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# Jewish Report



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Friday, 16 September 2011 / 17 Elul, 5771

Volume 15 Number 35

## Embassy attack in Egypt stokes Israeli fears of the new Egypt PAGE 3



### SHALIT TAKES CASE TO FREE SON GILAD TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Noam Shalit, father of captive Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit, wants his son's plight to be part of the discussion of Palestinian statehood at the United Nations. Shalit was in New York last week meeting with UN ambassadors from various nations. He met with more than a dozen UN ambassadors to urge them to block any statehood recognition until his son was free. In the picture: Noam Shalit, right, with Knesset member Michael Eitan during a protest on behalf of Gilad outside the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem on Gilad's 25th birthday, August 28. (MIRIAM ALSTER/FLASH90)

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September 16/17 Elul  
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Starts	Ends	
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18:10	19:12	Cape Town
17:31	18:22	Durban
17:51	18:41	Bloemfontein
17:52	18:44	Port Elizabeth
17:43	18:34	East London

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PARSHA OF THE WEEK

‘Next year in Jerusalem’  
has been fulfilled

PARSHAT KI TAVO  
Rabbi Berel Wein  
Founder and director of the Destiny Founda-  
tion

THE MAIN part of the parsha is concerned with the description of the woes that will befall the Jewish people in their long years of exile and persecution. The Torah sees this as being a form of redemptive punishment for the Chosen People who chose to imitate the idolatrous and immoral ways of the general society.

However, as the exile of Israel stretched into centuries and then into millennia, the Jews began to feel that somehow the punishment was rather excessive relative to the crime. Therefore other explanations for the length and bitterness of the exile of Israel were advanced.

The Talmud itself, hundreds of years after the destruction of the Second Temple, offered that the scattering of the Jewish people throughout the world was to allow non-Jews who wished to convert to Judaism, to be afforded the opportunity to do so.

Others suggested that the dispersal of the Jewish Diaspora was to allow Judaic values and attitudes to penetrate the non-Jewish world as well.

It was through the bitter exile itself that the Jewish people would fulfil its mission of being a light unto the nations of the world. The survival of the Jewish people under the oppressive conditions of its exile, also raised questions and problems for the Christian world.

The concept of the “Witness People” gained currency in the Christian world - that somehow Jews had to survive to “witness” the eventual reappearance of the Christian saviour and finally convert to Christianity.

Thus the Church established the institution of the “Pope’s Jews” who were protected from harm, since they had to survive to be the “Witness People”. Be all of this as it may, what is clear is that every word of the Torah regarding the fate of the Jews in exile, has come true - true literally and not allegorically. As the Ramban phrased it, it is astounding that a book written thousands of years before the events occurred, should record those events so truthfully and faithfully.

It is of comfort that since the tragedies recited in the parsha that would befall Israel have all come true literally, that we can be certain that the blessings and redemption similarly told to us in the parsha, shall also undoubtedly be fulfilled literally.

Some of them have already been realised in our time with the ingathering of the exiles of Israel to the nascent Jewish State. Others are still developing and coming.

The Torah never placed any time limits either on Jewish exile or redemption. The L-rd has His own reckoning that no human can be privy to. The rabbis, therefore, strongly discouraged prognostications of dates for the arrival of the redemption and the Messianic era.

Over the many centuries of Jewish exile, many dates were forecast to be the ones of redemption, but all of them have come and gone and the redemption is yet unfulfilled in actuality or completeness.

Yet our hope and belief in our eventual redemption has never waned. “Next year in Jerusalem” has been fulfilled. Next year in a fully rebuilt and peaceful Jerusalem is in the wings of the drama that unfolds now before our very eyes.

Shabat shalom.

Margaret Rawicz; Rina Taviv; and MamaEarth’s Ruth Rabinowitz.

Jewish women actively involved  
in climate change conference

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY RITA LEWIS

THE GAUTENG Government, with the support of the national government, last week held a two-day “Water and Climate Change Summit” at Gallagher Estate Conference Centre in Midrand. It had a Jewish organisational flavour.

The objective of the summit, which was attended by some 400 people, was to create a greater awareness of all government organisations, the private sector and civil society, on the impact of global climate changes and how this is affecting South Africa. Also discussed was the upcoming UN “Convention on Climate Change” to be held in Durban in December.

Two Jewish women involved in the organisation/preparation of the summit, were Rina Taviv and Margaret Rawicz.

Taviv is acting director, Air Quality for Gauteng. She co-ordinated the new strategy for climate change that is being developed by the province.

During the event, she not only spoke on “What is Climate Change?” but also led the workshop at which public and government representatives gave their ideas for climate mitigation measures.

On this she said: “There needs to be an ongoing communication effort within all communities to educate people on what climate change is and what each person can do to help slow it down. This would involve, saving energy, water, fuel, recycling and planting trees.”

Rawicz has been an environmental consultant for the past 30 years and has worked to assist government to develop legislation for industries to control pollution and waste outputs. She was on the team of the Gauteng government as a representative of NGOs assisting the setting up of the summit.

The keynote address was given by Minister for Water and Environmental Affairs Edna Molewa. Various government and provincial representatives as well as delegates from the various affiliated departments, also gave presentations on South Africa’s response to climate change; Gauteng’s “Green Economic Programme”; adapting to climate change and the preparations for December’s UN conference.

Many of the interventions to curb climate change fall within the ambit of local government responsibilities. Therefore local government is at the forefront of implementing the climate change response, in terms of ensuring resilient and sustainable infrastructure in the fields of

energy, transport, modal shifts, community awareness, disaster management etc.

National government’s climate change response commits the country to a long-term transition to a climate-resilient and low-carbon economy and society. To achieve this, integrated, people-based, development-planning approaches and tools need to be implemented immediately by municipalities in order to respond to the climate change challenge.

The aspects and ramifications of climate change were discussed, painting a disconcerting picture of what is already happening: thousands of eco-refugees, destruction of traditional agricultural patterns, droughts, floods, extreme weather, etc.

Photographs were shown of erosion of South Africa’s coastlines and the detrimental impact on crops due to the changing rain patterns.

Although Earth’s climate changes all the time, the planet’s temperature is consistently rising due mainly to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Rawicz says the Jewish community has its part to play; her rough guide shows that with careful attention, each person can save about 4,5 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum from being emitted to the atmosphere by carpooling, recycling of waste, tree planting etc.

The Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development had organised exhibition space for local CO<sub>2</sub> saving innovations. Included was a water heater fuelled by sticks and pieces of wood.

Another innovation was by former Inkatha Freedom Party MP, Ruth Rabinowitz who in 2009 founded a non-profit organisation, MamaEarth Foundation, which she directs.

Her innovative “business cart” was unveiled that enables any individual to run a business from the remotest spot on Earth. It gives access to the latest cutting-edge information and communication technologies and is capable of doing anything normally done in an office environment. The single requirement to drive the cart, is sunshine.

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# Will Israel’s peace continue with ‘new’ Egypt

LINDA GRADSTEIN  
JERUSALEM

RETIRED ISRAELI Air Force pilot Uri Dromi remembers the day 34 years ago when Egyptian President Anwar Sadat landed in Israel to tell the Israeli people that he was ready to make peace.

Dromi, who had flown missions in the 1967 Six Day War against Egypt, had been assigned to escort the Egyptian air crew during Sadat’s visit.

“I was standing there on the tarmac and suddenly there’s this big airliner with Egyptian markings being escorted by three Israeli jet fighters,” Dromi told JTA. “It turns around and lands. The door opens and there stands Anwar Sadat, who until then had been the leader of our greatest enemy. This is one of the moments I will always cherish.”

Today, Dromi, who runs the Mishkenot Sha’ananim conference centre in Jerusalem and organises briefings for journalists, is worried that the historic peace between Egypt and Israel could be unravelling.

Last week’s attack on the Israeli Embassy in Cairo by a mob of thousands of Egyptians, has him worried.

“I think it is serious because there’s a lot of energy there,” Dromi said. “The anti-Israel sentiment was always there, but it was marginal compared to the problems Egyptians had. Now Egyptians are expressing all of their anger and frustration against Israel.”

The embassy attack, during which a mob pulled down the embassy walls, broke into the building and rampaged for several hours while six Israeli security guards were trapped inside, was the latest and perhaps most worrisome in a series of events south of the border that have Israel concerned that it faces a game-changer with the new Egypt.

Most worrisome, some Israeli officials said, was their inability to reach senior Egyptian officials quickly. Instead they had to rely on US mediation.

“There were difficulties in reaching certain

Egyptian officials,” a senior Israeli official told JTA. “And the real difficulty was that even when they were finally reached, their promises for quick intervention did not materialise as quickly as the situation required.”

Egyptian commandos eventually arrived to rescue the trapped Israelis, and Israel sent its Air Force jets to retrieve them and bring them home. The official said he did not expect the embassy to reopen soon but that there were contacts with Egyptian security officials.

“We are discussing how to ensure that such an attack will never happen again and what is needed to be done to secure the reopening of the embassy,” he said. “We are definitely worried. Which way Egypt is going is anybody’s guess.”

The Egyptian military council running the country, quickly condemned the attack, called the rioters “criminals” and said it would launch criminal proceedings against those caught.

“The Egyptian leadership said they are committed to the peace treaty, and so are we,” Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev told JTA. “Anyone over 50 remembers the Egyptian-Israeli wars in which thousands of people on both sides of the frontier were killed. I don’t think the people of Israel or Egypt want to go back to that.”

The 32-year-old peace treaty between Israel and Egypt is one of the cornerstones of Israel’s security doctrine. While it has resulted in few people-to-people ties, the pact made Israel’s southern border reliably quiet and freed up Israel’s military to focus on threats elsewhere.

Under Hosni Mubarak, who ruled Egypt from Sadat’s assassination in 1981 until he was deposed early this year, Egypt established military and intelligence co-operation with Israel.

Both Egypt and Israel viewed Hamas’ growing strength warily, and Egyptian security forces tried to stop the smuggling of weapons and terrorists from the Sinai into



Egyptian demonstrators attacking Israel’s embassy in Cairo, on September 9. (PHOTOGRAPH: MAGGIE OSAMA/CREATIVE COMMONS)

Hamas-ruled Gaza. Since Mubarak’s ouster, Israeli intelligence officials say, smuggling has dramatically increased.

Despite a recent poll showing that more than half of Egyptians would support severing ties with Israel, most Israeli experts don’t believe Egypt will rush to abrogate its peace treaty with Israel. Most of the Egyptian political factions, including the Muslim Brotherhood, have said they will continue the peace treaty. Cutting off ties also would threaten the \$3 billion in foreign aid that Egypt receives annually from the United States.

But Israel is concerned. The attack on the

embassy came just weeks after a terrorist attack on the border between Israel and Egypt that left eight Israelis dead. Israeli officials said the terrorists travelled from Gaza to Egypt and then into Israel. Three Egyptian security officers were killed inadvertently in fire fights after the attack.

“Peace with Egypt has always been a cornerstone of our strategic position in the region,” Dromi said. “Whatever else happened with Lebanon or Syria, we always had that peace to offset everything else. If this falls, there could be a chain reaction. We’re already hearing rhetoric from Jordan that we haven’t heard in a very long time.” (JTA)

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Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft (second, right) with former Ermelo residents and family members at the restored Ermelo Jewish cemetery.

# Tombstones laid flat to minimise vandalism

DAVID SAKS  
PHOTOGRAPH SUPPLIED

EARLIER this year, nearly half the graves in the Ermelo Jewish cemetery were vandalised in what is believed to have been an anti-Semitic motivated attack. Thirty five of the 85 tombstones were targeted, whereas no similar damage was reported in the adjoining general cemetery. The SAJBD’s country communities department’s response has been to lay all of the cemetery’s tombstones flat in a bed of concrete as a way of protecting them from future such incidents. This approach has already been adopted in a number of other rural Jewish cemeteries around the country. What was intended as being a routine visit to check on the status of the restored cemetery by Rabbi Moshe Silberhaft, spiritual leader to the South African country communities, ended up as something much more meaningful when he was joined for the occasion by members of the families of a number of those buried there.

The latter learned of the intended visit through Rabbi Silberhaft’s “Where is the Travelling Rabbi?” Thursday slot on Chai FM and independently decided to accompany him. They included members of the Cohen, Bloch, Isakow, Shein, Lipschitz and Schwartz families. Also present were representatives of the local media. In an informal address to the party, Rabbi Silberhaft commended them on the effort they had made to show respect to their departed relatives and to those of the old Ermelo Jewish community as a whole. Sadly, he said, the great majority of Jewish cemeteries around the country under the maintenance of his department were today almost never visited. He was therefore gratified to see how family members of those laid to rest had made the long journey to Ermelo to visit the refurbished cemetery, and to pay their respects to all the Jews of the town who had lived there and made such a positive contribution to its development.

# All 3 monotheistic religions grapple with issue of peace

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY  
MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

CAN RELIGION be a force for peace and if so, how? This was the question tackled by an interreligious panel at an event organised by The Living Newspaper to coincide with the visit to this country of Dr Deborah Weissman, president of the International Council of Christians and Jews.

Weissman is the first Jewish woman to head the organisation which is devoted to Jewish-Christian dialogue.

Imam Dr Rashied Omar, a scholar of Islam and spiritual head of the Claremont Main Road Mosque, referred to a “preoccupation with Islamic violence”, noting that never before had the Muslim commitment to peace been challenged as it was at present.

Stressing the religion’s strong emphasis on justice, as well as its value of compassion, he said Islam’s struggle for peace was related to a struggle for justice. “As important as justice is, it should not be the pre-eminent value.

“I would say compassion should trump it,” but this was unfortunately not the situation in current Islamic discourse in many Muslim countries.

Asking how the Islamic concept of compassion could be refabricated, he said: “Muslims must never become weary of stating that acts of wanton violence and barbarism are contrary to Islam.



Father Roger Hickley; Marlene Silbert (chairman); Dr Deborah Weissman, president of the International Council of Christians and Jews; Gordon Oliver; and Rabbi Dovid Wineberg; participated in the panel discussion on religion as a force for peace.

“News media must do more to ensure our voices are heard. There is a dire need for more rigorous academic studies of non-violent sources (in Islam).”

On the other hand, it was “important for peace scholars to consistently highlight the fact that global conditions... are breeding grounds for hatred and radicalism.

“There is a crisis in Islam, but the current policies of the US produce extremists. The contemporary global order is not just.”

Weissman stated that religion provided individuals with “a sense of identity and rootedness”. It was a repository of the accumulated wisdom of generations of people who might have faced similar dilemmas to our own.

“It is precisely our monotheistic faiths that have given us the notion of a merciful and compassionate G-d who expects us to emulate his behaviour,” she said. “At least two of our religious cul-

tures are based on complex legal systems,” she added, referring to Islamic Sharia Law and Judaism’s Halacha. Catholic priest, Father Roger Hickley, noted that the Vatican tried through its diplomatic corps to be an instrument of peace. However, “the perception of those of us with religious backgrounds is that we’re not instruments of peace. “People see our commitment as a way of being exclusive,” he said, adding that religions had “provoked most of the outrageous wars of the world”.

Rabbi Dovid Wineberg, spiritual leader of the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation, maintained that the present was the best time in history, where the death of one person made news and the slaughter of enemies was condemned. This was due to religion having given birth to the idea of the dignity of the human being. To ask if religion could be a force for peace was the same as asking if science could be a force for progress. “It’s what you do with it,” he said. The Jewish ideal of peace was not the absence of struggle, but rather the creation of a relationship between heaven and earth that never allowed for either of them to be cancelled out, he said. “We don’t look for uniformity, but there is a common sense of purpose that unites us and when we find that, we’re on the road to peace,” the rabbi added.

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AROUND THE WORLD  
NEWS IN BRIEF

MUSEUM TOLD TO HOLD PAINTING ALLEGEDLY  
LOOTED BY NAZIS

TALLAHASSEE - A small Florida museum has been ordered to hold onto a painting on loan from Italy, because it may have been looted by the Nazis.

The Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science in Tallahassee was notified this summer by the District Attorney's Office in the Florida capital that the nearly 500-year-old painting - "Christ Carrying the Cross Dragged by a Rogue", by the Italian Renaissance artist Girolamo Romano - is believed to have been stolen from a Jewish family by the Nazis during the Second World War.

The grandchildren of the painting's owner, an Italian Jew named Guiseppe Gentili, contacted the government and the museum directly.

The painting, part of a show at the museum on Baroque painting that just ended, is one of 50 artworks on loan from the Pinacoteca di Brera in Milan, Italy. Its estimated worth is about \$2,5 million.

Five other paintings that belonged to Gentili before the war and were sold in a 1941 government auction after the family had fled France, were returned to Gentili's descendants by the Louvre following a long legal battle.

US authorities and the Italian Ministry of Culture are working to determine who owns the painting.

Meanwhile, The Israel Museum announced last week that it had returned a painting to the heirs of its owner after determining that it was looted by the Nazis from a Jewish museum in Germany.

"The Return of Tobias", a 1934 painting by German Jewish artist Max Liebermann, was sent back to Liebermann's estate by the museum.

Liebermann had lent his painting to the Jewish Museum in Berlin in the 1930s. It was given to the Bezalel National Museum in Jerusalem in the 1950s after no owner came forward to claim it.

The work is among 12 pieces that the Israel Museum was sending on loan to a museum in Germany. Background research conducted on the piece before it was sent, determined that the piece had been on loan to the German museum from which it had been looted and that it should be returned to the artists' heirs. (JTA)

There's something about Mary

STEVEN GRUZD

MARY KLUK, the passionate and energetic new national chairman of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, is determined to apply the lessons she's learned from her professional life and long involvement in the Council of KwaZulu-Natal Jewry (CKNJ), to her new position.

"I've learned the importance of compromise," she said. "People in Jewish leadership positions are dynamic, wonderful people and I enjoy working with them, and we all have to be part of the same team.

"I know (President) Barack Obama's made it a cliché, but my philosophy is like his campaign slogan - 'Yes, we can.' Together, we can build strong leadership, a unified community, a better country. Everything is possible with genuine intentions, hard work and integrity."

Kluk is the first-ever SAJBD national chairman from Durban, and only the second woman to hold this position after Marlene Bethlehem who served two terms from 1995 to 1999.

Kluk majored in Jewish studies, sociology and economic history at the University of Natal (now UKZN) and went on to a successful career as a service manager for Quest Personnel and a textile buyer for Gallant Clothing, where she met her husband Graham.

Her late father's passing away from cancer, led to her involvement in her local Hospice. "I wished my mother could have had more support at home," she said.

She later assisted at Beth Shalom Aged Home in Durban, and is a trustee of CHIVA, an innovative NGO that brings multidisciplinary teams of medical professionals from the UK to rural KZN and the Eastern Cape to mentor



Mary Kluk with Deputy President Kgalema and Jewish Philanthropist Eric Samson at the Board of Deputies Conference, earlier this year. (PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDRYVER)

local health workers on administering paediatric anti-retroviral treatment.

Kluk was elected president of the CKNJ in 2006. In 2007, the South African Department of Education included Holocaust studies as part of the grade 9 human and social sciences (HSS) curriculum, and at the same time the Cape Town Holocaust Centre hosted the "Seeking Refuge" Exhibition - detailing the lives of individual Jews from Germany who had escaped to South Africa. The exhibition later travelled to Johannesburg.

Kluk organised to bring the exhibition to the Durban Jewish Club, just off the beachfront's Golden Mile, and added panels on seven Durbanites who had fled Germany before the war, including Kluk's own mother who had left Hamburg as a teenager in 1936.

A three-week exhibition had an overwhelming response from KZN schools, and had to be extended to a fourth week.

"I saw the potential. There was a space at the Club that was under-utilised and with the help of generous donors and foundations in Durban and tremendous support from Myra Osrin and Richard Freedman from the Cape Town Holocaust Centre, I'm very proud

we now have this fantastic resource to support the national curriculum and reinforce the lessons from the Holocaust."

The Durban Holocaust Centre, run by dedicated volunteers, is currently booked every day with school groups, until exams in November, as well as adult groups, religious organisations and many tourists. It has an educational facility and the new Circle Café and gift shop that generate revenue.

Looking ahead, Kluk says: "I feel enormously privileged in my new role at the Board. We have an incredibly talented professional and lay-leadership team, and I look forward to getting the best out of everyone."

She plans regular and frequent trips to both Johannesburg and Cape Town. "Open communication is vital. Everyone must feel they have a voice and that the voice counts - decision-making must be inclusive," she says.

Two key areas that she wants to focus on are how to nurture young Jewish leadership in South Africa, and responding to Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe's challenge to the Jewish community and its business leadership to help reduce unemployment.

"It's not just about charity - giving out blankets and bread loaves - it's about really building South Africa, for us all."

She wants to see the South African Jewish community continuing to be vibrant, diverse and committed. "Our strength is our ability to vigorously debate and discuss, and then come together.

"The Holocaust teaches us that we have to look after ourselves, ultimately. And we cannot do that if we're divided."

The Board has a committed, confident and courageous new captain at the helm.

COMMUNITY NOTICE: JHB JEWISH CEMETERIES

*It is a time-honoured custom to visit the graves of parents and families before Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.  
At the time one visits the graves, it is appropriate to give some tzedaka in the name of the deceased.  
This mitzvah benefits the soul of the departed.*

Visiting Times:

West Park: Sunday - Friday from 07:00 - 16:00.  
Private motor access into West Park cemetery will be restricted on Sundays and public holidays from 08:00 -13:00 or until after the last funeral. The cemetery will, however, provide transport during these times.

Brixton & Braamfontein: Security will be provided on Sunday 25 September and Sunday 2 October from 09:00 - 13:00. If you wish to visit at other times please contact the West Park cemetery office for information. The community is encouraged to visit these cemeteries in groups of at least two.

Reserved Graves:

If you are aware of family who have emigrated or for any other reason no longer require their reserved plots, please cancel the reserved grave/s and release the plot/s to the Chevrah Kadisha.

Grave Repairs:

Minor repairs should ONLY be done by approved Chevrah Kadisha workers.  
Please contact the West Park cemetery office to arrange these repairs or for more information on the Eternal Care project.

West Park Cemetery Offices  
T: 011 673 2057/8  
24 hour pager (incl. Shabbat & Yom Tov): 011 321 0000 code 4284  
David Weber: 082 495 0907  
Harold Stein: 082 495 0908

  
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BURIAL SERVICES



SOCIAL SCENE

Rita Lewis [jont@global.co.za](mailto:jont@global.co.za)



The drumming team of Ben Mothibedi, Saul Lehoko and Israeli Nir Etzbeony show how it's done.



Dovi Flax and Ariella Carno creating a masterpiece on their piece of wall.



El Al's Hayley Rachamim; Ros Bukris; Evelyn Zadikov and Stephanie Adams.



Israel Amirov; Gabi Cohen and Eden Tibi with drummers Ben Mothibedi and Saul Lehoko.

# There was a lot of fun at the Fair

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RITA LEWIS

THE ONLY thing marring the start of the Aliyah Fair held at Beyachad last Sunday was that it coincided with the rugby test between South Africa and Wales, which kept the crowds away for much of the morning.

After that, it was off with the televisions and all systems go... with crowds milling around the many stalls, enjoying the recently arrived warm weather.

The Fair was the launch of the Yebo Aliyah Expo which continued until Thursday in Johannesburg after which the 25 delegates flew to continue their work in Cape Town.

Delegates held workshops and discussed with individuals subjects such as absorption, property, medical issues etc and answered questions posed by interested, prospective olim.

At the Fair, El Al's Ros Bukris took the opportunity to bring some of her team to highlight the good things about Israel's national airline.

Some of the stalls were manned by members of the Jewish youth groups such as Bnei Akiva and Habonim Dror, while Israel's former aliyah shaliach, Rabbi Dorron Kline, paid a welcome trip back to the country of his birth to tempt people to come and live in Israel.

To bring excitement to the normally quiet Beyachad parking area, a three-man team set up a square of drums at which visitors could choose a drum, sit down and join in the drumming sessions.

The walls surrounding the area had been marked out and the job of painting the spaces was given to aspiring artists to visually enhance the space with whatever caught their fancy.

Some of the results were truly professional and will greatly enhance the area.

Stalls offered a variety of goods, from coloured wigs to jewellery, to fancy goods, to handbags, etc.

This was fun in the sun for the young and old and proof that the Johannesburg Jewish community was supportive of Israel's aliyah programme and its endeavours in South Africa.



Nathanel Gozlan and Katherine Henning beside one of the two camels while the two "riders" behind finish their ride by sliding to the ground.



Israel's Aliyah Shaliach, Shimon Shamila with two of his sons, Binyamin and Itamar.



Jeremiah Rosenstein so loves flags he is pictured with three from Israel and one South African.



At the Bnei Akiva tent are Dean Sher, Jess du Plessis with Kimmie Nariskin in front.



Ian Dove chats to the Aliyah Shaliach Rabbi Dorron Kline in SA especially for the Expo.

## COMMUNITY BUZZ

LIONEL SLIER

082-444-9832, fax: 011-440-0448, [lionel.slier@absamail.co.za](mailto:lionel.slier@absamail.co.za)

### JOHANNESBURG

In the 1960s Lewis Sowden was a prominent literary figure in Johannesburg. He had been deputy editor of the (now long defunct) leading morning newspaper, the Rand Daily Mail, but because of a widely publicised outburst at the United Nations General Assembly when the South African foreign minister, Eric Louw, was speaking, he had been demoted to arts editor.

Sowden was also a playwright of note. He had written "The Kimberley Train" and "The Land of Afternoon".

Sowden's wife, Dora, was the music critic on the same newspaper and she was well-known around Johannesburg for her exotic clothing which invariably included a Turkish-style turban.

In the early 1960s, the American, Ralph Kirkpatrick, one of the world's top harpsichordists, visited South Africa to give a series of recitals. Kirkpatrick was the world's leading authority on Domenico Scarlatti (1685 - 1757) who had substantially expanded the technical range of the harpsichord.

Kirkpatrick gave a recital at the Adam Leslie Theatre in End Street, (now long gone) which Dora Sowden commented about in the Rand Daily Mail. She wrote that Kirkpatrick's "style... was better suited to Bach or Handel and did not suit the spirit of Scarlatti".

A few days later, Kirkpatrick gave another recital. Everyone was silently seated when Kirkpatrick came onto the stage and loudly asked whether Mrs Dora Sowden was present? There was an embarrassed silence, before she acknowledged that she was.

Kirkpatrick then said: "Before I play, perhaps you would like to come up here and give us all a lecture on the differences of interpreting Bach, Handel and Scarlatti?" There was a stir in the audience, and Dora Sowden did not move, nor say anything.

Kirkpatrick then started playing, as one person observed, "robustly".

Interval came and went and the audience waited for the second half to begin. And they waited, and they waited. It was later learned that Sowden had gone backstage at the interval to get an apology for his wife and that wrestling, pushing and shoving took place. Suddenly onto the stage Kirkpatrick emerged holding Lewis Sowden's in a headlock and the two bounced across the stage. Ushers intervened and the Sowdens left the theatre.

### BRANDFORT

A town in the Free State, about 60 km north-east of Bloemfontein, it was established in 1866 and named after J H Brand, fourth president of the Republic of the Orange Free State.

The town received an ignominy of a sort during the apartheid era when Winnie Mandela, then wife of Nelson Mandela, was banished there.

Here is a report from the town about the Jewish community, made about 1983:

"Mr and Mrs Alec Levin lived here from 1964 - 1981 at 24 Duke Street. Mr Levin used to blow the shofar in nearby Winburg. They had two sons, Michael born in 1952 and Selwyn born in 1949 who married Marilyn in 1973 and lived in Odendaalsrus.

"Mr and Mrs Abraham Schlome lived here from 1970 - 1978 at 39 Duke Street. Mr Schlome underwent an operation in January 1976 and unfortunately passed away as a result thereof. They had a daughter, Louise, born in 1956 who studied in Grahamstown and a son, Mark, born in 1961.

"Mr and Mrs Max Klevansky lived at the Elgro Hotel from 1964 - 1975. He was Rabbi Jack Klevansky's brother and was chairman of the community during the 1970s.

"From 1960 - '74 Mr and Mrs S C Levin lived in Brandfort. A daughter was born in 1946 and a son was born in 1947. From 1946 - 1970 Mrs T Kessel lived in Brandfort and from 1964 - '70 Mr L Kalish was in the Brandfort district, the same years that Mr S Tolpis was also in the Brandfort district.

"At a meeting in 1966 at the home of Mr and Mrs Levin, it was suggested that the 20 families in Brandfort, Bultfontein, Theunissen and Winburg meet more often than just for the High Holidays.

"In 1972 the title deeds (of the shul?) were handled by Mr M Klevansky. The Sefer Torah was given on loan to Moshav Zekeinim (Beit Shalom) in Durban.

"In 1975 the congregation had R482-48 cents, made up from selling various items and the fence from the shul. A kiddush beaker from 1918 was given by the congregation to the SA Jewish Board of Deputies for safekeeping."

# Soul Workout offers a splendid Jewish history journey

REV ILAN HERRMANN

SOUL WORKOUT, a Jewish educational outreach organisation, has launched an innovative board game, called "Journey Through History".

"Journey Through History", explains Rev Ilan Herrmann who heads up the Soul Workout, "is an interactive Jewish history board game for kids and youth."

The game is eye opening in it's graphic excellence and offers an easy to follow simplification of the long timeline of Jewish history. It comes packaged with playing pieces and dice.

The game was launched amidst festivity at the KosherWorld terrace on Sunday August 14, with Shooby Doob Shloimy and his troupe of singers, entertaining the gathering. Joining in as well, were many of the residents of the Selwyn Segal home.

The game was also handed out to Joy Gaffin, head of Camp Keshet, who will distribute one to each camper child at Keshet.

Soul's outreach team has embarked on the "Soul Workout Kia & Nandos Journey Through History Road Show".

Schools throughout Gauteng will be visited with a "Jewish History" slide show and an interactive workshop will be offered to the learners. Voting booths will be put up with children invited to vote for their favourite station in "History". Extra votes can be entered in at Kosher Nando's. The winners, to be publicly announced, will be awarded prizes of free vouchers for Kosher Nando's.

Says Rev Herrmann: "Although many of us know different events that have occurred in our people's past, we often lack the knowledge of the pattern and timeline of how it all fits together.

"The game facilitates this. It promises to be an exciting tour which will enrich the understanding and sense of identity of our young in the Jewish community."

The "Road Show" is aimed at learners between the ages of nine and 14 years. Schools can contact Soul Workout to book a workshop on (011) 440-5995 or 078-482-5981.

Limited games are available and can be sourced from Soul Workout at a donation of R100.

Soul Workout is offering national and global posting of the game on request with a postage charge. Contact (011) 440-5995/078-482-5981/info@soul-workout.co.za



Chantel Steenekamp, marketing director Footwear Trading and Rev Ilan Herrmann with the game.



# Production of beta cells could point way toward diabetes cure

JERUSALEM - Researchers at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have identified the key signal that prompts production of insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas - a breakthrough discovery that may ultimately help researchers find ways to restore or increase beta cell function in people with type 1 diabetes.

The work on the multi-year project was led by Prof Yuval Dor of the Institute for Medical Research Israel-Canada of the Hebrew University, researchers from the Hadassah University Medical Centre and researchers from the diabetes section of the Roche pharmaceuticals company. The study was published in a recent issue of the journal Cell Metabolism.

“Our work shows that as the glucose level is increased in the blood, it tells the beta cells to regenerate,” says Dor. “It’s not blood glucose per se that is the signal, but the glucose-sensing capacity of the beta cell that’s the key for regeneration.”

This was the first time that this sensing of a high level of glucose has been shown to be the “trigger” that induces beta cells to regenerate.

In persons suffering from type 1 (juvenile) diabetes, the immune system launches a misguided attack on the insulin-producing beta cells, resulting in the cells’ decline of insulin production and eventual loss of function.

Without insulin, the body’s cells cannot absorb glucose from the blood and use it for energy. As a result, glucose accumulates in the blood, leaving the body’s cells and tissues starved for energy. That’s why people with the disease must inject insulin and monitor their blood glucose levels diligently every day.

To cure type 1 diabetes, it will be necessary to develop methods to increase beta cell replication en masse, hence the potential therapeutic importance of the current study.

In their work, Dor, along with co-lead author Prof Benjamin Glaser of the Hadassah University Medical Centre, used a genetic system to destroy 80 per cent of the insulin-producing cells in the pancreases of adult mice, rendering the mice diabetic.

When the researchers compared these mice with control mice, they found that those mice with diabetes and elevated blood

glucose levels, had regenerated a greater number of new beta cells than mice without diabetes, suggesting that glucose may be a key player in beta cell regeneration.

But the researchers further found that a glucose-sensing enzyme in the cells, glucokinase, is the key molecule that triggers the beta cell regeneration.

“This means that the more work that beta cells are required to do (that is, the more ‘stressed’ they are), the more of themselves they make,” said graduate student Shay Porat, who, along with fellow graduate student Noa Weinberg, spearheaded the study,

which was funded with the support of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

Because this study showed that regeneration depends on glucokinase levels, the finding may pave the way for developing a new kind of drug to modulate glucokinase or other steps in the glucose-sensing pathway to direct beta cells down the path of regeneration and replication.

And, should a mechanism be discovered that prevents the immune system from attacking beta cells in the first place, as occurs among diabetics, the combined treat-



Prof Yuval Dor of the Institute of Medical Research Israel-Canada.

ment could help pave the way towards a full cure for type 1 diabetes.

Further research in this area is proceeding, with the eventual goal of progressing towards human clinical trials.



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## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### ADL RAPS MEL GIBSON ON MACCABEE MOVIE

NEW YORK - The Anti-Defamation League has criticised Mel Gibson following news that he is planning to make a film based on the life of Judah Maccabee.

Gibson's Icon Productions concluded a production deal with Warner Bros Studio for the movie project.

“We would have hoped that Warner Bros could have found someone better than Mel Gibson to direct or perhaps star in a film on the life of the Jewish historical icon Judah Maccabee,” the ADL's national director, Abraham Foxman, said in a statement last week Friday.

It is not yet clear whether Gibson will act in or direct the film. Joe Eszterhas is reportedly going to write the screenplay.

Gibson's 2004 film “The Passion of the Christ” angered many in the Jewish community who felt that it played into notions of Jewish culpability for the killing of Jesus. Later he landed in hot water after spewing anti-Semitic invective during a drunken confrontation with a police officer.

“Not only has Mel Gibson shown outward antagonism toward Jews and Judaism in his public statements and actions, but his previous attempt to bring biblical history to life on the screen was marred by anti-Semitism,” Foxman said in his statement. (JTA

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THE BLUE AGENCY



# Struggle songs and leadership

THERE IS a feeling among minorities - Jews, Afrikaners, coloureds, Indians and others - that in South Africa today they are politically marginalised and alienated, essentially onlookers. Disquiet can be felt everywhere about the direction the country is moving in, but there is a sense of them having virtually no role to play.

Recent controversial and anxiety-inducing incidents in the national arena include: Justice Collin Lamont’s verdict that Julius Malema’s singing of the song “Dubul’ ibhunu” (“Shoot the Boer”) is hate speech, a decision slammed by free speech advocates; President Jacob Zuma’s dubious choice for the position of chief justice, of Mogoeng Mogoeng, seen as a judicial lightweight and Zuma lapdog; Malema’s disciplinary hearing for bringing the ANC into disrepute, exposing dangerous tensions in the governing political party and its allies; and reckless utterances by Malema and the ANC Youth League about nationalisation of mines, banks, etc, which scare away potential and much-needed foreign investors.

Arguments can be made for and against Lamont’s verdict. He said singing the song was “discriminatory and harmful” to Afrikaners, interdicting the ANC and Malema from singing it “in private or public”. He set the right to dignity above the right to freedom of speech in this instance.

“Dubul’ ibhunu” is undoubtedly a malevolent song. But should it be banned? Did the judge go too far, paving the way towards a whole string of possible new bannings, including cutting-edge political satire and journalism which might be “hurtful” to some people?

This would be a tragedy for our young democracy, built as it is on the ashes of the apartheid regime in which the censoring of speech was prolific and brutal. The ANC has condemned Lamont’s ruling and says it will appeal the decision.

The song is part of South Africa’s Struggle history. The sentiments expressed in it derive from decades of oppression by white people of black people, and tap directly into the injury inflicted on black people’s dignity. Liberation movements all over the world have created songs and sayings in the same vein aimed at their oppressors during their particular struggles.

Whatever the merits or otherwise of the ruling, the truth is that it is impossible to enforce. And the song has become a defiant rallying cry for mob anger, shown when ANC supporters outside the South Gauteng High Court started singing “Dubul’ ibhunu” on hearing of the hate speech ruling.

Banning the song makes it more potent, particularly for populist politicians wanting to stir up their masses of followers.

What is disturbing, however, is that there seems little willingness in the ANC to appreciate how unnerving the singing of such a song is for already anxious minorities. For the sake of reconciliation and a shared future, a more conciliatory attitude would be helpful, even if Lamont’s ruling must be opposed for the sake of freedom of speech.

We live in a society in major political flux - even turmoil - in a country struggling to consolidate its post-apartheid democracy and live up to the high hopes of its constitution. Much of the power-play currently going on is about jockeying for political power in anticipation of the ANC leadership conference at the end of 2012.

Malema’s disciplinary hearing has a lot to do with Zuma trying to remove him as a potential anti-Zuma kingmaker. And Zuma’s choice of Mogoeng Mogoeng as chief justice reveals ominous signs of a chipping away at the independence of the Constitutional Court for political motives.

As a leader, Zuma’s goal should be to reach out to “alienated” and “marginalised” minorities and, like Mandela, become a president for the whole nation. There should be sensitivity towards the anxieties and insecurities of such minorities. The song “Dubhul’ ibhunu” is insensitive whether or not one agrees with Lamont’s ruling about it being “hate speech”.

Zuma’s and the ANC’s vision should be for the long-term good of the country and the involvement of all its people. We can do without political opportunism.

## OPINION AND ANALYSIS

FORUM FOR DIVERSE VIEWS

# New discoveries provide believing Jews with intellectual ammunition



BARBARIC  
YAWP  
David Saks

their toes to articulate a vision of human community which our pragmatic, short-term politicians have all but forgotten, and to know how to speak the truth to power in a way for which our prurient, sniggering journalism provides a ghastly parody.”

Good for him, I say, even if the actual details of his theological beliefs are far removed from what I, my own religious conservatism notwithstanding, can ever accept.

The greatest obstacle to Wright’s viewpoint prevailing is ultimately not that his church is incapable of being the vehicle for such important values as community, moral responsibility, practical concern for the needy and the like, but the fact that it is unable to provide a convincing case for the objective truth of their fundamental beliefs.

Atheism has always existed, even in the days when religious orthodoxy dominated public discourse, but today in Western countries, and especially in Europe, it has arguably never enjoyed such widespread credibility.

Actually, the prevailing perception now is that the intellectual war has been decisively won by the atheist camp. All that the theist side is left with is an argument based on vague and subjective appeals to a supposedly innate sense of right and wrong and the desire for social coherence and good fellowship.

While a great many Jews have bought into this argument and largely abandoned their religious practices as a consequence, this is far from being representative of the dynamics of modern-day Judaism as a whole.

Much of the growing confidence within the traditional, Orthodox sector is based on a growing conviction that the objective

truth of what Jews believe in can be demonstrated at a level of intellectual rigour that few outside its ranks imagine to be possible.

The dominant assumption is that the further scientific knowledge advances, the weaker becomes the case for traditional religious belief, but that does not seem to be the case with traditional Jewish belief.

Rather, the emerging argument is that age-old Torah concepts are progressively being confirmed, rather than contradicted by advances in scientific knowledge. Ironically, so far as the Jewish faith goes at least, the atheist case (such as it was) was actually a great deal stronger a century ago than it is now.

A host of new discoveries, along with dramatic historical developments clearly mirroring the teachings of the Jewish prophets and sages of bygone centuries, are providing believing Jews with striking intellectual ammunition against those who would dismiss their convictions as baseless superstition.

That being said, I have come to learn the hard way that seeking to match strident atheist triumphalism with similarly unequivocal assertions does not work, indeed is often counter-productive.

At the heart of Creation are the profoundest mysteries, and it behoves us to have the humility to recognise the limitations of our understanding and acknowledge how very rudimentary our knowledge remains.

Jews have been blessed over and above the other nations of the world by having being granted from On High an unmatched degree of insight into the purpose and nature of Creation.

This being said, even Jews must struggle on a constant basis against contrary voices seeking to sow doubt and confusion. It is a challenge that should be embraced not just in order to forge the correct path for daily living, but as a process that is intrinsically part of what life is meant to be about.

# Michael Arad’s memorial to 9/11 victims



PHOTOGRAPH: JOE WOOLHEAD

ERIC HERSCHTHAL

NEW YORK (NY Jewish Week) - Few profiles of Michael Arad, the architect of the September 11 memorial, have failed to mention he is Israeli - the son of a former ambassador, no less. But most stop there, shying away from details, in no small part because Arad wants it that way.

“For me it is not about my nationality,

and I made a point for it never to become about that,” Arad, 42, recently told The Jewish Week. “If people want to see something that’s not there they can, but it’s pointless.”

Arad’s argument is that the memorial is for everyone, no matter his or her background.

“I think that what happened that day happened to all New Yorkers,” he said,

“and I responded to it foremost as a New Yorker.”

Arad adds, “I can talk about memory and loss of life - it’s something I grew up with a sensitivity to. But I’m always hesitant to hold these out as a foil against some other kind of remembering. They’re universal.”

Read more at [www.thejewishweek.com](http://www.thejewishweek.com).



# Changing public opinion one book at a time

THE ONSLAUGHT against the Jewish State has begun.

In just the past few weeks, Turkey expelled Israel's ambassador, an Egyptian mob stormed the Israeli embassy in Cairo and ransacked the premises, and the Palestinians reaffirmed their insistence on seeking UN approval for a unilateral declaration of statehood.

These worrying series of events portend what is likely to be mounting pressure on Jerusalem in the coming months, as attempts will be made to turn up the heat on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Much of the focus will of course centre on the growing Jewish presence in Judea and Samaria as well as Jerusalem.

The critics will moan and gripe: if only those stubborn Israelis would just capitulate already and give the Palestinians what they want, all would be well in the Middle East and peace would finally prevail. This, of course, is utter hogwash, the wishful thinking of those who deliberately ignore history and its lessons.

They conveniently forget that the PLO was founded in 1964, three years before Israel even assumed control of Judea and Samaria.

They also overlook the fact that the Palestinians rejected offers by former Israeli Prime Ministers Ehud Barak and Ehud Olmert which would have given them virtually all of the territories.

Nonetheless, with a sleight of hand that would make even the most accomplished magician proud, Israel's detractors still manage to paint Jewish "settlers" as the



## FUNDAMENTALLY FREUND

MICHAEL FREUND

source of all that is wrong.

Consider the following: On August 26, the Israeli Defence Ministry announced that it was giving a permit to Jews living in Hebron to expand an already existing structure known as Beit Romano in order to house a kindergarten for Jewish children. What should have been a non-story instead made international headlines, with everyone from the Associated Press to the San Francisco Chronicle writing about this "breaking news".

Needless to say, the move was denounced by the usual suspects as though Jewish children engaged in finger-painting constitute a war crime.

Where else in the world does a decision to open a kindergarten merit such attention? This is just a sign of how badly tarnished the image of the Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria has become.

In account after account, and story after story, they are portrayed in the most devious of terms, even by some of their fellow Jews.

Indeed, with the exception of literally just a handful of outlets, it is hard to think of a journalistic platform that gives them a fair shake.

Changing that negative perception after

so many years of monolithic media brainwashing, will be no easy task.

But reminding the public that Jewish settlers are human beings with hopes, dreams, accomplishments and disappointments, just like anyone else, is something that is urgently needed.

Fortunately, a young American-Israeli author has decided to do just that. Josh Hasten, president of Bar-Am Public Relations in Jerusalem, has written a new children's book with a simple yet compelling message.

Entitled "Itamar Makes Friends: A Children's Story of Jewish Brotherhood", it aims to tear down the stereotype, the sense of "otherness" that has come to characterise Jewish settlers in the minds of many.

The book, released by Gefen Publishing, tells the story of a young boy named Itamar from Judea and Samaria who visits the big city, only to encounter hostility and enmity at the hands of three local teens.

But the barriers of mistrust and antagonism are eventually broken, leading all to realise that they share more in common than they originally thought.

In a special note to parents at the end of

the book, Hasten writes: "We as adults must learn that although someone lives in a different place or has different customs, traditions or worldviews, we really are all fundamentally alike."

In other words, our sense of Jewish solidarity and brotherhood must override any other differences that may exist, regardless of whether the subject at hand is the Jews of Johannesburg, Jersey City or Judea.

Hasten's book, which is slated to be translated into Hebrew, marks an important first step in what needs to become a co-ordinated effort to humanise the Jews of Judea and Samaria, and portray them in a more balanced and sympathetic light. This is the only way to begin to (re)build greater public support for their pioneering efforts in the heartland of Jewish history.

If even our fellow Jews do not fully appreciate their sacrifices and dedication, then it is hard to see how we can expect the rest of the world to do so either.

So, let's put aside the prejudice and bigotry of the mainstream press, and remember one important truth: the Jews of Judea and Samaria, like Jews everywhere, deserve our help and support.

## AROUND THE WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### ADL SUPPORTS WORLD TRADE CENTRE CROSS

NEW YORK - The Anti-Defamation League has said it supports the inclusion of the World Trade Centre cross in the permanent memorial to 9/11 victims at Ground Zero.

The American Atheists organisation, which advocates an "absolute separation" of government and religion, filed a lawsuit last month against including the cross-shaped steel beams in the permanent memorial to the victims of 9/11 in lower Manhattan.

The lawsuit claims the cross is unconstitutional and is a "mingling of church and state".

The cross-shaped beams were found in the rubble at the site of the World Trade Centre following the 9/11 attacks and were moved last month to a permanent

location in the eight-square-acre memorial.

"Allowing this cross to be included in the memorial along with other artefacts found at the site does not constitute government endorsement of a religious message," the ADL said in a statement. "Rather, it is an acknowledgement that these beams - part of the infrastructure of one of the towers - acquired historical significance by giving comfort to many who lost loved ones in the attacks, as well as those who spent days and weeks sifting through the ash and debris.

"The beams have been a part of the scene at Ground Zero ever since 9/11, and their inclusion in the memorial is appropriate." (JTA)

### GOP CAUCUS CIRCULATES BILL RECOGNISING WEST BANK ANNEXATION

WASHINGTON - The influential Republican Study Committee is asking its members to back a proposed resolution that would recognise an Israeli annexation of the West Bank in the event of the Palestinian statehood push.

The bill, sponsored by Representative Joe Walsh (Republican Illinois), comes in the wake of proposed legislation in the Knesset that would annex settlements should the Palestinians press ahead with their statehood push later this month at the United Nations.

The office of the RSC, the conservative GOP caucus that encompasses more than half of the Republicans in the US

House of Representatives, circulated the non-binding resolution among its members last week Thursday, asking for their support.

The resolution "supports Israel's right to annex Judea and Samaria in the event that the Palestinian Authority continues to press for unilateral recognition of Palestinian statehood at the United Nations".

Danny Danon, a deputy Knesset speaker belonging to the governing Likud Party, praised the initiative and said it was modelled on the legislation he proposed on settlement annexation. (JTA)

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**Artisan Contemporary Gallery, Durban:** “Kimonos Unlimited”, through September, (031) 312-4364.

**Artscape Theatre, Cape Town:** In the Opera House, “Fiddler on the Roof”, until October 1, (021) 410-9800.

**Everard Read Gallery, Rosebank:** “The Horse”, curated by Ricky Burnett, until October 30, (011) 788-4805.

**Hilton College, Pietermaritzburg:** Hilton Arts Festival, featuring theatre, music, visual art and more, including the debut of “Sailing Somewhere”, with Fiona Ramsay, and performances of “London Road”, “Slap Koejawel” and Israeli performer/director Roy Horovitz’s “My First Sony”, “The Timekeepers” and “Volunteer Man,” until September 18, For more info: www.hiltonfestival.co.za

**Iziko: SA National Gallery, Cape Town:** “Tretchikoff: The People’s Painter”, curated by Andrew Lamprecht, until September 25, (021)481-3970.

**Joburg Theatre complex, Braamfontein:** In the People’s Theatre, “Fun, Magic and Tales from Africa”, until October 9, (011) 403-1563

**Market Theatre, Newtown:** In the Laager, “The Table”, directed by Sylvaine Strike, until September 18; Craig Higginson’s “The Girl in the Yellow Dress” opens September 27, with Kate Liquorish in the eponymous role. In the Main Theatre, “Refuse the Hour”, with William Kentridge, until September 18; “Hotel” choreographed by Mark Hawkins September 27 - October 9. In the Barney Simon Theatre, “Death of a Colonialist”, until October 16, (011) 832-1641.

**Montecasino, Fourways:** In the Main Theatre, Alan Bennett’s “The History Boys”, until September 18. In the Studio, “Off Beat Broadway 4”, until October 2. In Teatro, Shwekey Live In Concert, September 20 and 21, (011) 511-1988.

**National Children’s Theatre, Parktown:** “The Pied Piper and Other Tales”, directed by Joyce Levinsohn and Francois Venter, until October 15, (011) 484-1584.

**Old Mutual Theatre on the Square, Sandton:** “The Prize of Peace” by Les Morison, until September 24. Friday concert: Brahms Clarinet Quintet on September 16; Vienna String Quartet, September 23, (011) 883-8606.

**SA Jewish Museum, Gardens:** “Jiving with Madiba”, until November 27. (021) 465-1546.

**Sibikwa, Benoni:** “Stories without borders” Sibikwa’s storytelling festival, until September 23, (011) 422-2132.

TAPESTRY

ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

Predictable ending  
doesn’t detract from  
an engrossing play

**Play:** “Death of a Colonialist” (Barney Simon Theatre, Market Theatre, Newtown (011)832-1641)  
**Cast:** Jamie Bartlett; Carl Beukes; Ashleigh Harvey; Shirley Johnston  
**Writer:** Greg Latter  
**Director:** Craig Freimond  
**Design:** Nadya Cohen (set); Nolunthando Lobese (costumes); Wesley France (lighting); Kanif Sebright (sound)  
**Until:** October 16

REVIEWED BY ROBYN SASSEN

THE CITY of Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape is a microcosm of racial values, a colonialist stronghold taken from the amaXhosa 177 years ago, harbouring the reek of bloody history and hollow incongruities of contemporary political correctness.

It is against this backdrop that Greg Latter’s “Death of a Colonialist”, feted by the Naledi Awards and the Grahamstown National Arts Festival, hangs.

Constructed as stories within a story, within a history, the play embraces everything from the value of cattle for the amaXhosa to those sparking the desire to emigrate for white people, not to forget those espoused by the game of cricket and the comfort of milk tea and jam scones.

Meet the Smiths, of Grahamstown. Harold

**Harold Smith (Jamie Bartlett) battles with colonialist history. (PHOTOGRAPH BY RUPHIN COUDYZER)**

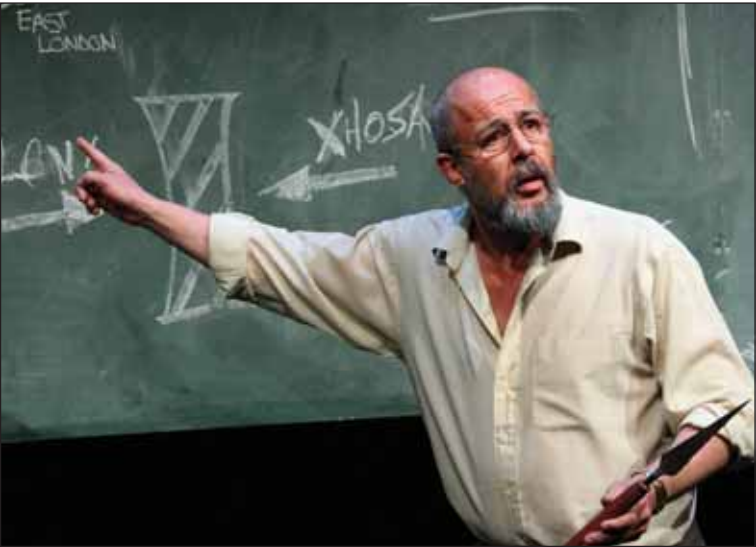
(Bartlett), the great-great-great-grandson of the man named for Harrismith, has taught history at one of the city’s prestigious boys’ schools for 35 years.

His wife, Margaret (Johnston) lives genteelly in his shadow, understanding his vulnerabilities with winsomeness. His daughter, Susan (Harvey), chased from her parental home by local violence, lives in Canada; his son, Jonathan (Beukes), is in Perth.

The love Smith’s family has for him is corrupted by protectiveness, almost embarrassment. Each harbours a secret, like a poison it must out and hurt before it can heal.

In this role, Bartlett gives as good as he gets: from the moment the stage lights come up, you are submerged in a grade 12 history class, opposite a teacher so passionate, he’s a tonic. You’re learning of the battle of Egazini in 1834, which saw the slaying of Xhosa chief Hintsa and established much of the existence of the Eastern Cape Frontier as we know it.

Within the strictures of a set featuring a blackboard on wheels and a down-at-heel tapestry



lounge suite you’re not allowed to forget this play is not only about a teacher and his interaction with the past and the future from inside a high school syllabus.

His impassioned lessons about the blood-spattered Eastern Cape frontier wars hinge on the bigger picture of his life which under the pressures and cancers of politics is being slowly crushed. You learn of the threat of deep loss coming into unbearable focus, tainted with challenges you recognise, because you are human.

The first half is so powerful and brilliant, you might doubt its momentum can be sustained. You wouldn’t be wrong. After interval, the piece stumbles: its denouement is hampered by predictability, and the play ends emotionally overstated, with a too-obvious trajectory of events.

This work shouldn’t be condemned, however, for its shortfalls. The sparks of set and casting genius are astonishing. The engagement with the horror of emigration and the abandonment it represents is handled with boldness. And Bartlett’s presence is a privilege to behold.

Archivist Arvan just can’t be put in a box

MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

BAXTER THEATRE archivist Maxine Arvan was due to retire at the end of August - for the fourth time - but this has been put on hold while the theatre management scrambles to make a plan for her to stay on. She has been at the theatre for the past 21 years, 11 of them in her current position.

Arvan was raised in Napier in the Western Cape, attended Good Hope (“the unofficial Jewish day school” of the time) as a boarder from the age of 13, then moved to Bloemfontein on her marriage to Peter. She spent 30 years there (“passing through”, she jokes), 22 of which were spent working at the National Drama Library.

For a Bachelor of Commerce graduate from UCT, the field in which she spent her entire working life seems a world away. “It’s something I should never have done,” she says of the degree, adding that her chosen path was “much more exciting - I was always keen on theatre.”

Of her entry into the drama field, she recalls: “A friend of mine who was working at the library said there was a job going - I applied and I got it,” eventually heading the institution for 10 years “without a qualification”.

“That was a wonderful position - you dealt with all the dramatic societies, the play-reading



**Baxter Theatre archivist Maxine Arvan. (PHOTOGRAPH: FAHIEM STELLENBOOM)**

societies, schools - it’s the only one in the southern hemisphere. My main job was to read the plays - about 200 a year - and to order plays.”

On her move to Cape Town in 1990, Arvan initially served as the public relations manager at the Baxter, then planning and development manager. When she started the archive in 2000, Peter, who had just retired from law, joined her as a volunteer.

“He came in to give me a hand and he was an enormous help,” she remembers. The setting up of the archive was a combination of what she had done in Bloemfontein and her managerial experience at the Baxter.

Initially, Arvan had to locate hundreds of unmarked boxes stored all over the theatre,

including in rat-infested storerooms. She devised a system which included a file for each production, containing correspondence, financial statements, programmes, publicity material, press cuttings and photographs and then computerised all this information.

As a result, Arvan has everything about any production that has been staged at the theatre virtually since it opened in 1977, at her fingertips - an invaluable resource in anyone’s language. “This is why they keep calling me back, but somebody will have to take over,” she says.

“I was hoping that they would do a book (incorporating the information) that I could help them with, but there have

never been enough funds. There are so few theatre archives in South Africa (and) I don’t think they would be quite as sophisticated as the Baxter’s is.”

Included in the archives are communications from the Censor Board, particularly from the 1980s, the heyday of protest theatre. “Those letters were pure and absolute venom and we’ve got them all.”

The presentation of the Fleur du Cap Lifetime Achievement Award to her in 2009 must rank as the highlight of Arvan’s career. “To this day, I can’t believe that it happened,” she says modestly. “I don’t think I deserved it.”

The Baxter Theatre management would surely beg to differ.



FELDMAN  
ON FILM  
Peter Feldman

PICK OF THE WEEK

Colombiana

**Cast:** Zoe Saldana; Callum Blue; Michael Vartan; Lennie James; Graham McTavish  
**Director:** Olivier Megaton

Colombiana is a simple story of revenge, but unlike many others of its ilk, this film has plenty of energy and style.

And, while this narrative may be awash with clichés and outrageous contrivances, one can still be entertained by the sheer impudence and daring of its key character, an attractive and nubile young woman named Cataleya.

Zoe Saldana certainly has to work for her salary as Cataleya, when she sets about eliminating various members of a Colombian drug cartel

which was responsible for the deaths of her mother and father.

The story opens in Bogota where we meet a bright little girl (Amandla Stenberg) who witnesses the murder of her parents, and from that moment on she is determined to become a trained assassin.

All alone, but with enormous strength and will power, the young orphaned Cataleya, named after a rare South American orchid, makes her way to Chicago where she meets up with her gangster uncle Emilio (Cliff Curtis), who takes her under his wing and trains her in this deadly art.

Fifteen years later, and now all grown up, she remains focused on her ultimate goal: to hunt down and get revenge on the mobsters responsible for her parents’ deaths.

After each hit she leaves her calling card which is an orchid drawn on the chests of her victims, a move which serves as a chilling message to her parents’ assassins.

French director Olivier Megaton (Transporter 3) has forged a gritty, no-holds-barred thriller that goes against every moral fibre in one’s body but, like a video game, it conveniently ignores

life’s little realities, exploding, instead, into sharply choreographed sequences of unrelenting action.

Co-written by Megaton and the renowned French director Luc Besson, who in his time unleashed three decades of equally preposterous action movies, Colombiana serves as an exercise in guilty pleasure for action junkies.

The American law enforcement agencies get involved in trying to track down this elusive killer, but with little success. The FBI’s special agent Ross (played by British actor Lennie James) understands the underlying motivation behind Cataleya actions but is powerless to bring her to justice.

The script demands a high kill rate and putting her behind bars is not an acceptable solution, even though she has the technique to slip in and out of a jail cell with remarkable ease.

Nikita, one of Besson’s creations, has nothing on Saldana, who showed off her athletic prowess and fighting skills in James Cameron’s much-acclaimed Avatar.

If anything, Megaton tries his best to sell Saldana as a new, sexy, action-driven sex symbol. Buy into that and you may well enjoy this romp.



TAPESTRY – ART, BOOKS, DANCE, FILM, THEATRE

# Mandela coffee table book is timely and apposite

*Jewish Memories of Mandela* with text by David Saks (Jewish Board of Deputies, R400). Available through most bookshops or contact Shirley Beagle on (011) 645-2583 or at beagle@beyachad.co.za

REVIEWED BY GWEN PODBREY

AS NELSON Mandela's gigantic contribution to the history of this country - and, indeed, the world - continues to reveal itself to us in ways we are still learning to appreciate, the story of his early career, long imprisonment and subsequent leadership of a free South Africa, is daily enhanced anew.

For Jews, as much as any other community, Mandela's redemptive vision of reconciliation, co-operation and unity after the long nightmare of apartheid, and the brutal regime which bol-

stered it, was cathartic. Within that perspective, this magnificently compiled coffee-table book is both timely and apposite. Celebrating the life and legacy of Madiba has, rightly, become a national priority.

In its pictorial wealth and its account of both the dark days preceding 1994, and the emancipated decade which has followed them, the book is a gem. Indeed, as a visual history, few other memoirs have rivalled it. Its photographs of Madiba, and the Jews who accompanied and supported him at every step of his journey, were researched and captioned by Gail Behrmann, and they are magnificent.

Most of them are rare images of individuals whose names are synonymous with the Struggle: Isie Maisels, Joe Slovo, Eli and Violet Weinberg, Ray Alexander, Rica

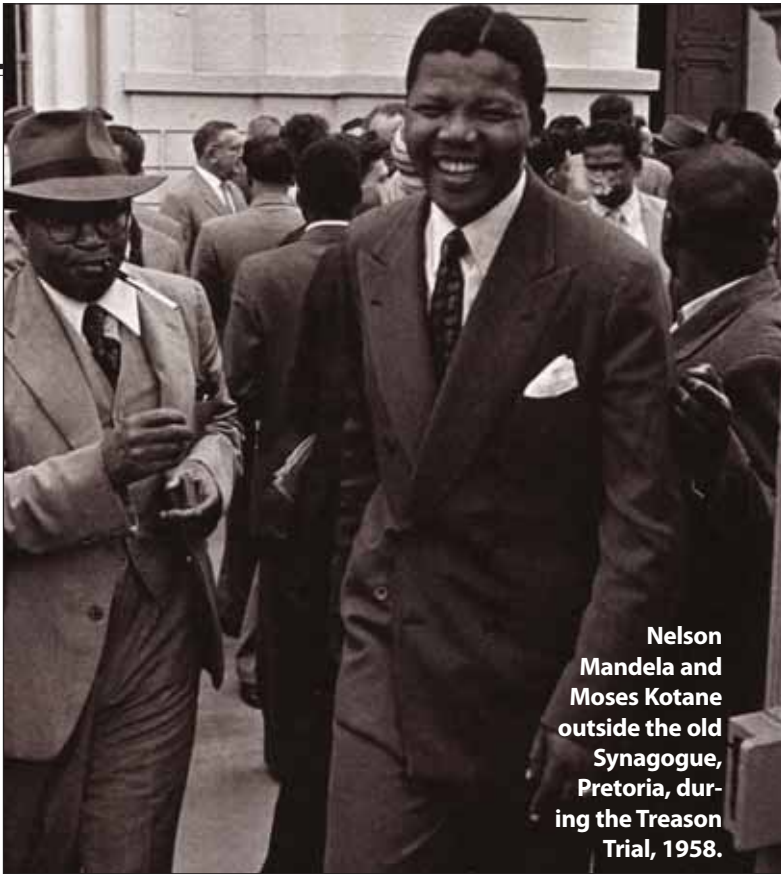
Hodgson, Sydney Kentridge, Brian and Sonja Bunting, Ben Turok, Denis Goldberg, Ronnie Kasrils, and many others.

Most of them, too, are deeply moving, with Saks' text bringing their voices and courage back to vivid life. An elderly Lazer Sidelsky, who gave Mandela his first job in a law practice, smiles at the photographer; Ruth First - bringing all her dignity and anger to bear - gazes out the page; Isie Maisels, his hair tousled, is borne aloft on the shoulders of jubilant supporters after the conclusion of the Treason Trial; an exultant Leon Levy chants with fellow passengers on the "Treason Bus"; brothers-in-law and legal partners Harold Wolpe and James Kantor walk down a Johannesburg street, deep in conversation; a youthful Helen Suzman, ramrod-straight, delivers a blazing address at a Progressive Party rally.

And throughout the book, Nelson Mandela - as a muscular, young lawyer, a delighted groom at the side of his radiant bride, a besuited statesman, a grizzled icon smiling at his companions - casts his spell.

There are also images which make us flinch: Percy Yutar, briefcase in hand and dressed in his legal robe, leaves court.

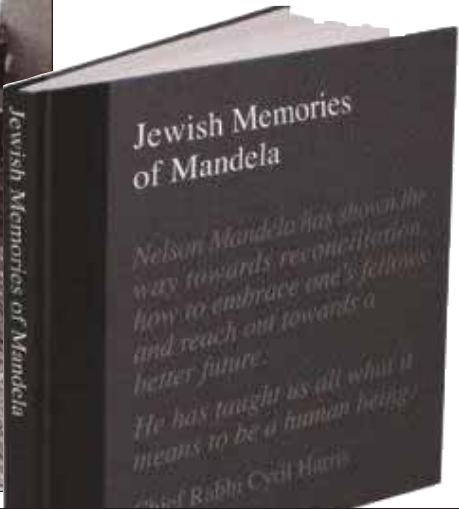
Whether they are posed photographs or images captured randomly, these dramatic images convey more profoundly than any narrative the turbulence of South Africa's past and the tensions radi-



Nelson Mandela and Moses Kotane outside the old Synagogue, Pretoria, during the Treason Trial, 1958.



Nelson Mandela, Ruth First and Rose Schlachter, a trade unionist and active member of the SA Communist party, outside the Old Synagogue, during the Treason Trial, 1956



ating from them are still palpable.

Saks' account of the events depicted in these pages is eloquent, thoughtful and inspiring. It includes anecdotal material - often humorous or poignant - which further illuminates the human, vulnerable side of the individuals in this history. It reminds us of the terrible price paid by activists, beyond the obvious risks of assault, arrest, torture and imprisonment: families torn apart, or forced to flee the country; children deprived of their parents and subjected to ostracism at school; careers jeopardised, educations interrupted, livelihoods curtailed, ambitions thwarted.

It also traces the warm post-apartheid relationship South African Jews have enjoyed with Madiba, and the humility, forbearance and compassion which stamp him as the world's greatest leader. There are personal memoirs of fleeting encounters with him, in which his warmth, humour, generosity of spirit and sensitivity were displayed: towards children, business people, journalists and those coming upon him unexpectedly. Most searing of all are the instances in which his forgiveness towards former persecutors (and prosecutors) turned bitterness into goodwill.

However, while the book pays glorious homage to those Jews who risked life and limb to help Mandela and other activists, there is also

something disturbingly disingenuous about the implications of this volume (notably in its florid, self-congratulatory preface). As David Saks, in his commentary, points out more than once, while Jews were significantly represented among whites who joined the Struggle, the fact remains that of the entire Jewish community in South Africa, only a very small percentage were activists. The vast majority of Jews in this country remained ominously quiet, docile and prosperous.

Since the community, largely for reasons of insecurity and perceived anti-Semitism, distanced itself from Jews who broke ranks by becoming activists, it is unseemly for it to now claim - even implicitly - any part of their heroism.

However, not even that can detract from the splendour of the volume, the sheer fulsomeness of its riches and its exuberance at the miracle wrought in this country's transition.

Well organised, lavishly reproduced and scrupulously researched, the book is a near-flawless archive. Historically, there is little in it that we do not already know: the story of Nelson Mandela, and those Jews who fought alongside him, has been near-exhaustively documented. Rather, it is its emotional truth - conveyed in pictures which bring stinging tears to one's eyes - that makes it an extraordinary reference.

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# Jewish Travel

Visiting places of Jewish interest

## England’s vibrant Jewish community is steeped in history

ROBYN SASSEN

ENGLAND, home of Geoffrey Chaucer, Christopher Marlowe, William Shakespeare and Charles Dickens, who created some of the world’s most insidious yet paradoxically well-loved anti-Semitic stereotypes, like Shylock and Fagin, is also home to a rich diversity of Jewish culture.

Jewry is first documented in England during the reign of William the Conqueror, in the 10th century. Neither fish nor fowl in English history, Jews were seen as different; no one knew how to treat them.

Under Henry I, Jews and their property were owned by the king; they could only have specific jobs including usury – forbidden by the Church – and tannery, which gave them a body odour: fodder to the anti-Semitic mill.

They were obliged to wear distinctive costumes and “Jewish money” was minted for use by Jews. Conversely, Jews were allowed to move about the country without paying tolls, and could be legally sworn in on the Torah rather than a Christian bible. Indeed, the oath of a Jew was understood to be valid against that of 12 Christians.

This was before the death of a child named William of Norwich, pinned onto the Jews, in 1144. Jews were accused of torturing the child and using his blood to make matzah, before killing him. It spawned the most virulent ur-

ban legends relating to Jewish practice in the public mind.

Jewish scholar and poet Abraham ibn Ezra visited in 1158; by all accounts, Jewish property represented a quarter of English society.

Ten years later, King Henry II’s attitude to Jews shifted; by 1290, they were expelled en masse. Many left with just the clothes on their backs.

The middle of the 17th century saw Marranos settling in England. Dutch Rabbi Menassah Ben Israel, approached Oliver Cromwell with the proposition to formally readmit Jews. While he could not ratify it, Cromwell supported it in principle. It yielded the first seeds of a new Jewish community, which, by 1690, numbered 3 000.

By 1753, the Jewish Naturalisation Act was passed. Jewish Emancipation followed in the 19th century. Jews were allowed to sit in Parliament; the punitive “De Judaismo” laws requiring Jews to dress distinctively was repealed.

In 1837, Queen Victoria knighted Moses Haim Montefiore, a British-Jewish Italian-born philanthropist. Four years later, Isaac Lyon Goldsmid was made baronet, the first Jew to receive a hereditary title. The first Jew-



The Birmingham Singer’s Hill Synagogue, with its rose window, built in 1856.



Tower 42, England’s most iconic skyscraper, designed and built in the centre of London by Jewish British-born architect Richard Seifert.



A classic view of London, showing the London Tower with Big Ben, the Parliament buildings, and the inimitable red double-decker buses.

ish Lord Mayor of London, Sir David Salomons, was elected in 1855. By 1868, Benjamin Disraeli was Prime Minister; in 1884, Nathan Mayer Rothschild was the first Jewish member of the House of Lords.

At this time, the Jewish community had grown to close to 50 000. Synagogues were openly built, many of which were in the style of Victorian Gothic buildings.

Pogroms in Eastern Europe from the 1880s saw a wave of emigration of Jews to England; by 1919, the Jewish community had grown to 250 000. Many settled in industrial cities like London, Manchester and Leeds and dockside cities of Spitalfields and Whitechapel, giving birth to the notion of the East End being Jewish in essence.

The First World War saw 50 000 Jews serving in the British Armed Forces; Britain’s first all-Jewish regiment, the Jewish League, fought in Palestine. A consequence of the war was Britain’s conquest of the Palestinian Mandate and the 1917 Balfour Declaration which promised the area to a restored Jewish nation.

The period between the European wars in England was peppered with anti-Semitism, under the Blackshirts led by Sir Oswald Mosley, but counterbalanced by local support.

Some 90 000 Jews from all over Europe arrived, but by 1938, Britain closed its doors to Jewish refugees, with the exception of the Kinderstransport, an effort which saved the lives of around 10 000 Jewish children.

British Jewry was increasingly Zionist. Hovevei Zion, a Zionist movement, was established in 1887; the British Zionist Federation, in 1899.

In the 1930s, Britain limited legal immigration to Palestine, banning it altogether in 1939.

During the war, Zionists organised an illegal immigration effort, conducted by the precursor of Mossad, “Hamossad LeAliyah Bet”. It rescued tens of thousands of European Jews and shipped them to Palestine – sadly, many boats were intercepted and sunk.

Today, British Jewry is divided into groups, the largest being the United Synagogue.


On the right are the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations (founded in 1926) and the Federation of Synagogues (founded in 1887). On the left, the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain (1840) and the Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues (1902).

England’s Jewish Board of Deputies has more than 500 members, bringing together delegates of all shades of religious and political opinion. It is proactive in its role in raising awareness of incitement of racial hatred for minority groups.

Contemporary Anglo-Jewry boasts many highlights, including the Gateshead yeshiva and Reform-based Leo Baeck College, established for rabbinical education in 1956.

About two-thirds of Great Britain’s 350 000 Jews live in London. There are large communities in St Johns Wood; Hampstead – where Sigmund Freud died – Golders Green, also known as the heart of kosher London; and Hendon, which boasts the Hasmonean and Independent schools as well as Jews College. Nearby Stamford Hill contains Hasidic groups and immigrants from India, Iran, Yemen and North Africa.

Anglo-Jewry is fed by over 20 branches of Chabad, serving to complement the multitude of services and opportunities for British Jews, offering shiurim, Shabbat and Yomtov meals and daily minyanim, as well as shopping facilities and hospitality.




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### Tips for when you go to England

- You need a UK visa to visit England. The British High Commission is in Pretoria: (012) 483-1400. A British visa costs around R805.
- No vaccinations are required to visit England.
- The frequency of climate shifts in England is a cliché and an enduring obsession among locals; the best time to travel to England is generally between April and September; the hottest and driest months are July and August.
- There are close to 30 dialects of English spoken in England. The best advice is to listen carefully.
- England’s monetary unit is the Pound Sterling. At the time of going to press, one British Pound will cost you R11,64.
- The best rates for currency exchange is the bank or bureau; be aware that private money changers can be costly but money can also be changed at local post offices.
- Traffic in England is on the left.
- Electricity in England is 230 volts alternating at 50 cycles per second. Plugs in England have three flat pins.
- English tap water is perfectly safe to drink. It might appear cloudy when dispensed from the tap, but this is excess air and soon disappears.
- England is one hour behind South Africa.



The Aron Kodesh of the Bevis Marks Synagogue in London’s East End, built in 1701 by the Spanish and Portuguese Sephardi Jews of the city.



The humble Bristol Synagogue, built in 1871.



— ADVERTORIAL —



## The regeneration of central Jerusalem

CENTRAL Jerusalem conjures up images of busy marketplaces, dilapidated storefronts, traffic jams and run-down buildings. It turns out, however, that this picture is not accurate – central Jerusalem is undergoing a massive facelift and property owners can only benefit from the changes in the pipeline.

The municipality has set as a target the improvement in several major areas, notably infrastructure, the rejuvenation of building facades and streets, improving accessibility to the centre of town and the decrease of air and noise pollution.

One of the most obvious changes can be seen in the light rail system along Jaffa Road. Once a congested thoroughfare, Jaffa Road has been closed off to all modes of transportation other than the light railway and pedestrians.

The result is a beautiful, European-style pedestrian mall in the heart of the city, surrounded by trendy shops and renovated or newly-built apartments. The municipality is investing in the renovation of the older buildings in the area, with the aim of creating an area which is attractive to investors and high-quality residents.

By promoting educational and cultural facilities in the area too, the municipality hopes to encourage a young, vibrant and trendy atmosphere. The well-known Bezalel School of Design will be housed in a new campus in the Russian compound, and students at the various colleges in the area will benefit from student rental subsidies, promoting an atmosphere of vibrancy and activity.

In addition, established residents of Jerusalem and foreigners are attracted to the area, because of its centrality and proximity to so many attractions.

Jerusalem has always enjoyed a special status in the eyes of all Jews because of her centrality to Judaism, and recently this attraction has translated into being a sound financial investment in property, and not only an emotional one.

Property prices in the centre of Jerusalem have risen sharply over the last six years, both because of a renewed investment in the area on the part of the municipality, and the centrality of the area; there simply is no better position in Jerusalem than the area around Jaffa Street.

Africa Israel Residential developers spotted this trend many years ago and invested in land adjacent to Jaffa Street. Eyal Chacham VP of overseas marketing, says the location and timing of their investment in central Jerusalem was perfect.

Their flagship development “Kook 7”, is bordering Jaffa Road and the beautiful Anna Ticho museum and gardens. They have a development of over 100 apartments with a boutique hotel.

“Our development is one minute away from the new pedestrian mall and light rail on Jaffa Street and Ben Yehuda street,” says Chacham. They are soon going to launch another development in that area with a mix of one and two bedroom apartments.

Barry Cohen, director of The Blue Agency, says that existing property-owners are holding onto their assets, sensing the renewal and rebirth of the area as a clean, accessible, high-end area with the attractions of all major cities in the world.

All this within walking distance of the Old City, with its ancient walkways and holy sites; the bustling Machane Yehuda marketplace; the trendy Mamilla shopping area and of course, the triangle of King George Street, Jaffa Road and Ben Yehuda Street.

# Parents must educate themselves about drugs

WITH THE unfortunate increase of drugs in our schools, parents are encouraged more than ever to educate themselves. Drug abuse, with its devastating effects on physical, academic, and social functioning, has been alarmingly on the rise, the Chabad Addiction Rehabilitation Centre (Care) said in a media release

It pointed out that Jewish teens in the community “are no exception”.

Care conducts ongoing therapies and rehabilitation programmes. Pinchas Shiel, clinical psychologist and co-director of the Care Centre, voiced his distress

of parents who have no inkling that their child is using, and discover abruptly when contacted by a hospital emergency room that their child has overdosed.

“Kids involved in drugs are often very skilled at deception.” he says, “Parents must be equipped with the knowledge of when they may be being deceived.”

The Care Centre is hosting an informative evening for parents on Tuesday, September 20, at the Chabad in the Mall - Village Walk centre, at 18:30. Cost is R25. Guest speaker Dr Michael Niss, will talk on “The Warning Signs of Drug Use: What

Every Parent Needs to Know”.

Niss is a clinical psychologist in Gauteng with vast experience in the field of addiction counselling.

Addiction can happen to the smartest, well-rounded child, with a warm family life and great friends. “It does not discriminate or respect race, gender, socio-economic status, academic achievements, or leadership roles,” says Shiel.

“Parents are the ones in synch with their kids. They know their children, they see them every day, and are in prime position to detect warning signs. The world your child is growing up in is very different from the one you grew up in, and you have to be educated about the possibilities.”

• To reserve please contact Jodi on 083-633-5104 or e-mail: care@chabad.org.za

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LETTERS

The Editor, Suite 175, Postnet X10039, Randburg, 2125 email: carro@global.co.za

<b>Guidelines for letters:</b> Letters up to 400 words will get preference. Please provide your full first name and surname, place of residence, and a daytime contact telephone or cell number. We do not publish letters under noms de plume. Letters should preferably be e-mailed. Letters may be edited or shortened.	<b>Disclaimer:</b> The letters page is intended to provide opportunity for a range of views on any given topic to be expressed. Opinions articulated in the letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editor, staff or directors of the Jewish Report
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LIMMUD CONFERENCE SENSITIVE TO ITS RELIGIOUS ATTENDEES

I AM a proud Orthodox Jewess. A few weeks ago I attended the Limmud week-end. It was the first time I had ever attended Limmud and I found it to be a wonderful experience.

I was just as comfortable there as I was at the Sinai-Indaba. This is because both of these places were full of Jews, my brothers and sisters, regardless of their religious affiliations.

Firstly, I want to testify that the organisers of this Limmud weekend were very sensitive to its religious/“Orthodox” attendees. A few examples of this was to put those who were “Shomer Shabbat” on the floors closest to the ground floor; and at the communal Shabbat Friday night dinner, there was kiddush and benchers handed out and also a public request to those who were not Shomer Shabbat to not use their cell phones in public on Shabbat, out of respect for those observing Shabbat.

Secondly, I am appealing to the Orthodox Jewish community and its establishment institutions, not to alienate our fellow Jews, no matter what their affiliation. It’s one thing not to attend Limmud and quite another to condemn it or to discourage “Orthodox” people from attending or speaking there.

Limmud is a forum for discussion

**RUSSELL TRIBUNAL DRESSED UP IN LEGAL GARB(AGE)**

ONE OF the most disturbing issues facing South African Jewry these coming months, will be the Russell Tribunal on Palestine, scheduled for early November, which looks set to mirror the hate fest that was Durban in 2001.

This is being dressed up in legal garb(age), but the closest resemblance to a tribunal will be in name only. Prof Dennis Davis came under some criticism in last week’s Jewish Report, yet few gave him credit for speaking out so forcefully; he should be given full credit and more for taking the stand that he did, as it is only people of his stature who will be able to place this farce where it belongs.

The Russell Tribunal which Davis describes as a “charade of bias dressed up as impartiality”, has already started attracting publicity (which is exactly what is intended) and needs to be exposed and

**PROUD TO BE JEWISH SOUTH AFRICAN, WORRIED TO BE AN SA JEW**

MAY WE take this opportunity to wish a hearty yesha koach to the organisers of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies’ conference.

We were honoured to attend the opening night. The choice of addresses, the presentations and the launch of the SA Jewish/Madiba connection book, highlighted the Jewish contributions that have been made to this country.

It undoubtedly left most, if not all of those who attended, very proud to be Jewish South Africans.

But it was really an eye-opener to listen to the keynote speaker who represented our government – Vice President Kgalema Motlanthe. Not for one brief second did he acknowledge the Jewish contributions that have been made (totally disproportionate to the small number of Jews residing here), nor did he put any notion forward of any intention of the government to support any of our needs.

We might have expected, or at least

between people of different backgrounds and affiliations. As we hear so much from the Jewish leadership here, dialogue is what it’s all about; dialogue is the best way to communicate with those who hold other opinions.

South African Jewry prides itself on its inclusiveness and unity. To hide away and exclude ourselves, is not helpful. This, in my opinion shows, weakness instead of strength.

The reason I feel able to engage with others who believe differently, is because I feel so strongly about my Judaism and do not feel vulnerable in a multi-faceted arena. Along similar lines, I admire Orthodox rabbis and Jews who opt to spread Judaism where it is scarce in the four corners of the earth, as well as those who are in a secular workplace.

Finally, it was pointed out to me how many of my fellow Jews there would not attend Sinai-Indaba, but stayed until the last possible moment of a three-day conference to hear the renowned Rabbi Cordoza.

Who knows what kind of influence he might have on them. Now, that is something to think about!

**Michele Engelberg  
Johannesburg**

discredited.

And who better than Davis who has the right credentials and also the ability to press those now retired Constitutional Court justices as well as our other eminent jurists to join him in lending voice to this challenge. This, to quote the secretary of Russell, is “about international law”.

Given that the organisers have selected South Africa as a venue - and for obvious reason - and the very fact that it would come under the scrutiny of respected South African jurists, may well be the trump card to undress this “tribunal”, and might well not only discredit the Cape Town session, but stop the next session to be “staged” in New York early next year.

**Allan Wolman  
Norwood, Johannesburg**

hoped, that some initiatives or potential partnerships would have been presented, but all that came out of it was that the Jews must be the givers and the government will be the takers.

The message was loud and clear: We owe, but are deserving of nothing.

We are proud to be Jews, but are very concerned if this is what the government’s attitude is.

May the Jewish Board of Deputies continue to promote the support of the needs of all the citizens of our country. As Jews it is inborn in us, but what is most needed is for the Board to continue safeguarding our own welfare.

It is obvious that we have to be guided by the teachings of our sages, to paraphrase: “If I am not for myself, who will be, and if not now, when?”

**Mignon and Edgar Milwid  
Savoy, Johannesburg**

increasing hostile anti-Semitic world.

It is laughable that a methodology of prayer and worship to a Universal Divine entity should be responsible for animosity and division among Jews, a schism that the Jewish people can ill afford during today’s escalating attacks on Israel and the Jewish people.

What the Jews need today is a leadership of intellectual honesty, and a commitment to unite all Jews under a single umbrella of the “Chosen People”, the people of the Bible, irrespective of their mode of Jewish religious practice.

It is the Jewish culture that will survive, not the differing modalities of Jewish religious expression. The arrival of the Messiah is desperately needed.

**Dr A M Levin  
Bryanston, Sandton**

IS THE LEFT TAIL WAGGING THE DOG?

IT IS simply amazing - at a time when Israel is fighting an existential battle on so many fronts - that Israel’s left, much of the Israel media and Jewish leftists in the Diaspora, spurn some of the Jewish homeland’s most ardent and influential allies such as Glenn Beck and Geert Wilders.

This strange phenomenon was analysed by Caroline Glick in her Jerusalem Post column titled “The Left’s Faustian Bargain“ in which she traced the progression of the left to the point where today their policies, unbelievably, now seem to mirror the views of those who wish to see the end of Israel as the Jewish State.

On August 16, she wrote that “the 1992 Oslo Accords framework dictated that the final status of Judea, Samaria, Gaza and Jerusalem, would be determined through negotiations between the PLO and Israel... however, (Yasser) Arafat ended all good faith when he rejected then Prime Minister Ehud Barak’s offer of Palestine statehood... ever since Arafat chose terror war over peace, Palestinian willingness to reject Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state has grown.”

At the same time, the Israel left completely ignored Palestinian statements to that effect, insisting that the full blame for the absence of peace rested on the shoulders of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Indeed, the left now believe that the best thing that can happen is for US President Barack Obama to put even more pressure on Netanyahu to make concessions to the Palestinians.

So, whereas in 1995 the left still expected the Palestinians to pay lip service to peace, after

**PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD: MACKINTOSH SHOWS IGNORANCE OF FACTORS AT PLAY**

IN HIS letter advising Israel to recognise the pending Palestinian bid for membership of the United Nations as an independent state, Daniel Mackintosh makes the following statement: “What Israel has failed to realise is that its diplomatic isolation is not the result of its PR, but due to the brutal policy of occupation” (SA Jewish Report September 9).

This sentence reveals his ignorance of the factors at play in the condemnation of Israel’s so-called occupation.

In the first instance, to refer to Israel as an occupying power is open to serious debate. The areas occupied by Israel were illegally annexed to Jordan in 1949, and there was no other Palestinian state. Such a state had been refused by the Palestinian Arabs, who were joined by several neighbouring countries in a failed effort to wipe Israel off the map.

Jordan has shown no interest in continuing to hold jurisdiction over the areas concerned; Israel could now legally claim jurisdiction over

same European Union with open borders.

Not so the Palestinians. The Hamas charter quotes the Qu’ran in stating that “Israel will rise and remain erect until Islam eliminates it.” We are not quoting politics here, but religion, which is far more influential.

Israel’s proposed neighbouring state’s Hamas has a charter that declares in its Article Seven that “the prophet... said: The time will not come until Muslims will fight the Jews (and kill them)...

Article 13 states: “(Peace) initiatives, the so-called peaceful solutions, and the international conferences to resolve the Palestinian problem, are all contrary to the beliefs of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas.)”

Despite many exhortations, Hamas has refused to delete the above hostile statements from its charter. And now Mackintosh expects us to assist these murderously hostile Palestinians in forming a legal entity right on Israel’s border?

**Don Krausz  
Killarney, Johannesburg**

**LOOKING FOR...**

**ARE YOU A SCHNEIDER RELATED TO BARRY COHEN?**

BARRY COHEN of Brewster, New York, is searching for Schneider relatives in SA on his mother’s side, born possibly in Ponevez/Kovno/Wilkomir (Lithuania).

Siblings: Jacob born approximately 1875, emigrated to the US; Nathan born approximately 1887, emigrated to US (Barry’s grandfather); Alte (Alice), born approximately 1889, emigrated to the US after spending time in Paris, with another brother, name unknown.

A fourth brother, name unknown, emigrated

Arafat destroyed the peace process, the left that had embraced the PLO, needed to make a choice. Its leaders could either admit they made a mistake, or they could adopt the PLO position against Israel. They chose the latter with devastating results.

In some leftist activist circles the trend of joining with the Palestinians in rejecting Israel’s very right to exist, has led to foreign-funded NGOs and activist networks instigating domestic and international campaigns to delegitimise the Jewish State.

Unbelievably, even on some Israel university campuses expressions of Zionism are increasingly demonised as racist or insensitive; at a recent Haifa University graduation ceremony it was decided not to sing Hatikva out of concern for the feelings of the Arab students.

Incredibly, in the midst of all this, the left media attack genuine friends of Israel like Glenn Beck and Geert Wilders. But Christian Zionists - like Jewish religious Zionists - are unmoved by the media’s intimidation because of their faith in G-d and their reliance on Scripture. They don’t care about receiving the accolades of the media or the cultural elite of the world.

Beck’s message is that we Jews should not care either. Fortunately, that message rings powerfully and true for most Israelis as well as their passionate supporters abroad.

**David Abel  
Vice Chairman Likud SA  
George**

**Monty M Zion  
Protea Village, Israel**



COMMUNITY COLUMNS



ABOVE BOARD

Mary Kluk,  
National Chairman

A column of the SA Jewish Board of Deputies

ME peace depends upon give and take

OVER THE past few months, there has been a great deal of diplomatic manoeuvring over the impending UN vote over whether or not to recognise Palestine as a state on the 1967 lines, and for it to be admitted as a member of the UN.

This vote is expected to take place in the UN General Assembly in the course of next week, although as I write, intensive behind-the-scenes discussions are taking place over a compromise resolution whose effects would not be as far-reaching and that vote may therefore take place at a later date.

The leading international Jewish organisations have been lobbying strongly against this initiative, not because it is opposed to the emergence of an independent Palestinian state - today, after all, support for the “two-state solution” is evident right across the political spectrum within Israel itself - but because it is believed that such unilateral action will work against, not for, the achievement of such a solution.

This is very much the position of the SAJBD itself, which has been working in close consultation with its international counterparts in this area.

Recognising the legality of a unilateral declaration of statehood by the Palestinians, will not change much on the ground, since the US, and possibly other permanent members, will almost certainly veto any General Assembly resolution at Security Council level.

However, it will still be a serious retrograde step as it could encourage the Palestinian leadership to try to bypass the negotiations process and agitate instead for the international community to recognise

its demands without its having to make any concessions or commitments in return.

It goes without saying that the peaceful resolution of any conflict is dependent on a process of give and take, addressing all the issues on the ground and leading to a mutually agreed upon set of principles and commitments.

It is a fantasy, and potentially a very dangerous one, that either side can achieve what they want through unilateral acts aimed at sidelining the other side.

Rather than commenting on the technical, legalistic questions relating to the Palestinian UDI effort, the Board has at this time adopted a broad, principled position favouring ongoing engagement between the relevant parties.

Here we are very much informed by our collective experience as South Africans, where we witnessed how a mutually agreed upon model of constructive engagement through negotiations was ultimately able to bring about a just and lasting political settlement.

During the apartheid era, as will be recalled, the ruling National Party establishment also long sought to bypass the will of the majority population by imposing its own solutions, only for these to further exacerbate the situation and drive people even further apart.

We hope that our own government will impress on the Palestinian leadership the necessity of pursuing its goals through a process of peaceful negotiations with Israel. In the end, it is only through following this route that the essentially symbolic “virtual independence” being sought through the UN can be turned into a concrete reality.

This column is paid for by the SAJBD

A Jewish cookbook which is very unconventional

MOIRA SCHNEIDER  
CAPE TOWN

“IN SEARCH of Plenty - A History of Jewish Food”, is not your conventional cookbook. Besides for the collection of over 100 classic and traditional recipes that have been sourced from the Old Testament, the book examines Sephardi and Ashkenazi foods and attempts to piece together the history of Jewish cuisine, while simultaneously providing a history of the Jewish people.

Says author Oded Schwartz: “It is more of a personal 101 of Jewish food, following Jewish food culture from its biblical beginning to the creation of a national palate in Israel.”

It is an update of a work first published in 1992, which was shortlisted for the British Andre Simon award and won a special mention in the international Lenghe Ceretto Prize for food and wine culture.

The Israeli-born Schwartz lived in the United Kingdom for 40 years and relocated to this city eight years ago, where, together with his cousin Lewis Nieburg, he opened Oded’s Kitchen. Besides supplying his trademark condiments, preserves and deli items based on his Middle-Eastern background, Schwartz gives classes in Jewish, Sephardi and Ashkenazi cooking.

Speaking at the launch on the forces that have influenced Jewish cuisine, he mentioned the “first and most important” as being the adherence to the laws of kashrut. “These laws were, until a century ago, observed with few variations by all Jews,” he noted.



The cover of Oded Schwartz’s “In Search of Plenty - A History of Jewish Food”. (PHOTOGRAPH: JESSE KRAMER; COVER DESIGN: MING-CHEAU LIN)


“They affected not only the choice of ingredients but also cooking methods, and even the material of which cooking utensils were made.” Secondly, certain ingredients were written into the culture.

“Both the Bible and the Talmud use food as part of their symbolic language,” he added, referring to “the land of milk and honey, of almonds and olive groves, dates, figs and raisins”. These ingredients were still used, in one form or other, in the celebration of most festivals.


In addition, “constant hunger and expulsion throughout history, and the devastating effect of the Holocaust” had left their mark on the Jewish table. The influence of the indigenous Middle-Eastern Palestinian population, exemplified by hummus and falafel, was another factor to be considered, he said.

“The Jewish kitchen, especially as it is developing in Israel, is a wonderful mixture of East and West, Jewish and Arab,” he pointed out.

• “In Search of Plenty - A History of Jewish Food”, is available at Bay Bookshop, Cape Quarter, Green Point or Oded’s Kitchen at The Old Biscuit Mill, Salt River.




Rabbi Akiva  
**Tatz**




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**THE BLUE AGENCY**

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# Israel Centre combines its Aliyah Expo with mural competition

SHIRA DRUION  
PHOTOGRAPH BY ILAN OSSENDRYVER

THIS WEEK Beyachad in Elray Street in Johannesburg, was abuzz with a colourful tapestry of Jews from all walks of life, united by the pulsating heartbeat of the Jewish homeland. South African Jews are famous for their Zionist loyalty and this year's Israel Fair, under the auspices of the Israel Centre, was no exception.

When The Israel Centre launched its Aliyah Expo 2011, the idea for the Israel Fair was born. Shimon Shamila, director of The Israel Centre said: "The amazing interest that the South African Jewish community shows by participating in our Israel Fair and our Yebo Aliyah Expo, is testimony to their unbreakable bond with their Jewish Zionist identity and the State of Israel." Last Sunday's Fair saw over 500 participants in the wide variety of festivities on offer.

Lane Waldorff, marketing co-ordinator for the Israel Centre, said this year they wanted visitors to celebrate "the love and passion that we all feel for the Land of Israel", so we decided that "an art competition would be a wonderful way to open the Aliyah Expo".

Fifty potential competitors entered the competition, of whom 25 were selected. The 25 were then each designated a wall in the parking lot of Beyachad, to paint their mural. Each was asked to paint a mural symbolising their personal feeling and connection to the Holy Land.

Eighty-three-year-old Hymie Lunz was one of the final 25 who made sure to create a magnificent wall painting of the Judean hills, including all of Jerusalem's signature landmarks.

"I saw the advert in the Jewish Report, and (as) painting is my hobby, I thought I could rise to the challenge. I can't wait to get to Israel for my grandson's barmitzvah later



Sandra Gordon paints her mural in the Beyachad parking lot.

this year. It really is a vibrant, fantastic country and the development over the last few years is unbelievable."

Those attending the Fair could vote for the murals of their choice. Many of the murals displayed true artistry and empathy with their subjects.

First prize winner can savour a return flight to Israel (courtesy El Al); the 2nd prize is R4 000 or free machaneh of their choice at the end of the year; and 3rd prize is a 50 per cent off machaneh or R2 000.

Raffle tickets were also on sale for R30 each, with first prize a return flight to Israel; 2nd prize a free machaneh at any Jewish camp at the end of the year, or R4 000 cash.

The Fair welcomed mural contributions from various Zionist organisations such as the IUA, the SAZF and JNF.

A group of Israelis were also on hand to assist potential olim with all the necessary information on Israel, including olim benefits, medical insurance, tax and legal advice, real estate, etc. Dorrn Kline, a well-known face in South Africa, who is deputy director of Telfed, was in the country to advise those thinking about making the move to Israel, as were many other experts in their respective fields.

Former South African real estate agents, Selwyn Hare and Julian Shapiro, were there to promote and advise on real estate in Netanya. They spoke with passion about their lives in Israel.

"We have both been in Israel for over 30 years and are very grateful our parents made the move all those years ago. Israel is our home, the place we are supposed to be - we feel it profoundly.

"Our children have been given many wonderful opportunities by living there, including the priceless gift of freedom, which has ensured that their lives are filled with a palpable energy and constant excitement.

"We both realise that kids in other parts of the world cannot take that for granted and we appreciate the lifestyle that the Holy Land has afforded our families. We are both very encouraging of aliyah, because our experiences have been very positive."

A bold Israeli flavour permeated the day as camels casually strolled across the Beyachad parking lot to the sounds of African drumming, as Jews from all walks of life gathered to pay tribute to a land that beats to the rhythm of the Jewish heart.

Youth movements were there in full force, with Habonim even providing passersby with an aromatic taste of Turkish coffee.

Twenty-year-old Bnei Akiva representative, Jonty Tuchten, when asked to comment on his experience of the Fair, complimented the efforts of the Israel Centre and commended them for "allowing the Johannesburg community a chance to explore Israel and the many diverse aspects of Israeli society.

"I spent a year at Yeshivat Har Etzion in the Gush and have definitely got aspirations to return there one day to put down roots. I am not sure when, but that is where I am headed."


These same sentiments were echoed by 25-year-old Habonim representative Jothan Dayan who also expressed his strong desire to live the Zionist dream on Israeli soil.

Shiboleth Felsher, one of the selected artists, produced a brightly coloured mural of Jerusalem's skyline and explained that her intention was to create a painting that would symbolise the continuity and vitality of the Jewish people.

"I had the verse 'Am Yisrael Chai' in mind when toying with options of what I could create, and what better way to represent the blazing flame of the Jewish people's eternity in a land we have called our home for so many thousands of years?"

The Israel Fair was a riot of blooms as spring welcomed the next wave of Zionist passion. A round of applause rang out to the team at The Israel Centre for a most commendable effort.

- The Yebo Aliyah Expo took place in Johannesburg this week and will be in Cape Town from today, September 16 - 18.



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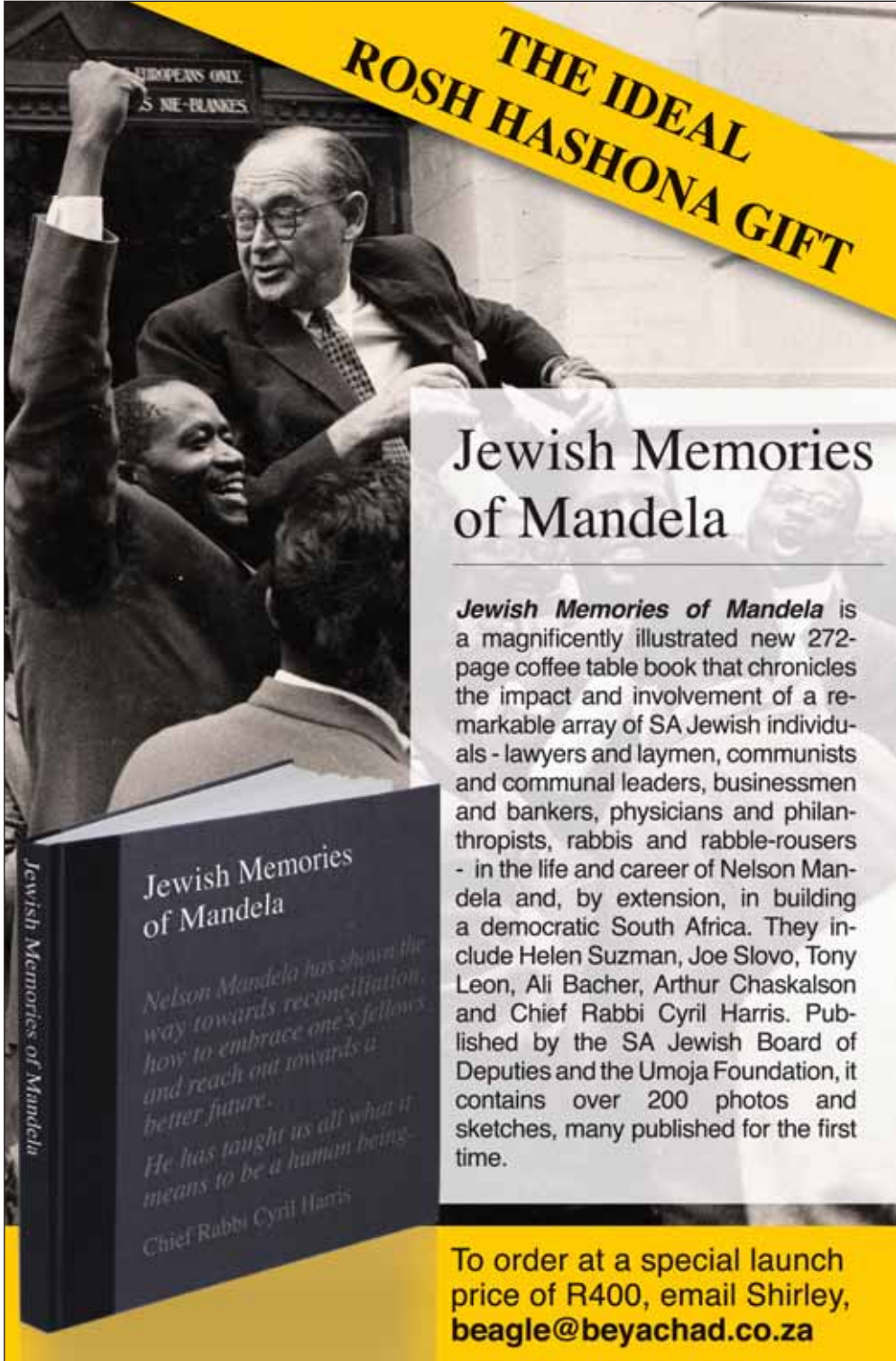
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A Curriculum Vitae and contact information of two referees should be e-mailed to: [freinkels@sajbe.co.za](mailto:freinkels@sajbe.co.za)

Closing date for applications: 28th September 2011

The school reserves the right not to make an appointment.

Only shortlisted candidates will be interviewed.



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**To order at a special launch price of R400, email Shirley, [beagle@beyachad.co.za](mailto:beagle@beyachad.co.za)**



YOUTH TALK

Alison Goldberg youthsajr@global.co.za

‘Longest Pesach’ promises to be loads of fun

ALISON GOLDBERG

“THE LONGEST Pesach”, produced and directed by Helen Heldenmuth, will go on stage at Eden College, on Sunday, September 18 at 14:30 and 19:30, and on Monday, September 19, at 19:30. Starring all 180 boys from Shaarei Torah’s grade 1 - 6, the play is about a zeide telling his grandchild a story about Rabbi Yechezkiel Landau of Prague. The rabbi had helped a young gentile boy, who in turn when he grew up, helped save the Jews of Prague from a baker who wanted to poison them. Heldenmuth, who writes all the Shooby Doob Shloimy shows and introduced Jewish television programmes into South Africa, first on MNet, then on SABC in 1994, has praised the school for including the play in its curriculum and promises a fun show. Shaarei’s spiritual head, Rabbi Ze-ev Kraines, helped train the boys under the musical direction of Hanna Green, while Marilyn Slood, secular head, drove the production. For further information contact: Helen on 083-272-8541.

Back: Ya’akov Schnerb; Yitzchok Gilbert; Eliyahu Climer; Aahron Lipschitz; Simcha Gilbert; Avrohom Karp; Chaim Kolko; and Shimmon Mirkin. Front: Yaakov Diner and Ariel Silberg.



Yaakov Blecher sounds the Elul call.

Yaacov Blecher is a very proficient shofar blower

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE BELLING

EVERY WEEKDAY during the month of Elul, learners from Torah Academy Boys’ High School blow the shofar for teachers and staff at the school. Yaakov Blecher, grade 10, who has been performing this mitzvah for several years, shows his prowess on the ram’s horn.

‘Child’s play’ about a very serious subject

RENOS NICOS SPANOUEDES  
PHOTOGRAPH: Yael Gordon

IN DRAMATIC arts, the intentions of playwrights are examined in terms of the socio-political, socio-economic, socio-historical and socio-cultural environment in which they wrote their plays and by which they were inspired or triggered. In terms of this year’s grade 10 drama learners at King David High School Victory Park, a response to

the tragic deaths of friends and contemporaries in South Africa, from the practice of “huffing” - intoxication by the inhalation of household aerosols - was a collaborative work entitled “Child’s Play”. The piece was awarded Most Promising Production (Theatre on the Square Festival, 2011) and has been selected by Junkets Publishers for a prescribed collection of plays - “Short, Sharp and Snappy” - to be studied by teenagers at schools throughout the country in 2011.



The collaborative playwrights, three grade 10 drama learners and their teacher: David Wein; Renos Nicos Spanoudes (head of drama); Dean Salant; and Gavriel Rubin.



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A Curriculum Vitae and contact information of two referees should be e-mailed to:

[horwitzgi@sabje.co.za](mailto:horwitzgi@sabje.co.za) or posted to P O Box 1015 Sunninghill 2157

Closing date for applications: 31st October 2011  
The school reserves the right not to make an appointment.

Only shortlisted candidates will be interviewed.

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**VENUE:** 67 Rulin Road, Hyde Park, Sandton.  
**TIME:** 19:30PM to 21:30 PM Tuesday, commencing October 4, 2011.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: PAMELA ZIMAN**  
B.A. LLB (WITS) | B PSYCH(HONOURS) CUM LAUDE (RAU) | MA (Psychology) (RD) (UJ)  
TEL: 082-854-9944 or EMAIL: pamelaziman@mweb.co.za

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Successful applicants would be required to work in a flexible manner, including evening and weekends and also deliver security training as and when required. Own transport is essential as facilitators may operate from different training sites. A comprehensive CV with certified copies of ID, drivers' licence and qualifications, stating relevant reference, to be posted to

Marjorie Shantall, CSO, PO Box 10797, Marine Parade, 4056

Closing date September 28, 2011. If no correspondence is received, please consider your application unsuccessful.

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WHAT’S ON

Sharon Akum sharon@sajewishreport.co.za

- Today, Friday (September 16)**
  - **UZLC** hosts David Saks who will speak on “The writing of the Book ‘Jewish Memories of Mandela’”.
- Saturday (September 17)**
  - **Emunah Ladies Beit Midrash** presents “Seudah Shlishit” with Rabbi Yoni Lipschitz, at the home of Gayle Burbaitzky. Enquiries (011) 887-2910.
- Sunday (September 18)**
  - **Yeshiva College** presents “The Longest Pesach”, adapted, produced and directed by Helen Heldenmuth. It is an exciting play with lots of music, suitable for the entire family. Mixed audiences welcome. Venue: Eden College, Johannesburg Road Lyndhurst. Time: 14:30 and 19:30. For more information contact Helen on 083-272-8541.
  - **WIZO’s Women Inspired branch** hosts a Sharon Glass cookery morning at the HOD. Cost R250. Booking is imperative. Phone either Lorraine 083-268-8016 or Maureen 082-445-1515.
  - **Pine Street Ladies** host “Time for Me” Ladies Day and Market, with speakers Tanya Sachs, Melanie Levy, Michal Samovich and Debbie Pollack. Time: 08:30 - 12:30, Venue: Judin Hall, Pine Street Shul. Cost: R100,
- Monday (September 19)**
  - **UJW House & Garden Circle** hosts Victor Lidchi at 9:30 for 10:00. Visitors welcome. For more information tel UJW office: (011) 648-1053 or email: ujw@mweb.co.za
  - **WoW** hosts Gavin Keller, one of the country's leading education consultants, for two talks only: At 09:00 he will talk on “Reaching Raising and Teaching the Y Generation” and at 19:30 on “Pink Brain/Blue Brain - Decoding the Difference of How Boys and Girls Learn”. Venue: Sydenham Shul Community Centre. For more information contact Mandy on 083-380-5268.
  - **Yeshiva College** presents “The Longest Pesach” at 19:30. See details on September 18.
  - **UJW adult education division**, hosts Dr Susan Schwart, a Jungian psychoanalyst from Phoenix, Arizona, on “As the Spirit Grows; Learning From the Dreams of Carl Jung”, at 09:30.
  - **BZA WIZO CT** hosts a “Sharon Glass Cooking
- RSVP Kiki on 083-692-6399.

  - **Second Innings** presents “The Japanese Ladies Choir in Song” at the GH Lounge at Golden Acres. Time 10:00 for 10:30.

- Demonstration” and launch of new cookery books hosted at Pick n Pay School of Cooking, Kenilworth. Time: 19:30 and tomorrow 09:30. Tickets R225. Contact Lee (021) 464-6729 or bza@ctjc.co.za or Felicity Isserow 083-384-6576.
- Tuesday (September 20)**
  - **Emunah Ladies Beit Midrash** hosts Devorah Kur on “The Healing Power of Forgiveness”, at 09:00. Also a “Mosaic Workshop” by Gaby Kwasnik. Cost R480. Booking essential. Enquiries (011) 887-2910.
  - **BZA WIZO CT** cooking demonstration carried on from previous evening.
  - **WIZO Fortnightly Forum** presents Dr Craig Golding, specialist physician, who will reveal all the secrets to the fountain of youth.
- Wednesday (September 21)**
  - **Emunah Ladies Beit Midrash** hosts Candy Lipschitz on “Reaching Your Goals and not Letting your Challenges Get in the Way” Time: 19:00. Enquiries: (011) 887-2910. R20 dona- tion per shiur.
  - **WoW** hosts Zeesy Deren, director of Sinai
- Thursday (September 22)**

### THE BRIDGE LOUNGE by Jeff Sapire

SAFETY PLAYS are well known to all good players, but they vary considerably in their application, as can be seen from this hand.

Teams, neither vul

	NORTH	
	♠ A9643	
	♥ A4	
	♦ A1094	
	♣ J2	
WEST		EAST
♠ 7		♠ J85
♥ KQJ53		♥ 10976
♦ QJ852		♦ K763
♣ A3		♣ K5
	SOUTH	
	♠ KQ102	
	♥ 82	
	♦ -	
	♣ Q1098764	

Contract: 4S by South    Opening lead: HK

I’m not quite sure how the bidding went, but somehow South ended up in 4S, which looks like a very sound contract – on reasonable breaks it looks like just two clubs to lose.

Bear in mind, however, that you are playing teams, where overtricks are of very little importance, and ensuring the contract is paramount.

Declarer won the opening lead on the table and immediately cashed the ace of diamonds, discarding his losing heart. He then played a spade to the king followed by a club. East won and continued a heart which South ruffed.

The next club was taken by West, who led another diamond, again ruffed by declarer. With only one trump left, he crossed his fin-

gers and drew another round, hoping that the remaining two trumps would fall, but when they didn’t the hand collapsed.

East still had a trump, so when declarer played clubs he ruffed and the defend- ers took the remaining tricks, for one down (Declarer made – five trumps in dummy, two red aces and two ruffs in his own hand).

So, what went wrong? Strangely enough, the safety play is NOT to discard a heart at the second trick. Declarer should draw all the trumps and then start on the clubs. The sequence is – draw three rounds of trumps, play a club to East who cashes a heart and switches to a diamond, won in dummy. Now another club taken by West, who will probably play another diamond, ruffed with South’s last trump, and then his hand is high.

The ace of diamonds was used for the wrong purpose. It must be used to pre- vent pressure by the defence on declar- er’s trumps, not for discarding the losing heart.

By releasing the diamond ace, declar- er allowed the defence to shorten the trump suit in the hand that contained the winning source of tricks – the long club suit. So in the end, the trick that declarer saved by rushing to discard a heart, cost him the contract.

*Every Tuesday (Intermediate) and Wednesday (Advanced) I run bridge workshops from 10:00 – 12:00 at the Great Park Shul – alternating play hands one week and a bidding lecture on the other. Corner Glenhove Road and 4th Avenue, Houghton. For more information, e-mail me at jeffshirl@telkomsa.net*

### CROSSWORD NO 227

BY LEAH SIMON


**ACROSS:**

- Penny destroys bus – and names it (4)
- Hoard the illicit passenger (4, 4)
- A sign of cancer (4)
- A good hangout for those used to bars (4, 4)
- Disapprove of it, even if blind! (4, 1, 3, 4)
- It’s natural to hotel at the east (6)
- Girl cloaks aim in one of her gar- ments (6)
- So, empty their mess – how lam- entable! (5, 3, 4)
- Very dark for an aircraft (3, 5)
- Company and political party put an end to the music (4)
- A sweetmeat for accountant in the red – or the purple! (4, 4)
- Depend on broken lyre (4)

- tell you – again! (4, 4)
- No-one for a bit what’s insalubri- ous? (7)
- Building material badly cuts company (6)
- Not exactly poetic, but one has an eye for it (5)
- Asynchronous Javascript Aste- risk Manager (abbrev) (4)

**SOLUTION TO NO 226****ACROSS:** 1. Sack; 3. Welcomes; 8. Iona; 9. Stingray; 11. Case the joint; 13. Stairs; 14. Amelia; 17. Rolling stone; 20. Brown Owl; 21. Beta; 22. Fireside; 23. Isle.  
**DOWN:** 1. Suitcase; 2. Canasta; 4. Entree; 5. Conformist; 6. Moron; 7. Says; 10. Story lines; 12. Namesake; 15. Lioness; 16. Snowed; 18. Odour; 19. ABAT.

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# PINE STREET SHTIEBEL MINYAN

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Mariv 6.15 pm  
**Yom Kippur 8 October**  
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# Former SA sportswoman wins double award



FORMER SOUTH African bowler Gail Nadelman (née Katz) (pictured) has been honoured by Maccabi Australia with two prestigious awards.

On August 16 Gail was firstly named as Maccabi Sportswoman of the Year for Victoria and she also received a new award – “Sportswoman of the Year”, for the whole of Australia.

Gail grew up in Kensington, Johannesburg, and started playing bowls at the age of 21 at the Sharon Country Club. She emigrated to Melbourne Australia in 1978 together with her husband, Arnold, where they set up a very successful business.

She has represented Victoria at state level and had the opportunity to compete against Scotland. She has also won many state titles together with her sister, Denese Brick.

# Israel confident ahead of weekend’s Davis Cup tie

JACK MILNER

ISRAELI TENNIS ace Dudi Sela is crossing his fingers that Canada’s Milos Raonic will not be fit enough to take part in this weekend’s World Group playoff tie at Ramat Hasharon, after the 20-year-old was named in the Canadian squad, despite not having played since the end of June when he suffered a hip injury in the second round of Wimbledon.

After March’s impressive win over Poland in the second round of the Europe/Africa Zone Group I, Israel can regain their place among the world’s top 16 nations with a win over Canada in Ramat Hasharon and Sela knows much will depend on the fitness of Raonic.

“If Raonic will play they are the favourites,” Sela told the Jerusalem Post. “Of course, I’d rather he didn’t play, but even if he does, we believe we can take the three points needed in the other matches.”

The young Raonic only broke into the world’s top 200 last October, but he is currently ranked No 29, reaching the last 16 at the Australian Open in January before winning his first ATP title in San Jose.

“Playing for my country is one of the greatest honours, and this World Group playoff is a significant moment for tennis in Canada,” said Raonic, who will try to lead Canada back to the World Group for the first time since 2004.

However, like Israel, Canada’s squad only really has one world-class player to offer, with the team’s No 2 expected to be world No 143, Vasek Pospisil. Canada’s squad also includes Peter Polansky (367) and doubles world No 5, Daniel Nestor.

Israel’s No 2 will be Amir Weintraub (210), with veterans Andy Ram and Yoni Erlich to team up in the doubles yet again.

“I think this tie is a huge challenge for us,” Israel captain Eyal Ran said. “Canada is a good team, but our players are also in good form. We have proven in the past that rankings aren’t that important when it comes to the Davis Cup and I know that if we leave everything out on court, we will have an excellent chance.”

South Africa will also be in action this weekend in a similar World Group promotion/relegation tie to be played at the University of Potchefstroom Tennis Stadium. However, they will have it all to do against a pretty strong Croatian side.

Nevertheless, John-Laffnie de Jager’s men received some good news when big-



Dudi Sela will lead Israel in their Davis Cup tie against Canada at Ramat Hasharon this weekend.

serving Ivo Karlovic opted not to play as his wife, Alsi, is due to give birth to the couple’s first child next week and he has decided to stay with her.

In addition, Ivan Ljubicic, currently ranked at No 31, has retired from playing for the national team and was, therefore, not nominated.

However, the South Africans still will square up against a formidable foe as Croatian captain Goran Prpic announced that world No 28 Marin Cilic and No 33 Ivan Dodig will spearhead the team. His other two players are Antonio Veic (No 182) and Nikola Mektic (No 267).

The lanky Cilic, who turns 23 on September 28, has been ranked as high as No 9. He caused a massive upset at the US Open two years ago when he put out Andy Murray in straight sets in the fourth round, before losing in four sets to eventual champion Juan Martin Del Potro.

At this year’s US Open he managed to take a set off Roger Federer before losing in four sets.

South Africa will be represented by Kevin Anderson, Rik de Voest, Izak van der Merwe and Raven Klaasen.

# Gerald Fox Memorial a tribute to a mensch

JACK MILNER

GERALD FOX, who nearly eight years ago was gunned down at his cleaning material factory in Johannesburg, was one of the most respected people who loved living and running. He was one of the most caring human beings, putting everyone before himself.

Had he been in the vicinity of the Johannesburg Zoo last Sunday morning, he would have been proud of the performances recorded in the race bearing his name - the Gerald Fox Memorial 21km.

Peter Muso won the men’s race in a time of 1:11;2. Just four seconds behind him came Thabiso Lethabane.

However, it was the performance of Rene Kalmer in the women’s race. Kalmer shaved almost three minutes off the race record, completing the half-marathon in 1:17;32. The previous record of 1:20;27 was held by Paulinah Phaho.

The race was permeated with the spirit of Gerald Fox. Many of those who knew him and had been touched by him, came to hon-



Rabbi Jonathan Fox and his son, Gidon, ran the 10 km and 5km races respectively in honour of their late cousin Gerald.

our his memory.

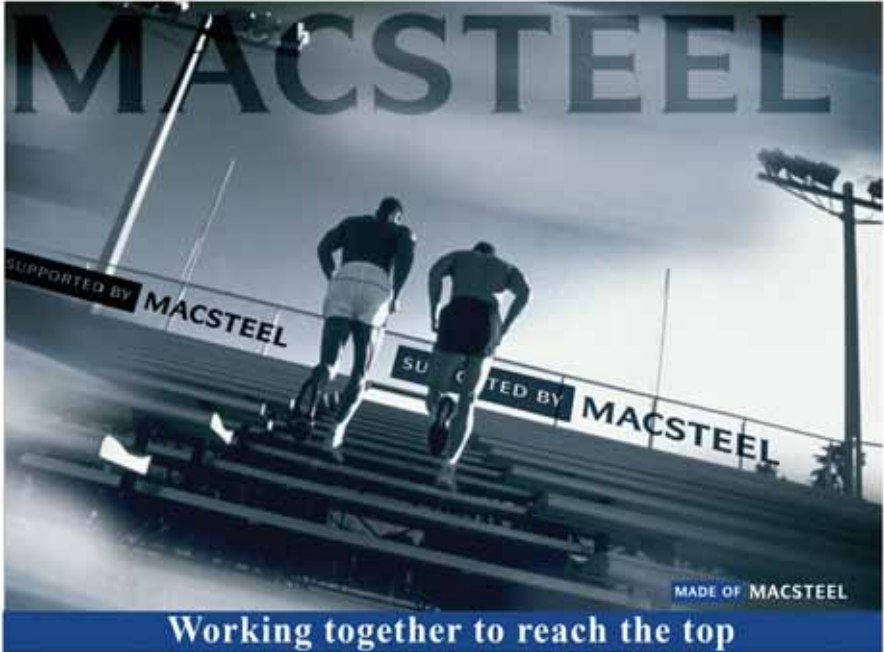
The race is organised by his former club, Rocky Road Runners, who have this notice on the website: “He believed and practised the principle of doing a good deed today, and not to leave it, as the opportunity may not again arise.

“Many of his decisions were based on helping the other person. How many people were employed by him in his business, is amazing, as many of these people could not obtain employment anywhere else.

“Nearly eight years after his untimely death, you still see people working out at the gym, or running on the roads, wearing a ‘G FOX’ shirt, given to them by the late Gerald.

“We at Rockies try to emulate some of the principles Gerald lived and strived for, such as a sincere effort to assist the less fortunate.”

Among the runners who came to honour Gerald was his cousin, Rabbi Jonathan Fox, and son Gidon. It is also worth noting that nine-time Comrades champion Bruce Fordyce, competed in the 10km race. Fordyce was the second master home in a time of 40:06.



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