will not be on video. It will be video

5

REBECCA HODES: Jewish dissent in SA's public sphere

I feel embarrassed by SA Jews who profess they have the right to proclaim on my behalf, and who create social networking groups, which they use to spout racist, Islamophobic hatred.

6

UN bid finds Palestinian leadership between rock and hard place

Palestinian Authority Pres Mahmoud Abbas "is at wit's end", said Nathan Brown, a political science expert. "Building from the ground up has run its course."

3



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Nov 16 / 2 Kislev
Nov 17 / 3 Kislev
Parshat Toldot

18:15	19:10	Johannesburg
18:15	20:07	Cape Town
18:13	19:06	Durban
18:20	19:24	Bloemfontein
18:05	19:38	Port Elizabeth
18:15	19:27	East London

KASHRUT ALERT

NUT HOUSE REMAINS UNDER BETH DIN SUPERVISION

The kashrut department of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues announces that The Nut House in Glenhazel, under new management, will remain under Beth Din supervision.

Read the South African Jewish Report online

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Never give up

Little Yankel watched, fascinated, as his mother shmeared cleanser on her face. “Why do you do that, Mommy?” he asked. “To make myself beautiful,” said his mother, who then began removing it with a tissue. “What’s the matter?” asked little Yankel, “giving up?”

In this week’s parsha, we read that “G-d accepted his [Yitzchak’s] prayers, and his wife Rivkah conceived.”

We have already learned that both Yitzchak and Rivkah were praying for a child. If so, why did Hashem respond to Yitzchak’s prayers and not hers? Rashi explains that it was because the prayer of a tzaddik who is the child of a tzaddik (Yitzchak) is superior to the prayer of a tzaddik who is the child of a wicked person (Rivkah).

For many years I wondered how

this could be. The Talmud teaches that a Ba’al Teshuvah (person who changes his/her life and begins to follow the Torah) is greater than a tzaddik (a person who has always followed the Torah), because the Ba’al Teshuvah has so many additional difficulties to overcome. If so, Rivkah should be greater than Yitzchak, and it is her prayer that should have brought a favourable response from Hashem?


The Torah describes Yitzchak as praying “opposite his wife”, which could be understood to mean that he prayed for the opposite of that for which Rivkah prayed. Rivkah’s prayer was: “Hashem, my husband is such a great tzaddik and the son of a tzaddik; he deserves a child.”

Yitzchak prayer was: “Hashem, my wife grew up in the home of wicked people (Betuel and Lavan),

yet she is righteous; she deserves a child.”

In other words, both Yitzchak and Rivkah prayed that they would be blessed with a child - in the merit of the other. And Hashem accepted Yitzchak’s prayer and blessed them with children in the merit of Rivkah, who was an extraordinary Ba’alat Teshuvah, and therefore greater than Yitzchak, a humble tzaddik.

Apart from resolving my question, I find this answer to be quite inspirational, especially in the sphere of a Jewish marriage. We see that Hashem treasures each one of us - husband and wife, son and daughter, male and female - our spiritual value depends on how we handle the mission and challenges Hashem presents to us. We see that husband and wife,



PARSHAT TOLDOT

Rabbi Aharon Rose,
Waverley Shul

Yitzchak and Rivkah, shared the same goals and dreams. We see that they both davened - neither left it to the other to get the job done. Perhaps most importantly, we see the high esteem in which both Yitzchak and Rivkah held their spouse - each viewed the other as spiritually greater.

And we learn if you want something, never give up; Yitzchak and Rivkah prayed for 10 years before they were blessed with a child!

Have a joyous and inspirational Shabbat!

Jewish community benefits from Patrice Motsepe’s generosity

OWN CORRESPONDENT

In what he describes as a very large luncheon, hosted earlier this week, at the Sandton Convention Centre, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein received R300 000 from local mining magnate Patrice Motsepe (pictured), in the name of SA Jewry.

“Motsepe distributed R10 million to charities around the country, to religious and traditional leadership in the context of their organisations and projects. He wanted to include the Jewish community in this initiative, to recognise the important role we play in South Africa, both communally and on personal levels,” he said.

This money originated from Motsepe’s company, African Rainbow Minerals’ economic empowerment trust established in 2005 with the aim of funding local development, embracing welfare, community and anti-poverty initiatives.

“The event, which allowed me to spend valuable time with my inter-faith colleagues and appreciate how warmly I am received by Catholic Archbishop, Boetie Thlagale and Anglican Archbishop Thabo Makgoba, as well as the leadership of the Dutch Reformed Church and Zionist Christian Church communities, began with opening prayers from practitioners of the different faiths and featured speeches and presentations, explain-



ing how Motsepe’s donations amounting to some R85 million have been distributed since 2007.

“The same sum of money donated to our community was given to the Catholic, Anglican as well as the Muslim communities,” he added, explaining that the guest list at the event included King Goodwill Zwelethini, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Cosatu General Secretary Zwelinzima Vavi and others, and that larger sums of money went to rural development trusts based on the provinces, totalling close to R1 million

each.

“I am to distribute these funds at my own discretion,” he added. “This still needs to be worked out, but Jewish-led humanitarian projects which are making important gestures in the local economic landscape, will take priority.

“From the Jewish community’s point of view, it is less about the sum of money and more about the fact that we are recognised by broader society in this way. Significantly, it symbolises that we are part of everything that is happening in this country.”

World News in Brief

ROCKETS FROM GAZA HIT ISRAEL FOR THIRD DAY

JERUSALEM - Rockets fired from Gaza continued to hit southern Israel for a third day, despite Egyptian officials’ attempts to mediate a ceasefire.

One rocket, of the more than 110 that have struck Israel’s south since last Saturday night, on Monday landed in the yard of a home in Netivot, damaging the home, and two neighbouring homes, leaving 20 people requiring treatment for shock.

Two rockets fired at the city of Ashkelon were intercepted by the Iron Dome anti-missile system on Monday. A rocket fired on Sunday hit a home in Sderot.

Three rockets hit Israel on Sunday; Israel’s military retaliated with attacks on what it called a terror tunnel and a weapon storage facility in the northern Gaza Strip, as well as a launching site in the southern Gaza Strip. Direct hits were confirmed according to the military. Five more rockets were fired at Israel on Monday.

No rockets were fired overnight from Sunday to Monday after Egypt claimed to have negotiated a ceasefire agreement between Israel and the Palestinians whereby quiet would be met with quiet. But while Hamas reportedly said it would hold its fire, Islamic Jihad continued to fire on southern Israel communities, leading Israel to retaliate.

At least six Palestinians reportedly have been killed in retaliatory Israeli airstrikes on what the Israel Defence Forces called “terror activity sites”.

The rocket fire began last Saturday night and continued throughout Sunday. A factory in Sderot was hit on Sunday morning; several buildings and two cars in the Sha’ar Hanegev municipality were damaged. At least three Israelis have been wounded. Taking responsibility for the attacks, the terrorist group Islamic Jihad said it shot more than 70 rockets at Israel between Saturday night and Sunday morning, the Palestinian Maan news agency reported.

Maan also reported that at least six Palestinians had been killed in Israeli retaliation on what the IDF said were weapon manufacturing facilities, weapon storage facilities and rocket-launching sites.

The Iron Dome anti-missile system intercepted a rocket heading for the major Israeli city of Ashdod on Saturday and a rocket targeting Beersheba on Sunday.

Schools throughout southern Israel were closed Sunday.

“The firing [of rockets] has been relentless today,” Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak told journalists on Sunday. “As far as Israel is concerned, Hamas is responsible for the rocket fire and all other attempts to harm our soldiers and civilians [from Gaza], even when other groups participate. And it is Hamas that will pay the heavy price.”

Barak added that Israel “will strike with an ever-growing intensity”.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday: “The world must understand Israel will not sit with its hands crossed.”

On Saturday, four Israeli soldiers were injured when an anti-tank missile hit an IDF jeep patrolling the security fence in the northern Gaza Strip.

The IDF responded on Saturday night by targeting several of what it called “terror activity sites” in Gaza, leaving four Palestinians dead and dozens wounded. The rocket attacks and Israeli retaliation continued on Sunday morning, killing two more Palestinian Gazans. (JTA)

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UN bid finds Palestinian leadership between rock and hard place

RON KAMPEAS
WASHINGTON

The arguments for and against the latest Palestinian bid for statehood status at the United Nations, come down to which is the faster path to irrelevancy.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation is seeking a diplomatic victory to preserve the legitimacy of its affiliated PA in the face of a fiscal crisis and a resurgent Hamas. But any success at the UN is likely to trigger punitive measures by Israel and the United States that could exacerbate the PLO's isolation.

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas "is at wit's end", said Nathan Brown, a political science professor at George Washington University in Washington, whose expertise is the Palestinians. "This is being driven by the absence of any viable alternative."

The PA was hitting a dead end in setting up statehood infrastructure,

Brown said. "Building from the ground up has run its course. This seems one of the few places he can still act."

But the Palestinians' strategy is not without its drawbacks. The move is opposed by both the US and Israel, where officials have warned of punitive measures should the Palestinians go ahead with the application.

Israel Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz, has said he will stop transferring tax revenues to the cash-strapped PA if the UN bid succeeds, while American lawmakers say it could jeopardise the millions in annual American aid to the PA.

President Barack Obama reiterated American opposition to the move in a call with Abbas last Sunday, the first since his re-election.

"This could be calamitous for the Palestinians themselves," said Michael Oren, Israel's ambassador to Washington. "It would not get them closer to real statehood."

"It would create unrealistic expectations on the ground and it would call into question a number of agreements Israel has with the PA and not with the state of Palestine."

Maen Areikat, the PLO envoy to Washington, said achieving statehood status would actually help preserve the two-state solution.

"In the face of the continued Israeli settlement activities and the confiscation of land, the chances of establishing a Palestinian state next to Israel, are fading and the international community is not doing anything to hold Israel accountable, especially the United States."

The Palestinians have been down this road before, but the current bid is more modest than last year's quest for full inclusion as a UN member state, which is subject to full Security Council approval.

A draft now circulating, grants the PLO non-member state observer status, defining Palestine as a

state within the 1967 lines, but not granting it full inclusion. The resolution needs only to be adopted by the larger General Assembly, where the Palestinians are believed to have a majority in their favour.

On Monday, Abbas said he would submit the bid on November 29 - the 65th anniversary of the 1947 UN vote calling for two states, one Jewish and one Arab, in Palestine. Israel accepted the plan while the Palestinians and other Arabs rejected it, launching a war against the nascent Jewish state.

Areikat says recognition would provide Palestinians the basis with which to return to talks, which they abandoned two years after Israel refused to freeze settlement building. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wants the Palestinians



Mahmoud Abbas addressing UN General Assembly, September 25.

to return to talks without preconditions. Areikat said such calls were not substantive without an outline of an acceptable outcome for the Palestinians.

"We have an Israeli prime minister who for the last four years has been focused on Iran and not dealing with the Palestinians," he said. "The aim is not to delegitimise Israel and end co-operation. On the contrary, after we get recognition within the 1967 borders, we are willing to engage the Israelis." (JTA)

BDS campaign against Israeli band 'boom' eranged badly

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Last week, Cape Town hosted a debut festival of world music. According to a media release by the festival organisers, "...anyone is welcome to express whatever opinion they wish; we do not speak on behalf of artists or sponsors".

This release came in response to a statement from BDS SA last week, claiming because Israeli rock band Boom Pam was programmed, Palestinian solidarity activists would pressurise other performers on the programme to renege on festival participation, describing the event as "compromised" because of Israeli participation.

A subsequent statement from BDS SA said that well-known SA jazz musician Pops Mohamed would no longer be participating in the festival's opening event.

"In light of the aggressive advances of the BDS to our artists and audience," the festival organisers added, "we want to apologise to (anyone) bullied, harassed and made to feel threatened by the BDS."

"We extended a conversation with the BDS. We were happy to come to middle ground on the basis that neither us, nor the band in question are supporters of Israeli



Members of Tel Aviv-based Mediterranean rock and surf music band, Boom Pam: Uri Brauner Kinrot; Itamar (The Kid) Levi; and Yuval (Tuby) Zolotov.

government actions with regard to Palestine and that the only contribution of the Embassy of Israel was to purchase air tickets (for them). There is not, and never was a political agenda here.

"We understand that in the minds of the BDS there is no point of negotiation. If we do not have discourse, how are we different from those protested against?"

"Changes of world view, does not happen through bullying"

The BDS responded with a further statement that the organisers of the festival were themselves Israeli; and that returning the Israeli

embassy sponsorship would risk their citizenship.

Israel's Deputy Ambassador to South Africa Yaakov Finkelstein, added: "Boom Pam is a highly admired band, which is not politically affiliated."

"To boycott a musician, or an artist, just because of his/her nationality, is nothing but brazen racism. It is regrettable that such barbaric discrimination against artists can still take place in the 21st century, and in SA, of all places."

According to all reports, the Boom Pam concert was well attended and a great success.



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Morris (Mockie) Woolf Friedman: A light within the community

ISAAC REZNIK

Veteran communal leader Mr Justice Morris Friedman (pictured), passed away this past weekend, after a long illness. Mockie, as he was generally known, was born in Witbank; and graduated with a BA degree from the University of Cape Town, followed with a LLB from the University of the Witwatersrand. He was appointed a Senior Counsel in 1978.

Mockie was the national chairman of Poalei Zion in South Africa and a member of the World Executive of the Labour Zionist Movement, a vice-chairman of the South African Zionist Federation, served on its executive council, from 1953 and on the Board of Honorary Officers and was elected chairman of the SAZF to succeed Itz Kalmonitz in 1983, a position he held until 1987.

In May 2002 he was co-opted as acting chairman of the Great Park Synagogue, and held the position of chairman until 2004.

During his lifetime Mockie was admired simultaneously as a leader, a light within the Jewish community, a passionate Zionist, acknowledged for his formidable legal brain – as an advocate, senior counsel, chief justice and judge president, as a raconteur without equal and a compelling, erudite and eloquent orator.

He was a man of sartorial elegance and wicked wit, as an expert on Judaica, Jewish history, philosophy, music, military history, as well as loftier subjects. He had a love for more turf-bound interests, rang-



Photo supplied

ing from British football, to Springbok rugby.

Indeed, Mockie seemed more than most to pack the achievements of several lifetimes into one.

Yet most significantly he was appreciated during his life as a faithful friend a devoted father and the perfect soulmate for the love of his life, his wife Daphne. Theirs has been a love that has endured challenges and transcended time.

During the 1990s he was appointed as a justice in the North West Province, in the homeland known then as Bophutatswana.

During this time of mourning and loss for the family, we should cherish the contribution that he made to his family and the broader Jewish community.

He is survived by his wife Daphne, children Ann, David Hazel, Oliver and Cecilia and grandchild Gabriella.

May his memory be for a blessing.

Renovated Pretoria mikvah is officially opened by Chief Rabbi



Photo by Diane Wolfson

Time for ribbon cutting. Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein; Ian Hertz (president, PHC); Rabbi Gidon Fox and Rebbetzen Aviva Fox.

DIANE WOLFSON

This past Sunday, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein officially opened the newly-renovated mikvah in Pretoria.

Rebbetzen Aviva Fox of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation, welcomed the large crowd and thanked all those whose fundraising efforts and donations brought this dream to a reality.

She explained that the mikvah experience is wonderful spiritual and ideally should take place in surroundings that make women feel special and pampered.

Although fully functional, always clean and kosher according to Jewish law, the Pretoria mikvah was in serious need of a “facelift”. It was old, uninviting and really not a place where one felt special.

The inspiration and motivation to revamp the Pretoria mikvah began a few years ago when Rebbetzen Fox embarked on a fund raising campaign. It was her idea to create a haven of peace and tranquility while performing and being part of an important and often misunderstood mitzvah.

The mikvah area, together with the reception area and bathrooms, have been revamped to create the feeling of an African spa experience. Using the rich and warm orange, red and brown colours, the warm and inviting feeling of the African bush is

accomplished.

With candlelight and soft music, it truly gives one the feeling of being at a luxury spa. The garden has also been redone with pebbles and cacti to enhance the feeling and theme of the décor inside.

Since the refurbishment of the mikvah, Rebbetzen Fox has been approached by a handful of women who do not consider themselves to be religious at all. One of them has said that after immersion in this mikvah, she felt that she had been part of “an incredibly spiritual experience”.

Explaining what makes the Pretoria mikvah one of the best, Rabbi Gidon Fox told of his research and efforts to find the special kosher filter and the use of borehole water. He says a community cannot survive without a mikvah and the benefits are great, not only for women, but for couples and as a family as well. The mikvah creates an island of sanity and protection in a crazy world.

Cutting the ribbon, Chief Rabbi Warren Goldstein expressed his delight on this important occasion which symbolises, on a communal level, the renewing and improving of life.

The Mikvah, explained Rabbi Goldstein, was an important aspect of Judaism and a great mitzvah, which superseded even the building of a shul.

Community Briefs

LIONS SHUL'S FUNDRAISING CONCERT COMING UP ON DECEMBER 2

The 107-year-old Doornfontein Hebrew Congregation, affectionately known as The Lions Shul, is Johannesburg's oldest functioning shul. On December 2, it hosts a fundraising concert by the Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir, in the shul.

The repertoire, according to JJMC Chairman Russell Lurie, “encompasses traditional Jewish songs, Yiddish classics, contemporary Hebrew tunes and liturgical music of yesteryear as well as solo performances by Ilan Herrmann, the shul's spiritual leader”.

Lions Shul Chairman Mike Baum adds: “Doornfontein Jewry was at its peak in the 1950s. This shul has been lovingly cared for ever since.” Tickets are R200 each. Contact Darla: 083-794-6358 or darlabrook@hotmail.com

JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV MARATHONS COMING UP IN 2013

The annual Jerusalem and Tel Aviv Marathons once again take place in March 2013. The Jerusalem Marathon runs through the city central and historical sites, against the backdrop of Jerusalem's unique landscapes. In 2011 more than 10 000 runners from 40 nations participated in this marathon.

The event includes a full marathon, a half-marathon and a 10 km run. The Tel Aviv Marathon runs through Old Jaffa and the historical port of Jaffa. Runners can elect to either do a full marathon or a half-marathon. The full marathon will have a spectacular finish right on the sea line along Charles Clore promenade.

This is the third time this event takes place and has already become an international highlight. www.tlvmarathon.co.il

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Online video: the experience is here

Online video is undergoing a dramatic evolution as it captures the imagination of the public and the enterprise alike, writes ARTHUR GOLDSTUCK.



GOLDSTUCK ON GADGETS
Arthur Goldstuck

A powerful clue has emerged that South Africans are finally beginning to get affordable broadband: one of the three most popular international websites in this country is YouTube - beaten only by Google and Facebook in amount of traffic from South Africa. YouTube also happens to be the third most visited site among Internet users globally.

That highlights another trend that is so significant, it is an information revolution in itself: video has become one of the most popular forms of accessing information online. The trend has enormous implications for education, health, business and even politics.

Real estate agents are using video to showcase properties, the tourism industry is using it to offer virtual tours of prospective accommodation establishments, schools and universities are using it to share the lectures and courses of some of the world's great teachers, and business are using it for training and communications.

At the very cutting edge, it is being used to provide an immersive meeting experience for businesses that need something more than shaky images on a TV screen during a video conference.

Last week I sat in on just such a meeting in the Bryanston, Johannesburg, offices of multinational networking company Cisco.

With a group of Cisco engineers, I sat at a "tele-presence" desk, facing three large video screens, in a meeting with one of their colleagues sitting at a similar desk in San Jose, California, looking into similar video screens.

Thanks to the size of the screens, Anna Rubchinskaya appeared life-sized to us, as we did to her. And, because the same furniture is used in these offices across the globe from each other, she also appeared to be sitting in the office with us.

The multiple video screens weren't just for show, however. As we spoke, the left-hand screen began transmitting the

content that she was playing off a digital media player onto the computer she had on her desk.

The right-hand screen displayed the content from a digital signboard on a wall in her office, which was continually updated with Cisco announcements.

She then hit a button, and one of the screens began displaying a collage of images from surveillance cameras around her building. The moment sensors in the cameras detected movement in a high-security area, they triggered an alarm and brought the video for that image to the fore of the collage.

"It shows how physical security can be integrated into our video and conferencing systems, alongside digital signs and the ability to capture, transform and share video," said Rubchinskaya.

At the heart of the technology lies a system called a Media Experience Engine, which allows users to integrate almost any applications, from health services like vital sign monitoring by a specialist doctor on the other side of the world to security in a parking garage downstairs.

If it sounds like something that's been around for a while, then the difference lies in the quality of the video, and the management of the content.

The doctor can conduct a close-up examination of the skin condition of a patient 10 000 km away. The parking garage can zoom into the registration plates of a motorbike or the face of its rider.

"The big advances are also in what you can do with those images," says Bilal Sherrief, a Cisco consulting systems engineer sitting in on the meeting.

He signals Rubchinskaya, and she picks up an iPhone, aims it at us, and makes a quick video while she provides a running commentary.

"Through an application called Capture-Transform-Share, you can make a video on an iPhone, store it in a folder for the app on the phone, and via WiFi it is automatically sent to the Media Experience Engine. There it is transformed into the video format you want."

The video suddenly appears on the digital sign in her office.

Sherrief chips in: "You can use the desktop tele-presence unit as a digital sign, as a tele-presence device, and even as a high-definition video recording studio. Traditionally you needed a

camera crew and sound engineer for that; now you just use the media experience engine."


As a result, high-quality video material can now be created quickly, and shared across an organisation. The system has been described as YouTube for the Enterprise, and can be combined with instant messaging, social networks, presentation slides and even automated transcripts of speeches as they are being made.

"Two worlds are coming together," says Sherrief.

"A world of content and a world of visual communications."

The revolution, it seems, will not be on video. It will *be* video.

• Arthur Goldstuck is managing director of World Wide Worx and editor-in-chief of Gadget.co.za. Follow him on Twitter or Pinterest on @art2gee



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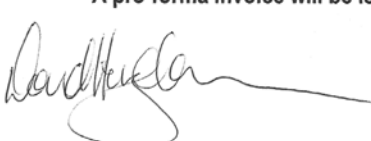
**The Great Park Synagogue,
formally the Wolmarans Street Shul,
will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in June 2013.**

Over the past 100 years the shul has played a pivotal role in the history of the Jewish community and indeed, the history of Johannesburg as a whole. To celebrate this momentous occasion, a special prestigious limited edition coffee table book is being produced. Only 1500 copies will be published, then individually signed and numbered. Thereafter all relevant material utilised in the publishing process will be destroyed in order to maintain the authenticity and value of the individual copies. The ultimate aim is for the finished product to be a once-in-a-lifetime collector's item of superior quality that is beyond the standard of most other material published in the community. The criteria are compelling readability and reader interest plus class and prestige.

Only 1500 will be produced and ALL profits generated will be for tsadaka designated by The Great Park Synagogue

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Icons and photo-ops

Two of the most iconic photographs of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict etched into history, are the one taken in 1993 at the White House showing a beaming US President Bill Clinton watching Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat shake hands on signing the Oslo peace accords; and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat - who had announced his intention to make peace with Israel - arriving in 1977 at Ben-Gurion Airport to be greeted on the tarmac by Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir.

Those moments were intended as watersheds. In the latter, Israeli-Egyptian peace followed and has endured for over three decades. In the former, it was not to be: Rabin and Arafat are long dead and Israeli – Palestinian peace remains as elusive as ever.

As Hamas rockets are again launching from Gaza onto Israel and the possibility of an IDF incursion is on the cards, PA President Mahmoud Abbas is pushing for unilateral UN recognition of Palestinian statehood against US and Israeli protests and threats of punitive measures.

Clinton gave more of his time and political capital than other US presidents in seeking Middle East peace. Two decades after the Oslo signing, two-term President Barack Obama is now in the White House. The Middle East will be one of his major foreign policy challenges.

He has a mandate for assertive peacemaking from a majority of American Jews who, though only two per cent of the electorate, carry influence beyond their numbers. Polls quoted in the New York Times say 82 per cent of American Jews support a two-state solution; 76 per cent want the US president to put a peace plan on the table; and 84 per cent support Bill Clinton’s appointment as a special envoy to the region.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is unlikely to be resolved without US involvement. Clinton as envoy will obviously carry weight.

Obama is also bolstered by Jewish support on other issues. Seventy per cent of American Jews voted for him in the recent elections, close to the 74 per cent he got in 2008. Jewish support for Democratic presidential candidates has averaged around 70 per cent since exit polling began in 1972. The economy, healthcare, social security and Medicare are their top concerns, mirroring the voting concerns of all other Americans.

As history has shown, iconic photo-ops like the two mentioned above do not necessarily foreshadow peace - the devil in the details can sabotage even the most fervent efforts. But they certainly give impetus and renewed hope among millions who witness them.

In all his foreign travels during his first term, Obama never visited Israel, but instead went to four Arab or Muslim states: Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Indonesia. A very public arrival soon at Ben-Gurion Airport, an address at the Knesset and a visit to the Western Wall would send a strong message about his intentions. And perhaps Clinton, as special envoy, might close the circle and achieve what he could not do as president.

Looking at our home base in South Africa, former President Nelson Mandela’s public visit to Israel in 1999 gave a boost to Israelis and Palestinians. This year, Deputy Minister of the Department of International Relations and Co-operation Ebrahim Ebrahim, advised South African officials not to visit Israel unless it was for the purpose of helping promote peace negotiations.

Well, why don’t they do just that? We should push our government officials to rise to this challenge. Let them go in numbers and try to help progress towards peace, rather than continue indulging in sterile criticism from the sidelines which has caused Israel to regard South Africa today as irrelevant.

The SA Jewish community has in place programmes to take journalists and others there, exposing them to realities on different sides. A high-profile SA government trip to Israel would give more credibility to its stated policy of supporting peace through a two-state solution. And, given the ANC’s closeness to the Palestinians, it might actually help in some way.

Jewish dissent in SA’s public sphere

REBECCA HODES

For months now, whenever I meet with friends and acquaintances who are involved directly and actively in the Jewish community, our conversation turns inevitably to the closing down of debate and the denial of diversity that has come to characterise the official standpoints of some leading figures in South African Jewish society.

Before I am accused of being an anti-Zionist, a self-hating Jew, or not a Jew at all, I’d like to state unequivocally that I am a Zionist who believes fervently in Jewish statehood, and that I am a proud Jew (having written my batmitzvah exam while enrolled in cheder classes at Camps Bay Shul, then under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Maisels).

I currently attend the Green Point Reform congregation because I like to sit next to my father during services, with occasional forays into “egalitarian” services for their riveting sermons.

These Jewish friends and acquaintances I mention, are not self-hating anti-Zionists either, but 20- and 30-something members of the community, some of whom work for Jewish civil society organisations and all of whom participate actively in Orthodox and Reform congregations.

All of us are invested and committed to our Jewish identities, and all of us are alarmed by the victimisation of other young South African Jews who publicly oppose what they call the “Occupation” in Israel.

One of the aspects of Jewish culture and religious practice that I revere most, is the value attributed to dissent. How many accounts of Torah commentaries begin with an argument between a rabbi and his bochrim, or among learned sages themselves?

As Jews, we have long championed the right of others to disagree with us - to do so with respect and kindness, and without advocating harm towards others - but to hold a different perspec-

tive nonetheless. And not only do we have a rich and ancient history of collective disagreement, but we have an equally rich history of disagreement within ourselves.

Remember how Abraham struggles with himself before offering Isaac as a sacrament? Remember the old adage, “two Jews, three opinions”?

Recently, a young Jew who has been one of the greatest targets for vitriol due to his public opposition to the illtreatment of Palestinians in Israel (a position which, according to mounting empirical evidence, is widespread among Israelis themselves) recounted something said to him by a leader of one of the most important Jewish organisations in South Africa. He was told that he was an embarrassment to tens of thousands of South Africans, a source of pain and humiliation for the political positions he has taken.

I have recently completed a research project on Jewish history in South Africa, a project that has spanned two and a half years of investigation in various archives and libraries.

What struck me most powerfully from this research was the diversity of public and political beliefs professed by Jews, young Jews in particular. I am certain that key figures in early labour movement - people like Solly Sachs and Sam Kahn - were told constantly by Jewish leaders that they were bringing the community into disrepute, and that they should keep their political opinions to themselves.

I draw this comparison not as a means of establishing similarities between the politics of South Africa and Israel. As someone wedded to the particularities of history, I believe that this comparison is deeply flawed and problematic.

I draw this comparison because of



what it reveals about the long-standing nature of communal feuds between young Jews who hold different political positions to their elders, including official leaders of the Jewish community.

I do not feel embarrassed by South African Jews who hold different ideas than me towards the Israeli state, and

who state these publicly in the spirit of respectful difference and debate.

There are those on both the right and left of the political spectrum who become furious as soon as their own positions are challenged, and this has led to the emergence of a kind of ideological authoritarianism on both sides of the pro- and anti-Zionist spectrum.

But I do feel embarrassed by South African Jews who profess they have the ability and the right to proclaim on my behalf, who create social networking groups with titles like “Die Jode van Suid-Afrika” and then use these to spout racist and Islamophobic hatred that are utterly irreconcilable with the Jewish commitment to justice and respect for the dignity of others.

When our leaders use their positions to excoriate community members who oppose their political positions on Israel, but remain silent when other members give explicit, public support to the hatred of Muslims, the morality of our community is tarnished, its cohesion weakened.

Of course, there are many leaders of the Jewish community - old and young - who welcome Jewish diversity. I am continually grateful for the roles they play in proving that dissent remains a Jewish value and that the South African Jewish community is best characterised by its complexity and diversity, rather than its slavish devotion to a narrow line of political thought and religious practice.

• Rebecca Hodes is a historian who works at the University of Cape Town.

Palestinians begin exhuming Arafat’s body

RAMALLAH - Palestinians have begun work to exhume the body of their former leader Yasser Arafat as part of a probe into his death that some experts say is fuelled by politically charged rumours, AFP has reported.



Arafat’s mausoleum in Ramallah has been cordoned off, according to local sources. International experts will be called in to conduct tests on his body.

“It starts with the removal of stone and concrete and cutting the iron (framework) until they reach the soil that covers the body, which will not be removed until the arrival of the French prosecutors, Swiss experts and Russian investigators,” a source told AFP.

An investigative report by Al-Jazeera and a Swiss institute found high levels of the radioactive element polonium-210, a rare and highly lethal radioactive substance, on Arafat’s clothing. Last month, French courts reopened an investigation into Arafat’s death following pressure from Arafat’s widow, Suha based on the new claims.

Arafat died in Paris in 2004 at age 75 from a massive stroke, according to French doctors. While no autopsy was conducted following his death, many in the Arab world claim Israelis poisoned him. According to Palestinian Media Watch, this rumour is repeatedly broadcast on Palestinian Authority TV.

“The Jews poisoned [Arafat] and I hate them very much. Allah will repay them what they deserve,” a Palestinian girl said in a recent PA TV broadcast translated by PMW.

Middle East experts say the PA is continuing to propagate this story under pressure to score political points amid the upheaval of the “Arab Spring”.

“This is the only weapon at [the PA’s] disposal,” Palestinian politics expert Hillel Frisch told the Times of Israel in July. “But they’re not going to get anywhere with it. The dead don’t mobilise the living.” (JNS)



Health, Beauty & Leisure

Compiled by the South African Jewish Report Tel: (011) 274-1400 or visit www.sajewishreport.co.za

Couple a healthy diet with regular exercises for a full life

Beauty, health, and nutrition are all integrated. If you eat a balanced diet you will be able to maintain your physique and glowing beauty externally and good health internally. A balanced diet is one that provides all the nutrients you need, the right amount of proteins, carbohydrates, and fat.

Regular exercises are a vital supplement to a healthy diet. The two go hand in hand. Exercises need not be strenuous – as long as it gets the circulation flowing. A game of golf, a brisk early morning jog or walk, this is “just what the doctor ordered”.

To achieve goals you need to ensure a good balance in your diet, introduce variety into your meals, and practise moderation. The basis of nutrition lies in your height, weight, dimensions, and your daily energy needs.

Once you know this, you can compute what your daily calorific needs are and set goals for weight maintenance, gain, or loss. By regulating your diet you can be active as well as happy.

You must:

1. Eat sensibly. Include a variety of foods in your diet such that all nutrients that are required by your body are present. Make use of a food pyramid and calorie chart to prepare tasty and nutritious meals.
2. Eat plenty of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. They will supply you with essential vitamins, minerals, and protection from several diseases.
3. Maintain your weight at a healthy level. By doing this you will considerably reduce the risk of many diseases like hypertension, diabetes, heart diseases, cancer, and osteoporosis.
4. Learn self-control, eat moderate portions. The secret lies in eating everything but in small portions.
5. Make a timetable for your meals and how many calories you will be taking in each meal. Never fast, starve yourself, or skip a meal.
6. Practise moderation. Good health does not lie in eliminating carbohydrates or fats. Include all your

- favourite foods but balance them with the rest of your diet.
7. Be sure your meals each day include all the food groups.
 8. Plan to exercise every day. Either walk or take up aerobics, dance, or join a gym. Exercise will not just burn calories but put a glow into your skin, tone your muscles, and strengthen your bones. Play a social game of tennis, bowls or anything you enjoy.
 9. Maintain a diary in which you record your goals, and what you eat each day. Review your week objectively and create a table that shows at a glance what you did right and what you did wrong.
 10. Celebrate each victory. Give yourself a present or take yourself out every time you achieve a goal.
- By eating healthy and exercise regularly, one can live a complete and rounded life without diseases, reduce stress greatly, look and feel great.

Eddie's Kosher Travel – for Pesach 2013

Since 1975 Eddie's Kosher Travel has been the choice for discerning kosher travellers. The Israeli-based company has afforded the kosher traveller a plethora of exciting travel options while adhering to the highest standards of kashrut.

David and Chana Walles, originally from Australia, have taken Eddie's Kosher Travel to the next level when they bought the company several years ago.

David and Chana bring their Ahavat Yisrael into the mix, promoting a wonderful sense of achdut and congeniality among their worldwide guests.

This dream team presents four stellar programmes for Pesach 2013, located in choice venues and been selected for their meticulous attention to every detail, unsurpassed customer service and world-class kosher gourmet cuisine.

The programmes are rich in spirituality and feature enlightening shiurim and lectures by renowned scholars-in-residence. Guests will dine on the finest food [Glatt, Mehadrin and no Kitniyot], enjoy private or communal seders, tearoom, full entertainment, tiyulim, a special chag atmosphere [second day] kids and teen programmes, and much more.

- By the Sea: Dan Caesarea is five minutes from the Mediterranean and with a gorgeous pool and lush grounds, tennis and basketball courts, mini-golf, ping pong, kids club and playground, experience the perfect indulgence.

David advises guests to make their Pesach reservations and book their flights early to ensure availability.

“Even with the added expense of flying to Israel, the cost of our hotel packages is highly competitive for families who spend Pesach in a hotel in the US or Europe. At \$7 800 a family can have two deluxe rooms for up to eight guests. These competitive rates accompany world-class cuisine and excellent programming. Also, consider the mild spring weather; our Pesach programmes are the perfect choice for those wanting the perfect chag.”

Due to unprecedented pricing, and a huge response, rooms are allocated on a first come basis.

E-mail david@eddiestravel.com or visit them on www.koshertourists.com to find out about our Pesach programmes: Luxury Kosher Cruises, Exotic Land Tours, Kosher Ski Vacations.



David and Chana Walles

Eddie's Kosher Travel offers these four hotel destinations:

- On the Lake: Leonardo Plaza, Tiberias is our flagship 5 star programme. Unprecedented prices and kids' promotion. Enjoy spectacular views and the “Gateway to the North”, this hotel is spectacularly located on the shores of Lake Kinneret. We offer all the activities your family could dream of.
- In the Forest: Hacienda Forest View, Western Galil and renowned for its serene and tranquil atmosphere, the resort emulates a magical Spanish estate, spread over 17 acres of lush forest complete with jacuzzi and garden rooms.
- In the City, Jerusalem: David Citadel Hotel, commands the most desirable location, overlooking the ancient walls of the Old City, across from Alrov Mamilla Avenue, and Jaffa Gate. Be inspired by Jerusalem's spiritual history.

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Playing golf is good for your health

Golf may be viewed in some circles as “a leisurely sport”, enjoyed by those who aren’t into so-called “hardcore” sports, but it’s a great form of exercise, while you’re having the time of your life!

Studies prove that people who get at least 30 minutes of cardiovascular exercise 3 to 4 days a week, reduce their risk of heart disease, stroke, bone disease, and arthritis. For golfers who carry their own clubs, golf offers both cardio- and weight-bearing exercise. Since many golf games take between two and four hours, you can get the recommended amount of exercise with just one golf game.

Cardiovascular exercise

Golfing requires a lot of walking. With 18 holes, the average golf course is between eight and 13 kilometres. If you keep a brisk pace while walking from hole to hole, you can definitely get in a good cardio workout. The walk from the last hole back to the clubhouse is usually at least a 1,5 km, so between the walk between holes and the walk back to the clubhouse, you can burn upwards of 250 calories. Although golf isn’t an intense cardio workout, if you play a few times a week, you can start seeing weight loss if you adjust your diet.

Carrying your own clubs counts as a weight-bearing exercise and when used in conjunction with walking, you will cause your heart to beat faster and increase calorie burn. Weight-bearing exercises have been shown to improve bone health and increase metabolism.

Improved sleep

Since golf is an outdoor sport, golfers soak up a considerable amount of sun. While UV rays may be harmful in large amounts, the sun does provide one very important nutrient - vitamin D.

Vitamin D is needed, as it can raise energy levels, improve attitude, aids calcium absorption, and generates cell growth.

Because golfers absorb vitamin D from the sun, their overall wellbeing improves and helps them sleep better.

Mental health

Golfing is a social activity and studies show that interaction with others who enjoy what you enjoy increases one’s self-esteem and happiness. All of these attributes help improve one’s mental health by leaving us with a feeling of satisfaction.



Protein is par for the golfer’s course

A round of golf is considered to be a moderate-intensity endurance exercise. Optimising your body’s energy and nutrient demand, is crucial before, during, and after your round or practice.

Specifically, golf requires co-ordination, concentration and physical effort to play successfully, so what you eat and when you eat can have a beneficial, or negative, influence on your performance. Golf-specific nutrition products should supply you with a short-term boost, as well as with continued nutrients, to optimise and sustain your performance through a complete round of golf.

Plan to eat a larger meal about 2 - 3 hours before you practise or play, with an additional high protein snack recommended 45 minutes before you tee off. The consumption of a well-balanced meal containing carbohydrates and proteins 2 - 3 hours before exercise, increases athletic performance and potential.

This meal should contain familiar and well-tolerated foods that provide lasting energy and prevent hunger during your round.

The energy demands of playing the average round of golf is approximately 225 minutes and players walk an average of 6 700 metres. Most time is spent at a moderate exercise intensity, with roughly 82 minutes at 50 – 74 per cent of your maximum heart rate. Players also lose an average of approximately 1,2 kilogrammes of water during the round, placing importance on good hydration during a round.

What about protein before, during and after

golf? The addition of protein to meals consumed before exercise, results in increased amino acid delivery to the muscles with better muscle response and delayed onset of fatigue.

Eating protein foods such as lean meats and non-fat dairy products, or having protein drinks, are the most common ways of getting your amino acids. Accordingly, you can use protein drinks and amino acid supplements as a convenient means to supplement your pre- and post-round nutritional needs. The benefit of using supplements is the high bioavailability of the amino acids.

Bioavailability is the amount of amino acids that become available to the body after ingestion. Another optimal time for you to get amino acids is directly after a round or practice. Protein (in the form of skeletal muscle) and carbohydrate (in the form of glycogen) will be depleted after a round. Therefore, these two nutrients play a key role in post-exercise nutrition. It is important to capitalise with good nutrition during this 15 - 30 minute window after your round.

Different types of proteins have various advantages: how much protein we actually need, what type of protein we should take, and what protein products are all key questions. The kosher Evox 100 per cent Whey Protein Shake is an ideal option for pre-, during and post-exercise supplementation for any golfer looking to improve athletic performance, both on and off the course.

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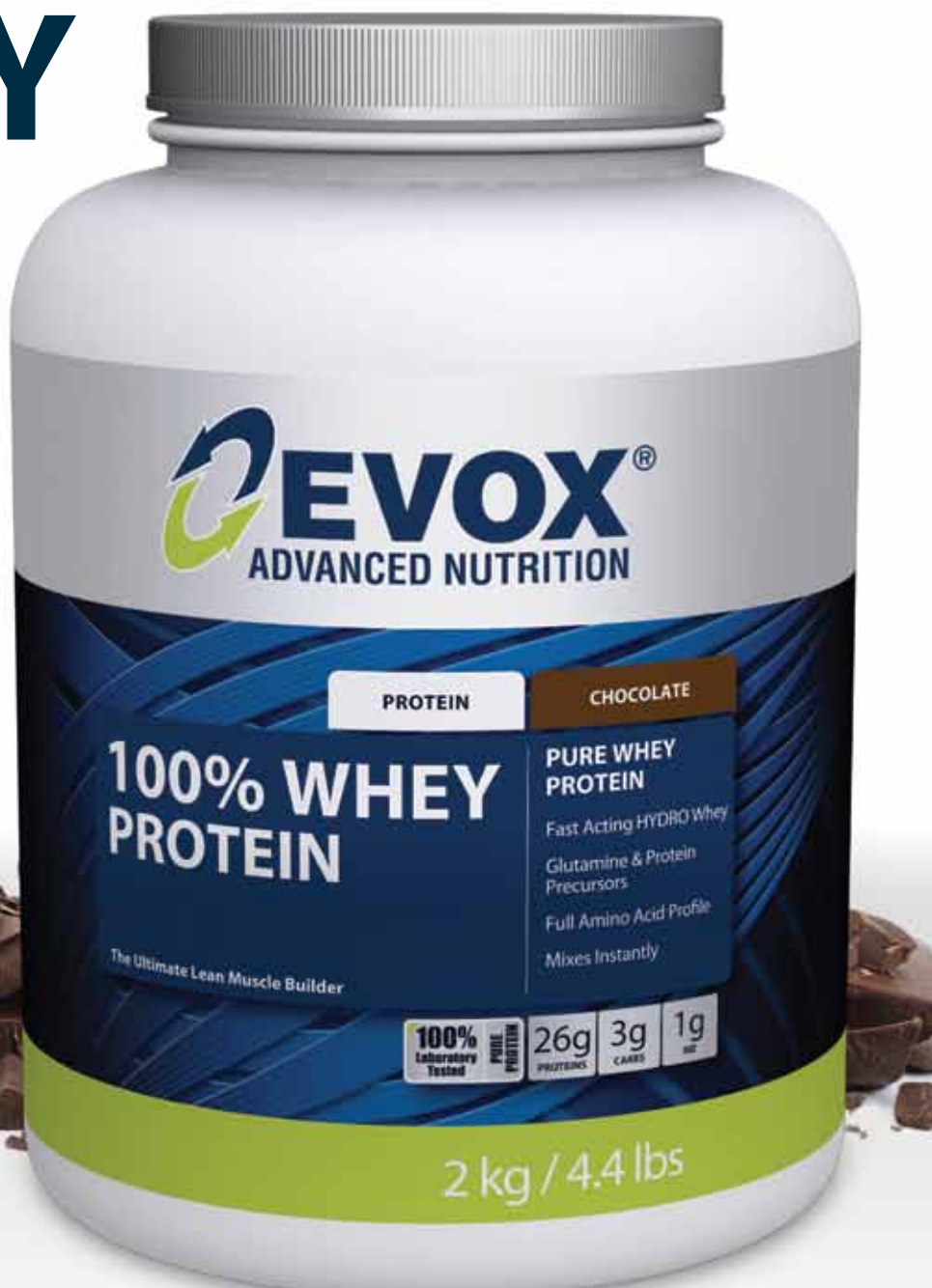


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Everything you need to know about putters

PUTTING. It's a game within a game. One with many challengers. But few masters. It's where three feet can feel like three miles. And where good days are separated from bad days by mere inches. It's where muscle strength doesn't matter. But mental strength does. And if you don't control this game, this game controls you.

Welcome to Odyssey.

CENTRE OF GRAVITY. The centre of gravity (CG) is the perfect balance point on the putter head. The CG can then be projected perpendicular to the putter face, helping define the location of the sweet spot. The CG also affects the golf ball launch conditions at impact. Blade-style putters have a CG closer to the face and mallet putters have a deeper CG. A deeper and lower CG creates forward roll and helps improve distance control and accuracy.

MOMENT OF INERTIA MOI. refers to the putter's ability to stay stable and on-line during the stroke, and to a lesser extent in comparison to a driver because of far less speed, its ability to resist twisting at impact. High MOI putters are progressive mallet-style models that improve accuracy and distance control for golfers who tend to miss hitting the sweet spot or who have strokes that veer offline. Overall, MOI helps create better, more solid feel at impact.

HEADWEIGHT. One of the most important factors when it comes to the feel and balance of a putter and the distance control it provides. Odyssey uses Headweight Optimisation to fine-tune each of its putters and maximise overall performance. Many of Odyssey's core models feature tour-tuned weight ports that allow the designers to alter the headweight based on the shaft length. Most 2-ball putters feature the Adjustable Weighting System that allows the golfer to select from three interchangeable weights to dial in their ideal balance and feel.

SWING PATH AND CLUBHEAD ROTATION. There are two styles of swing paths that encompass nearly all golfers: straight-back/straight-through and arced. Golfers with a straight-back/straight-through stroke generally keep their putter on a straight line from backswing through follow-through. Golfers with an arced swing path generally take the putter to the inside on the backswing, square up at impact, and come back to the inside on the follow-through.

ALIGNMENT. One of the single-most important factors in making a good stroke and sinking more putts. Proper alignment gets the golf ball rolling in the correct direction toward your target. Misaligning by just 1° on a 12-foot putt, is the difference between a make and a miss. Odyssey has been at the forefront of alignment technology since the introduction of the 2-ball putter; and the innovations just keep coming.

OFFSET. This refers to the position of the shaft and/or hosel in relation to the putter face. Nearly all putters have either a full-shaft or half-shaft offset. The exception is centre-shafted putters, which have no offset, and Backstryke Putters, which have a stroke balance offset toward the back of the putter head. Offset keeps the golfer's hands ahead of the ball through impact, which promotes an upward strike to get the ball rolling forward with topspin more quickly.

LOFT. This refers to the putter face angle and is typically 3° on Odyssey putters. This loft angle helps lift the golf ball out of the small depression it sits in on the green, imparting topspin more quickly for truer roll.

LIE ANGLE. This measurement determines how the putter head sits at address. A correct

lie angle helps get the golf ball started on the intended target line. Most Odyssey putters can have the lie angle bent either 3° upright or 3° flat, depending on each individual golfer's needs. Most Odyssey putters have a lie angle of 70°.

LENGTH. The proper length of a putter is largely determined by how a golfer addresses the ball with their normal putting posture. Standard lengths for Odyssey's men's putters are 33, 34 and 35 inches. Standard women's length putters are 32, 33 and 34 inches. Custom lengths are also available, as are belly and long designs. The 2011 season ushered in the era of the belly putter, with a number of tour professionals turning to models of that length to improve their stroke. As an industry leader, Odyssey has led the charge. In fact, when the winner of the 2011 PGA Championship became the first player to win a major championship with a belly putter,


he did so with an Odyssey Sabertooth model. Whether one prefers a traditional length putter, a belly putter or a long putter, the most important fitting factor is how the putter length feels in the golfer's hand during the stroke.

FACE BALANCE. A face-balanced putter can complement a straight-back/straight-through stroke by keeping the face square through impact. The shaft will balance with the putter face pointing directly up. A toe-drop putter can complement an arced putting stroke by helping close the face to square at impact. When the shaft is balanced, the toe will drop at an angle tilted toward the ground. A stroke balance putter, exclusive to Backstryke Putters, is unique in that the putter face stays parallel to the direction of the putting stroke. This reduces torque on the hands during the stroke.

HOSEL STYLES & SHAFT PLACEMENT. Hosels connect the shaft to the putter head. Crank-neck and Slant-neck hosels are typically found on putters with toe-drop weighting. Putters with no hosels have variations of the shaft going directly into the putter head, including double-bend shafts or centre-shafts. Shaft placement can help keep the hands ahead of the ball for an optimal strike. It can also aid with eye position and ball position at address. It's important to test via trial and error with a local PGA professional or shop assistant to find what's comfortable.


FEEL. The feel of a putter is completely subjective. What can feel perfect for one golfer can feel completely wrong to another. Feel is a combination of what you see, touch and hear at impact. Odyssey has been perfecting feel for over a decade through the use of inserts and milled faces that offer varying degrees of stiffness.



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DOWN ON
THE BALL,
THE REST
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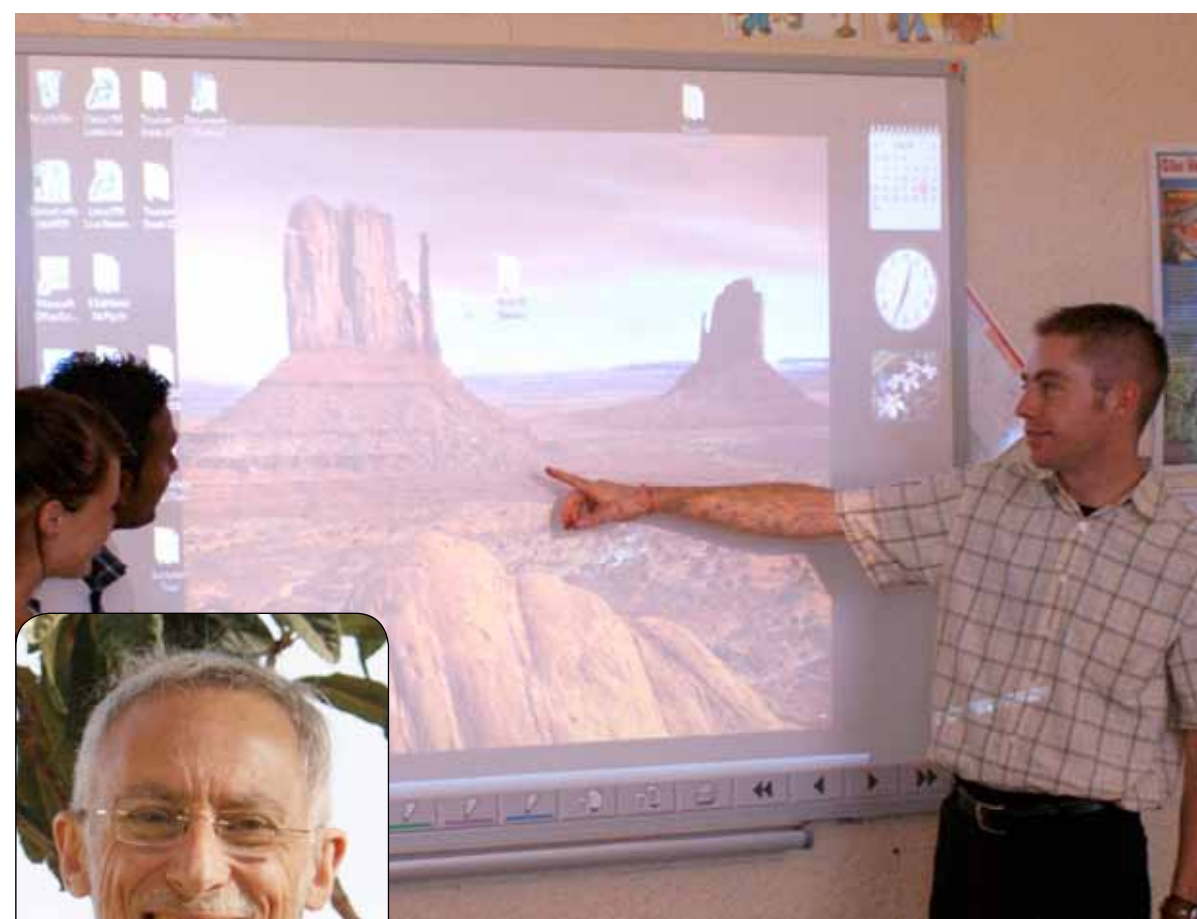


WATCH PHIL TAKE ON TWO ISLAND GREENS AT THE MIRAGE IN LAS VEGAS. SCAN CODE FOR MORE OR VISIT CALLAWAYGOLF.COM/VOLCANO

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Large enrolment at new Jewish remedial school



Although the new Eden CORE remedial school will only open its doors in January, there has already been an outstanding enrolment. Many of the classes are nearly full and the school expects to have a waiting list.

Pam Kantor, the co-ordinator

of Eden CORE, says it is a dream come true. The vision of a Jewish remedial school is a reality.

Allan Zulberg (pictured), CEO of Eden Schools added: "We are determined to set the highest standards. We have carefully selected the teaching staff, remedially trained,

enthusiastic and determined to make the school a world leader.

We have employed eight therapists. We will have fulltime psychologists, speech, occupational and remedial therapists. There are 16 educators and therapists to service about 70 learners."

The aim is to offer an intensive remedial programme that will enable each child to achieve his/her potential. At the same time the wonderful facilities and aesthetic setting will help the learners be happy and improve their self-esteem.

The school will offer a holistic education. Learners will be encouraged to take part in a wide variety of sporting activities and other extramurals. Music and physical education will be offered as part of the programme.

The school will offer grade 0 to 7 in 2013. It will also offer a high school programme from 2014.

Eden CORE will have a Jewish ethos. There will be a Jewish studies programme and Hebrew will be offered where appropriate.

The school follows mainstream syllabuses parallel to the regular school, but they are adjusted where necessary. Zulberg said that Eden CORE would endeavour to ensure that academic standards were maintained.

"While concentrating on solving the remedial difficulties, we will try and ensure that those pupils that mainstream, have achieved a realistic standard of education that will enable them to cope in a regular stream."

Eden is a co-ordinate school with various units that offer a wide spectrum of education. These units will range next year from the CORE programme that offers intensive remediation in small classes, to our SCIP unit that offers small classes with moderate remediation, to our mainstream classes. Eden offers a wide range of subjects that enable each learner to achieve success.

Eden endeavours to give real value for money. Parents will be surprised that in spite of our exceptional facilities, our fees are very competitive. Because we don't cross-subsidise learners, we set the fee according to the actual cost of educating each learner. In some cases Eden fees are therefore 30 per cent lower than other schools with large subsidy programmes. Our results are also exceptional.

Eden Durban last year achieved no less than 4,2 distinctions per candidate and our top two pupils achieved nine distinctions with over 95 per cent average.

NEW JEWISH REMEDIAL SCHOOL EDEN CORE OPENING NEXT YEAR

Eden is determined that its new remedial school will be a world leader in remediation. The school will be housed in its own building. Our therapists will occupy our new state of the art remedial education centre.

- * Strong Jewish ethos
- * Grade 0 to 7 in 2013
- * Jewish studies programme
- * Hebrew where appropriate
- * Small classes
- * Teachers are remedial therapists
- * Therapies included in fee
- * Occupational therapy
- * Speech therapy
- * Psychological counselling
- * Remedial therapy
- * Play therapy



- * Holistic education
- * Full sports programme
- * Extra Murals
- * Music programme
- * Computer skills
- * GDE curriculum

EDEN CORE:

A remedial school for high functioning pupils. We are not a special needs school.

Curriculum and subjects will parallel our SCIP unit and main stream classes.

Very limited enrolment
Contact

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Mandi 011 445 3900





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JMS launches sponsorship aimed at young musicians, teachers

PAUL BOEKKOOI

A sponsorship aimed at young musicians and their teachers, is launched by the Johannesburg Musical Society (JMS) for next year - the 110th year of their existence. This is donated by one of the JMS’s committee members who requested to remain anonymous.

It was launched with one particular investment in mind, namely to encourage professional music teachers and music students to experience their top quality concerts in 2013. It extends to eight music teachers each, valued at R1 475 per annum; and eight music students valued at R975 per annum.

Some of the more important conditions are that music

student applicants must be 25 years or younger. Music teachers wil automatically become “Friends of JMS”, a privilege which entitles them to invite four guests to concerts during 2013. Applicants should also be prepared to attend at least 50 per cent of the concerts. All applications are required to be submitted to the JMS not later than January 30, 2013.

Application forms can be obtained via info@jms.org.za or www.jms.org.za. For more information about this once-off subsidy, phone (011) 728-5492.

Next year’s artists include pianists Vasily Primakov and Lukas Vondracek, the ‘cellist Georgi Anichenko and violinist Hrachya Avnesyan.

Arts in Brief

GORDIMER RECEIVES ANOTHER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Nadine Gordimer was acknowledged for lifetime achievement at the 15th Annual Arts & Culture Trust Award, last Friday. Born in Springs in 1923, she published her first novel in 1953. One of the founding members of the Congress of SA Writers, she was a member of the Anti-Censorship Action Group. Gordimer’s books and short stories have been published in 40 languages. She has been awarded 15 honorary degrees; her accolades include the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1991. The other 2012 recipients of Lifetime Achievement Awards were Andrew Verster for Visual Art, Jonas Gwangwa for Music, and Welcome Msomi for Theatre.

YOUNG ARTIST AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The announcement of the winners of the 2013 Standard Bank Young Artist Awards took place on Wednesday evening. These awards are presented annually to local artists either on the threshold of national acclaim, or ones whose artistic excellence has enabled them to break through internationally. This year, a Performance Art award was presented for the first time. The winners are: Fana Tshabalala (dance); Runette Botha (music); Mary Sibande (visual art); Prince Lamla (drama); Shane Cooper (jazz); and Anthea Moys (performance art). Each winner will feature on the main programme of the 2013 National Arts Festival in Grahamstown (June 27 - July 7, 2013).

LINDBERGS PAY TRIBUTE TO MEL MILLER’S WORK

On Sunday November 25, Des and Dawn Lindberg present a soiree at Foxwood Theatre in Houghton, featuring the work of doyen of South African humour, Mel Miller (pictured). One of the key funny-men in 1970s SABC TV’s show of local gags, “Biltong and Potroast”, Miller is a veteran onstage and as his fantastic show at Teatro in Montecasino a few years ago attested, he’s as comfortable with a massive audience as he is with an intimate one, using his repartee with a familiarity that lesser comics mayn’t have the stomach for. Foxwood Theatre is at 13 Fifth Street Houghton, (011) 486-0935.



Inon Barnatan is star of Percy Baneshik Memorial



Photo courtesy www.princetonuniversityconcerts.org

PAUL BOEKKOOI

The annual Percy Baneshik Memorial Concert presented by the Johannesburg Musical Society is usually both an extraordinary and festive event - mainly due to the high-profile international artists performing in this final chamber concert of each year.

This Saturday, November 17, at 20:00 the young French-born pianist Inon Barnatan (pictured) will give a musically wide-ranging and

stimulating recital in the Linder Auditorium, Parktown, Johannesburg. He’s a foremost exponent of both the universally known and specialised piano repertoire and this programme reflects these qualities.

In the first half he’ll perform the Suite Bergamasque by Debussy, which includes the popular Clair de Lune, Ronald Stevenson/Benjamin Britten’s Peter Grimes Fantasy and Ravel’s La Valse. Barnatan’s second half is dedicated to a real

masterpiece: Schubert’s penultimate piano sonata - the Sonata in A major, D 595, written in the year of his death, 1828.

As is already traditional with these JMS year-end events, the audience is invited to a reception of wine and snacks after the concert at no extra cost. Bookings can be done through Computicket, but also at the Linder’s box office from 19:00 onwards. Please note that the Linder does not have a credit card facility.

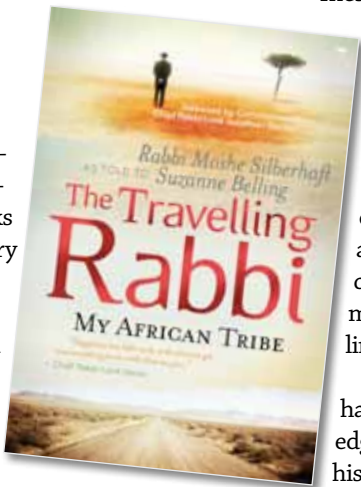
Suzanne Belling brings Silberhaft’s compassion and humanity to life

The Travelling Rabbi: My African Tribe, as told to Suzanne Belling by Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft (Jacana, R239)

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

A rabbi’s life is difficult enough just within the perimeters of his local community, what with needy or grieving congregants to assist, disputes to settle, couples and families to counsel, administrative problems to solve, rulings to deliver and all the many other concerns brought to his door.

In the case of Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft - whose community extends the length and breadth of rural South Africa, as well as its neighbouring countries - there are also endless hours of travelling, logistical considerations (carrying parcels of kosher food, books and artefacts) and often outlandish (in every sense of the word) situations to deal with, from recalcitrant, isolated Jews almost completely estranged from the religion and its traditions, to neglected and desecrated Jewish cemeteries, dilapidated synagogues, hostile non-Jewish neighbours and an intricate web of political hierarchies to negotiate in ensuring the safety of his flock.



Yet, after 18 years as spiritual leader of the Country Communities, his passion for his calling and commitment to his tremendously challenging job, as well as his beneficence, humour and tolerance, have not been depleted.

This account of his travels, including vivid, poignant and often hilarious recollections of the individuals he has dealt with, has been superbly rendered by Suzanne Belling, who adds to it the human, personable touch which is so crucial for any authentic biography.

Silberhaft has journeyed to some of the country’s furthest-flung regions - not only large towns which once had thriving Jewish communities, and where a handful of Jewish families remain, but desolate regions where Jewish settlers originally ensconced themselves in very different economic and industrial climates. Mufilira, on Zambia’s copper belt, for example; Mokopane (formerly Potgietersrus) in Limpopo Province; and Keetmanshoop

in Namibia.

He has met statesmen, ambassadors, royalty, dictators, despots and clergymen of every faith, who have clearly recognised in him a unique mentor, confidant and counsellor. (Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, for example, expressed almost pitiful gratitude to him for “praying with me and for me”.)

These Jews - many of whose children long ago departed for big cities or abroad, but who, through fear of leaving the familiar or genuine affection for their homesteads, have opted to remain, tending their garages, farms, stores and businesses - await the arrival of the rabbi to officiate at weddings, barmitzvahs, funerals and chagim: a reminder that they are cared about, as Jews and personalities. In many cases, the rabbi’s visits are their only link with the mainstream community.

The many warm relationships Silberhaft has formed with these families, his knowledge of their triumphs and tragedies, and his archive of memories, names, dates and histories, are always underscored by humility, respect for their resilience, understanding of their circumstances and a refusal to criticise their lifestyles or sit in judgement on their decisions, no matter how bizarre or distasteful. (One man lived complacently with a box containing shards of what resembled corals - which turned out to be the cremated remains of his wife.)

Beyond a compelling, and often deeply moving, chronicle of Silberhaft’s outreach mission, the book unravels knots of interwoven South African and Jewish history, and the enormous changes effected by the country’s socio-political transformation over the past 50 years. It is therefore as much an exploration of acquired as of inherited identity.

One emerges from it with profound reverence for Silberhaft and his work, as well as appreciation to Suzanne Belling for her skill at documenting an important and inspiring testimony.

A column of the Chevrah Kadisha

Dementia: working together with family and community

Here are some startling facts to contemplate:

- Dementia is one of the world’s fastest growing diseases. Latest statistics from Dementia SA, reveal that there are over 36 million people worldwide with dementia. That number will rise to over 115 million by 2050 due, primarily, to longer lifespans.
- Dementia is not a normal part of ageing. It is a collective name for progressive degenerative brain syndromes which affect memory, thinking, behaviour and emotion.
- Alzheimer’s is the most common dementia accounting for 50 - 60 per cent of cases.
- A dementia diagnosis can only be confirmed by examining the brain after death.
- There is currently no cure for most types, but treatments, advice and support are available.

Sandringham Gardens and Our Parents Home care for close to 700 elderly people, of which more than 150 are suffering from varying stages of dementia. As understanding about dementia and its prevalence grows, what is also becoming increasing clear to us is that, for best results, it is vital that families work closely with us in an ongoing, active partnership.

In both aged facilities a multidisciplinary team assesses residents prior to admission to identify the most appropriate placement and best-suited care programme.

The Person-Centred Care Approach, which is used globally in many developed countries, helps us gain an understanding of every resident and his/her history, so that we get to know each unique individual.

To make the programme successful, input and participation from families are essential.

Sectors like the Sunshine Circle at OPH and the SG’s Sunflower and Orchid Units, are environmentally designed to cater for dementia residents with brightly-coloured walls and a predictable, safe living space for therapeutic benefit.

The fun-filled Memory Care Programme stimulates engagement with the immediate environment. Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) are based on evidential research that has proven their success with dementia patients and include sensory stimulation, physical and cognitive activities, games, music, socialisation and creative activities.




Partners in Chesed
Michael Sieff
Group CEO

Outings vary from picnics at the Botanical Gardens, to afternoon teas at kosher restaurants.

This specialised discipline demands that staff receive ongoing training to equip them with the skills and deep understanding they need to physically and emotionally deal with challenging behaviours the illness presents.

At approximately 1:5, our staff to resident ratio is high. To keep up with latest developments, senior personnel regularly attend conferences and lectures by experts in the field. Multidisciplinary

teams meet monthly at the Dementia Journal Club to discuss articles of interest and best practice in dementia care.

We are committed to continuously learn, evaluate and adjust the care we provide to improve our residents’ quality of life. Part of that responsibility is to raise awareness about dementia within families and the community so that, as always, we can work together.

Please feel free to communicate with me on feedback@thechev.org.za

This column is paid for by the Chevrah Kadisha

Feigenbaum’s second barmitzvah in Bulawayo

DAVID SAKS

On Shabbat Chaya Sarah (November 10) the now dwindling and ageing Jewish community of Bulawayo in Zimbabwe, had something to celebrate when its honorary life president, Alan Feigenbaum (pictured with his wife Ruth), celebrated his second barmitzvah.

Two Israelis living in Bulawayo, helped with the Torah reading and 89 year-old Harry Shmeizer led the prayers. In his address to the “barmitzvah” Hylton Solomon, president of the Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation, told him that he was not being presented with a siddur or a present of a pen or cufflinks. Rather, his gift was the mere fact that he had been able to celebrate this personal milestone in the Bulawayo community, whose resilience and future he had never ceased to believe in.

There remain 65 individuals Jews in Bulawayo, a community that at its height numbered over 2 000.

The service was followed by a brocha catered by Alan’s wife, Ruth. The Feigenbaums run a fully kosher home, and Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader to the African Jewish Congress, stays there during his regular visits to the community.

Ruth Feigenbaum is renowned for her charitable work in the wider society, particularly through the organisation she founded and co-chairs, SGOFOTI (Support Group of Families of Terminally Ill).



A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

Labelling saga – a final effort

Last Friday, the Board made another submission to the Department of Trade and Industry on the projected new policy to re-label products which originate from Jewish enclaves situated in the West Bank.

This follows the issuing last month of a Final Notice by Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies, in which the public were provided with one further opportunity of giving their input for consideration before the measure is passed into law.

This was the fourth formal submission on the matter that we have made since the issuing of the original Government Gazette notice in June. A fuller account of its substance appears elsewhere in this issue, and it appears in full on our website (www.jewishsa.co.za).

Given how little attention our previous submissions have received, and the cavalier way in which the minister has indicated by both word and deed that so far as he is concerned, the implementation of the new policy is a foregone conclusion, I cannot in all honesty say that we are feeling optimistic about the outcome.

However, we know at least that we have conscientiously complied at every step with the requirements of the consultation process, thereby demonstrating throughout, our readiness to engage, participate and contribute in good faith.

Should it become necessary to take the matter to the courts, however, we will have no hesitation, as a community, in doing so. In the meantime, I would like to compliment all those professionals and lay leaders who have devoted so much effort to putting forward our case, despite seeing so little reward for their efforts.

Good Jewish citizenship

On his weekly Chai FM radio show this Friday, our senior researcher, Steve Gruzd will be focusing on two recent Jewish




Above Board
Mary Kluk
National Chairman

community initiatives aimed at assisting and uplifting needy members of the wider society.

The first is the Union of Jewish Women’s “Mitzvah Day”, in which he will be interviewing UJW Chairperson Lynne Raphaely.

Next, he will be interviewing Gina Flash from the Board’s Cape Town professional team, and also Shayni Geffen, one of the mentors, on the very successful “Peer Mentorship Programme”.

Our Cape Council has been the main driving force, in conjunction with the HCI Foundation, the University of Cape Town and the Black Management Forum. The aim of the

project is for more senior students, both Jewish and non-Jewish, to provide first- and second-year students with appropriate coaching in academic and general life skills.

I have chosen to focus here on this aspect of our community’s activities in order to demonstrate that despite the serious issues we are having with our government over its stance towards Israel, this situation is in no way negatively impacting on how we are conducting ourselves as responsible, proactive members of the greater society.

We can be proud of what our community, at the organisational and individual level, are doing to reach out to their fellow South Africans.

This in turn is giving practical expression to the fundamental Jewish ethic of helping the needy in our society, regardless of race or creed.

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

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

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A librarianship qualification as well as sound knowledge of Hebrew and Yiddish would serve as a recommendation.

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Machanik must do community service

OWN CORRESPONDENT

Attorney Michael Salomon, representing former estate agent Wendy Machanik, who was arrested last year on charges of conspiracy to commit fraud, failure to keep accounting records and failure to reflect transfers between Wendy Machanik Property Holdings’ trust and business accounts, this week explained that Machanik’s sentence was two-fold. Although she faced the possibility of a 15-year jail sentence, she was fined R1,5 million to be paid over a 48-month period, and given a suspended sentence of three years imprisonment and was also required to do 16 hours per month community service over a period of three years.

The community services sentence, according to the order, is to be carried out on weekends and involves admin and cleaning services at the Parkview Police Station and “any other facility designated by the correctional services officer”.



In addition, Machanik has paid back all of the trust money, amounting to R27 million, which she had taken. Salomon advised that in order to do this, she sold all her property and assets to realise the necessary money.

“She was convicted,” added Salomon, “for a practice which Machanik advised, was not uncommon in the property industry: when a property deal is concluded, the

money is held in a trust until the formalities are finalised and transfer of the property registered, when the agent is then entitled to receive payment of commission.

“A delay of several months in obtaining the required clearance certificate from the local authority – ie. the town council – so that transfer can then be registered, has become common in the industry. During this time the money should technically not be tampered with, but many estate agents are believed to have taken their commission out of their trust account before the transfer is registered, although all the other formalities have been given effect to, in order to keep their businesses running. This is illegal, even though they would have got the commission anyway at the end.”

Obligated to explain to the presiding officer how she would be paying the fine, which comprises an upfront payment of R300 000 and R25 000 monthly for the next four years, she explained that she is relying on friends and donors for assistance.

Berman now a WP Athletics life member

MOIRA SCHNEIDER
CAPE TOWN

Athletics magazine Modern Athlete, has described him as a “living Celtics legend” and the “voice of road running in the Western Cape”, which Harold Berman, with his customary modesty, says is “nice to hear”.

He has devoted close on 40 years of his life to commentating on road races, rising virtually every weekend before the crack of dawn, in all weathers, to go and do his thing from Khayelitsha to Sea Point.

Berman’s lifelong passion for athletics began as a schoolboy at Sea Point Junior and High Schools, where he excelled at sprinting, with a best time of 10,5 seconds over 100 yards. As a 16-year-old in 1961, he joined Celtic Harriers Club - of which he has been president for over 20 years - and last October was feted at a special 50th anniversary dinner held in his honour.

Last month his contribution was once again recognised with the conferral of its highest honour, life membership of West-

ern Province Athletics, at its annual awards dinner. He points out that he is only the third Jewish person in the last 50 years to be recognised thus, the others being the late C K Friedlander and the late Harry Beinart.

Berman became involved in the administration of the sport from early on, advancing through the ranks from being a track and field official, to track judge and timekeeper, then commentating. He has since 1973 been commentating at the famed Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon, among many others, during his career.

He says he is invited by the clubs to announce at “about 95 per cent” of the races that take place in the Western Cape, travelling as far afield as Knysna and Bredasdorp on occasion. Last weekend he presided over the Cape Times Big Walk, that this year boasted a field of 33 000 walkers.

Berman knows most of the regular runners by name and by “mingling” either before or after the race, makes a point of sourcing biographical data so that he can personalise his commentary and motivate each one.

“I try and make everybody feel important,” he says deliberately, “not only the winners, even those who come last.”

This is no doubt one of the reasons he is so well-liked in the “industry”. This writer was witness to his arrival at a popular holiday resort some years ago, when, out of nowhere, it seemed, he was mobbed by a large, enthusiastic group of protégées.

The runners obviously feel very relaxed with him, as the following anecdote illustrates: “Very often a runner will say: ‘Harold, will you please keep my keys for me until the end of the race?’ Others will give me spectacles or asthma pumps - I’ve even once been given a set of false teeth to hold while they run!” he recalls.

Luckily for the sport, Berman has no plans to retire, despite finding the early morning alarm clock harder to bear as the years go by, “especially when it’s raining and cold outside. But I know people are waiting and I must be there”, he says, displaying the sense of dedication that has been the hallmark of his career.



Legendary commentator Harold Berman has been honoured with the conferral of life membership by Western Province Athletics at the organisation’s annual awards dinner late last month.

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World News in Brief

REPORT: TOULOUSE KILLER’S SISTER BEING PROBED FOR ‘EXCUSING TERROR’

TOULOUSE - Paris prosecutors are reportedly considering indicting the sister of Mohamed Merah for saying she was proud of her brother for murdering four Jews in Toulouse. The investigation concerns statements made by Souad Merah in a conversation filmed by M6, a French broadcaster, according to the French daily L’Express. A spokesman from the Paris Prosecutor’s Office told the newspaper that the comments were “excusing terrorism.”

Souad Merah said she was “proud” of her brother “for how he fought till the end”. According to AFP, the French news agency, the video of Souad Merah was filmed with a hidden camera while she was speaking about Mohamed Merah to another brother, Abdelghani Merah.

“The Jews are all about massacring the Muslims. I detest them,” she was also filmed as saying. “I think well of bin Laden. I told that to the cops,” she said. “I am proud of my brother, proud, proud, proud.”

In a book scheduled to hit bookstores this week,

Abdelghani Merah wrote that both Souad and Mohamed Merah “hated the infidels and particularly the Jews, without any distinctions.

“My young brother was certainly a Salafist, but before he turned into one, he grew up in this detestable atmosphere that accommodates anti-Semitism,” Abdelghani Merah reportedly wrote in the new book about his brother.

Mohamed Merah gunned down three children and a rabbi on March 19 at a Jewish school. Earlier that month he killed three French soldiers. Merah was killed in a police raid on his home as he tried to jump out of the bathroom window.

The Merahs grew up with a “cultural anti-Semitism” and “despised the Jews”, Abdelghani Merah wrote in his book, according to a report in the French magazine Le Point. France’s interior minister, Manuel Valls, said Souad Merah’s words constituted an “apology for terrorism and anti-Semitism and a provocation to religious and racial hatred.” (JTA)

JEWISH AUSTRALIAN, 99, CELEBRATED HIS BARMITZVAH

SYDNEY - A 99-year-old man in Australia, last week celebrated his barmitzvah. Isaac Volinsky joined a group of 40 Jews from the former Soviet Union at a Chabad House near Sydney’s Bondi Beach last week.

When Rabbi Eli Schlanger discovered Volinsky had never been to the weekly “120 Club” for elderly expat Soviets, he asked if he would like to put on tefillin. Schlanger said Volinsky told him he never had a barmitzvah in his native Odessa. “It was an amazing scene,” Schlanger said. “The first time a Jewish boy puts on tefillin is regarded as his barmitzvah and all the club members treated it as a simcha. They were all standing and singing ‘mazel tov’.” Schlanger, who speaks Yiddish and “enough Russian for the elderly to smile”, said Volinsky was “absolutely mobile and lucid”. Volinsky is a former Russian army colonel. (JTA)

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Rona Friedman
My children and grandchildren would like to thank all our family and friends from near and far for the wonderful empathy, love, kindness and support given to us at the time of the sad loss of Ronnie. We so appreciated what you gave us in our time of need. We miss him so much.

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Today, Friday (November 16)

- UZLC has as its speaker Reeve Forman who will talk on “Israel in the Eyes of South Africa - its Government and People”. Venue: Our Parents Home. Time: 12:45 - 14:00. Contact: Gloria 072-127-9421 or (011) 485-4851.

Sunday (November 18)

- Emunah Movement is hosting a fashion show by Nicci Boutique and breakfast by Gary Friedman at the HOD. Time: 09:30 for 10:00 in aid of the Achusat Sara Children’s Home Israel. Contact: Ethne (011) 483-1005 or 083-400-5312 for bookings.

- RCHCC hosts “My Song Goes Round the World - Joseph Schmidt Remembered”, an audiovisual presentation by Gerald Zwirn, founder of the Bel Canto Club. Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378; after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net orwww.greatpark.co.za

- Joe Green Audio-Visual Library is screening “Partisans of Vilna”, the untold story of Jewish resistance during the Second World War, introduced by Ronnie Mink. Venue: Beyachad. Time: 17:00. Donation: R30. Contact: Norma (011) 645-2567 or e-mail library@beyachad.co.za

- WIZO Johannesburg hosts the stage musical, “Dirty Dancing” at the Teatro Montecasino. Time: 14:00. Seat prices: R200, R300, R400. Bookings essential. Contact: Sima, 072-338-1185, Raya, 083-377-2970 or Lee, 082-441-2953.

Monday (November 19)

- UJW is hosting Lauren Segal, curator of Heritage Exhibition and Museum Project on “A Journey Into our City’s Past and Present: Jo’burg’s New Heritage At-

tractions”. Time: 09:30. Contact: (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Donation: R20.

Tuesday (November 20)

- WIZO Women Inspired presents “Rise Above Your Physical and Mental Challenges with Amanda Porter”, who recently summited Kilimanjaro. Time: 09:30 for 10:00. Cost: R80. Bookings and Information: Leslie 083-456-3911, Lorraine 083-268-8016, Maureen 082-445-1515, Ilana 082-601-2519 or Merlene 082-410-4976.

Wednesday (November 21)

- RCHCC screens the award-winning film, “The Debt”, starring Helen Mirren, Sam Worthington, Jessica Castain and Tom Wilkinson and directed by John Madden. Donation: R60 (incl refreshments). Venue: Clive M Beck Auditorium. Time: 19:30. Booking: Hazel or René (011) 728-8088/8378, after hours (011) 728-8378, e-mail: rchcc@telkomsa.net or rene.s@telkomsa.net or www.greatpark.co.za

- UJW CT adult education division hosts Dr D Gottlieb (rheumatologist), who will talk on “Medications and Drugs for Your Bones and Joints”. Venue: Stonehaven. Time: 10:00 for 10:30. Entrance: R20 (incl refreshments). Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

- UJW is hosting Dr Lorraine Chaskalson, formerly of the Dept of English, Wits, on the fourth lecture on a course on Thomas Hardy’s “The Mayor of Cast-erbridge”. Time: 09:30. Contact: (011) 648-1053, fax 086 273-3044. Donation: R20.

Thursday (November 22)

- UJW CT’s Women’s Resource Centre has arranged a “Domestic Workers After-noon” at the Sea Point Civic Centre. Tickets: R70. Enquiries: (021) 434-9555 (mornings only).

Community Briefs

MACHALNIKS ‘804’ PREMIERED AT JEWISH FESTIVAL IN LONDON

Over the past fortnight, “804” a documentary about the SA Machalniks who made an essential contribution to Israel’s existence in 1948, directed by Etienne Naude and produced by Jason Hoff, joined the ranks of films by Woody Allen, Art Spiegelman, Elliott Gould and numerous international films in its UK premiere at the International Jewish Film Festival in London. “Told mostly through interviews with surviving SA Machalniks,” the statement described it: “‘804’ features many stories which have never before been printed or circulated.” It was screened at the prestigious Tricycle Theatre in London and featured a Q&A with the director and producer.

GIVE AWAY LUNCH FOR THE SAKE OF INTERNATIONAL MITZVAH DAY

Radio station 101.9 Chai FM is appealing to its listeners to give away their lunch on November 16, to celebrate International Mitzvah Day. According to a statement, this project, devised in the UK, seeks to build on the Jewish values of tikkun olam (repairing the world), tzedek (righteousness) and gemilut chassadim (acts of lovingkindness), by asking people to give of their time meaningfully to make a difference in someone’s life, even for a day. Because of the scourge of poverty in this country, 101.9 Chai FM has chosen to encourage its listeners to give away their lunch, to someone needy. – RONEL ZEFF

BOME AND SCHNEID-LIEBERMAN WIN KOSHERCHEF JO’BURG

Last Wednesday saw the realisation of a dream for two excited finalists in the UJW Kosher Chef Competition. Carole Bome and Karen Schneid-Lieberman were crowned joint winners, by judges Sharon Glass and Sally Williams.

The competition, brainchild of Chabad’s Rabbi David Masinter, was designed to assist talented chefs to market their own products under a Beth Din licence and open their own businesses.

The winners will be guided by Project Natan, affiliated to Chabad, which assists Jewish entrepreneurs to set up business. They also both receive access to a kosher kitchen and financial aid to the value of R50 000.



Photo: Tammy Lieberman

Sally Williams, Sharon Glass and joint winner, Carole Bome.

Unfunny Greg Ritchie is a racist, stupid idiot



ROCKING THE BOAT
Jack Milner

Former Australian cricketer Greg Ritchie landed himself in the proverbial pooh for using the “k” word while speaking at a lunch held by the Gabba Members’ Club on the first day of the first Test between Australia and South Africa in Brisbane last Friday.

But then Ritchie committed a second sin in which he used a second “k” word - Kepler!

Ritchie was relating his time with Kepler Wessels in a tour match against the West Indies in 1980. The Sunday Times reported that Ritchie recounted Wessels about to go out to bat and telling the former Australian left-hander: “Hey Kepler, you’re not going to call this lot k.....s today, are you?”

Ritchie didn’t stop there. He later went on and made remarks about Muslims which attracted similar anger.

The incident became “an issue” mainly because a decision was made to broadcast Ritchie’s speech over the public address system at the Gabba where the Test match was being played. Had it been left in the confines of the club, very few people would have heard it and it probably would not have been given publicity at all.

Ritchie seems unrepentant. “I tell that story all the time,” Ritchie told the Sunday Times in Brisbane. “At no stage did I infer or say that Kepler was using that remark. At no stage did I say that I used that remark.”

So the questions one has to ask are: Where did the story originate and what are his motives for regaling it?

In the sporting world there are some unwritten rules. One of them is that what is said in a locker room, or for that matter in a press room, should stay within the confines of that room. Things are said about people that are often not very complimentary and they are also said sometimes in jest.

Wessels is incensed that Ritchie has dragged him into this tasteless spat and has threatened legal action against the Australian. Judging on the fact that Wessels said later he had not spoken to Ritchie in 30 years, one could also make the assumption that the pair were not exactly the best of friends.

So, when he made that comment to Wessels as he walked out to bat against the West Indies, Ritchie may have made that remark to rile the batsman. All this, of course, is pure conjecture but retelling the story breaks the rule that what is said in the locker room should stay in the locker room.

Perhaps Ritchie, knowing that Wessels was at The Gabba to comment on the First Test, was out to embarrass the former SA captain, but if that was the case, it certainly backfired.

The South Australian Cricket Association withdrew their invitation for Ritchie to talk at the Test match dinner, while Cricket Australia said Ritchie had been advised not to pursue additional functions at Test grounds this summer.

I have spent many hours in press rooms all over the world and it is a place where journalists discuss different views, no matter how obnoxious they may seem to others, vent their anger and sometimes try to deliberately peeve another colleague. When these things do get out, it becomes extremely disconcerting and also embarrassing.

I remember an occasion at the Standard Bank Arena in Johannesburg while watching the SA Open Tennis Tournament in the seats allocated for the media only, that one of my colleagues made some disparaging remarks about Wayne Ferreira. Unfortunately, the organisers had given away too many complimentary tickets and some “non-press” people were given complimentary press tickets.

Sitting just behind us, and listening to all the comments, was Ferreira’s sister. The repercussions went on for quite a while.

At an SA Open in Durban in 1995, a friendly tennis game was organised between a group of KZN cricketers. It pitted Jonty Rhodes and Sean Pollock against Andrew Hudson



Greg Ritchie... comedian or blithering idiot?

and Errol Stewart (a really fine tennis player who could have made it to the top if he had set his sights in that direction).

A media conference had been organised with the four players and while we were waiting for them to arrive, we discussed the SA cricket team. I commented that it was time Hudson was dropped and we looked for another opener.

Among us was a part-time journalist from Cape Town who knew nothing of etiquette and, while the rest were focusing on the tennis match ahead, this guy pointed to me and confronted Hudson: “This guy says you should be dropped from the Proteas team. What is your response to this?”

Everybody went silent, and while I must have turned crimson - both from discomfort and anger - I could see Hudson was equally uncomfortable. Fortunately, being the gentleman he is, Hudson replied: “I know my form has not been very good lately but I don’t pick the team. If the selectors made the decision to drop me I would understand and fight very



Kepler Wessels.

hard to get back. I understand his sentiment but I don’t make the call.”

He defused what could have been an excruciating situation, but it arose because of someone with a big mouth not knowing when to keep it shut.

It’s a lesson Greg Ritchie needs to learn and perhaps he needed an incident like this to finally learn that the best way to keep your foot out of your mouth, is not to insert it there in the first place.

Maccabi organises a supporters’ tour

JACK MILNER

With the Maccabi Games being staged in Israel in July 2013, Maccabi South Africa has decided to put together a supporters’ tour.

“There are many people who want to go and watch family members participate in their respective sporting events and who also might want to do some touring while they are there,” explained Max Klass.

The tour, which is being put together by Harvey Travel, is quite unique as it is completely flexible and will be built around individual needs. They can arrive and leave Israel on any date they may choose, they will have an option of hotels and they can decide on whether they want a full package, or just a hotel booking or just flights.

All the hotels are on the Tel Aviv beach front and range from three to five stars.

Whichever hotel one may choose, one will be able to organise transports to get to any respective venue. The travel company will also book tours for those who wish to travel around the country. “We have an excellent agent in Israel and he has organised the best prices,” explained senior consultant Sandra Slater. “Children under 12 years old will get a reduced rate which will vary from hotel to hotel.

“In addition, if people are prepared to commit and pay as soon as possible, there are great airfare prices available.”

Klass will be in Israel to assist supporters in getting to their events. “I will organise transport as long as I get 24 hours’ notice. We are also in the process of organising tickets for the opening ceremony.”

• For further enquiries please contact Susan or Debbie at Harvey Travel on (011) 788-2050.


Lance’s surname is Keir and not Weir


In our story in last week’s issue, “Jewish grapplers off to World Champs”, in the caption Lance Keir is wrongly called Lance Weir. We regret the mistake.

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